

APPENDIX A
STANISLAUS COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN
EXISTING AND RECOMMENDED PARK FACILITIES

**STANISLAUS COUNTY
PARKS MASTER PLAN**

EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

3.1 COMPREHENSIVE EXISTING COUNTY PARKS AND RESOURCES INVENTORY

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	Location
1	Frank Raines Regional Park (OHV and Day-Use)	Patterson
2	La Grange Regional Park (OHV and Historic Sites)	La Grange
3	Laird Regional Park	Grayson
4	Modesto Reservoir Regional Park	Waterford
5	Woodward Reservoir Regional Park	Oakdale

	2017 Inventory: Neighborhood Parks	Location
1	Bellenita Park	Modesto
2	Bonita Ranch Park	Denair
3	Bonita Park & Pool	Crows Landing
4	Burbank-Paradise Park/Hall	Modesto
5	County Center 1: Courthouse Lawn Park	Modesto
6	Countrystone Park	Salida
7	Empire Community Park & Regional Water Safety Training Center	Empire
8	Empire Tot Lot	Empire
9	Fairview Park	Modesto
10	Grayson United Community Park	Grayson
11	Hatch Park & Keyes Community Center	Keyes
12	Hunter's Pointe Park	Denair
13	John Murphy Park	Salida
14	Leroy F. Fitzsimmons Memorial Park	Grayson
15	Mono Park	Modesto
16	Oregon Drive Park	Modesto
17	Parklawn Park	Modesto
18	Riverdale Park & River Access	Modesto
19	Salida Park	Salida
20	Segesta Park	Salida
21	Sterling Ranch Park	Denair
22	Wincanton Park	Salida

	2017 Inventory: Special Interest	Location
1	Della Mendota Canal Fishing Access	Patterson
2	Fox Grove River & Fishing Access	Hughson
3	Joe Domecq Wilderness Area	La Grange
4	Kiwanis Camp	La Grange
5	J-59 Fishing Access	La Grange
6	Las Palmas River & Fishing Access	Patterson
7	Shiloh River & Fishing Access	Modesto
8	Tuolumne River Regional Park	Modesto and Surrounding County

	2017 Inventory: Miscellaneous Public Open Space	Location
1	Atlas Park Cul-de-Sac	Oakdale
2	Hideaway Terrace Basin	Denair
3	Old School North Flood Control Basin	Denair
4	Pauper's Field Citizen Cemetery	Modesto
5	Roberts Ferry Cemetery	Waterford
6	Stanislaus Recovery Center (SRC) Park	Ceres
7	Suncrest Estates Flood Control Basin	Denair

	2017 Inventory: Non-Park Property Maintained by Stanislaus County Parks Department	Location
1	Del Rio Heights Streetscape	Modesto
2	Hideaway Terrace Streetscape	Denair
3	Olive Ranch Streetscape	Oakdale
4	Salida Streetscapes (various)	Salida
5	Suncrest Estates Streetscapes	Denair
6	Victoria Park Streetscapes	Keyes
7	Knights Ferry Community Garden	Knights Ferry
8	Broadway Avenue Median	Salida
9	12th street Building & Parking Structure (Contracted Grounds Maintenance)	Modesto
10	Clerk Recorders Office (General Funded Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
11	Coroner's Office (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
12	County Center 2: Scenic Hospital (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
13	County Center 3: Learning Institute (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
14	County Center 5: Juvenile Hall, Health (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
15	Denair Amtrak Station (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Denair
16	Ceres Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Ceres
17	Denair Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Denair
18	Empire Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Empire
19	Keyes Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Keyes
20	Modesto Main Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
21	Oakdale Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Oakdale
22	Patterson Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Patterson
23	Riverbank Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Riverbank
24	Salida Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Salida
25	Turlock Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Turlock
26	Mancini Hall (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
27	Medical Arts Building (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
28	Old Modesto City Hall (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto

STANISLAUS COUNTY
PARKS MASTER PLAN

RECOMMENDED PARK
IMPROVEMENTS

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	District	Recommendations
1	Frank Raines Regional Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Frank Raines Trail Management Plan • Open the top 500 acres for vehicular use at OHV park • Create trail system for walkers, hikers, and mountain bikers, with educational signage and trail markers • Restoration of recreation hall at OHV park • Bring potable water to day-use and campsite areas • Change feed from non-potable to potable water for hill top water tanks at day use area campsites. • Renovate electrical wiring to meet demand of current campground users. • Extend electric power capabilities to accommodate potable water improvement needs • Expand existing upper camping area into full hook-up (water and electric) campsites • New restroom at volleyball court area • New restroom at area above campground • Remove baseball field and expand campground to field • Add trees with irrigation to all new campground areas • Expand picnic amenities at day-use area • Improvements to road and storm sewer infrastructure • Construct outdoor amphitheater for small group gatherings of ~50-100 people at Deer Creek entrance

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	District	Recommendations
2	La Grange Regional Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Historic District Master Plan • Repair/restore historic buildings and assets • Construct ADA compliant sidewalk/path along Yosemite Boulevard to link all historic assets through downtown La Grange • Mark all historic sites with clear, consistent signage visible from the road • Include educational signage containing detailed historical / cultural information adjacent to historic sites • Advertise historic district on website and print materials • Perform professional inspection of Old La Grange Bridge and complete recommended repairs • Construct concrete parking area and install new signage at Old La Grange Bridge • Upgrade fence and gates at cemeteries to wrought iron • Study potential for planting native plants at the Gold Dredge that will attract bees in the fall and create more attractive areas for bees to reduce bee intrusion into OHV; add associated signage to Gold Dredge area regarding bee habitat • Examine future usage options for 30 acres currently housing heavy equipment • OHV: Expand track water supply and install track watering system • OHV: Add camper/RV hookup campsites with electrical and water • OHV: Add (3) vault toilets • OHV: Replace entrance station and repave asphalt parking area • OHV: Expand and level event parking area at OHV • OHV: Replace all wire fence with steel cable fencing • OHV: Construct outdoor amphitheater for small group gatherings of ~50-100 people near event parking area • OHV: Install helipad for emergency airlift access • OHV: Develop signage to promote directional use of tracks to reduce potential of cross-traffic collisions • OHV: Develop track options to separate vehicle users (i.e. bikes, ATVs, Trucks)

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	District	Recommendations
3	Laird Regional Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add fishing dock(s) and paved boat launch ramp • Install new playground adjacent to existing soccer field, between parking area and main road • Pave entrance roadway • Construct paved parking area • Build destination dog park • Create trail system for walkers, hikers, mountain bikers, and a BMX area, with educational signage and trail markers • Install picnic/seating/shade areas adjacent to playground • Replace all trash receptacles with concrete receptacles with dome lids • Expand options for trails in former firing range acreage • Explore options for joint-use agreements with adjacent Camp Taylor to develop facilities that may be used by both the County and Camp Taylor • Construct outdoor amphitheater for small group gatherings of ~50 people adjacent to parking and picnic areas

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	District	Recommendations
4	Modesto Reservoir Regional Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlarge entrance station: expand roadway and drive to the east to accommodate more traffic, add an automated payment station and self-registration area, add small parking area, vault toilet, and security camera system, add electric signage • South side: add paved walking/biking trail with trees, irrigation and benches, add crosswalks, signs, and other traffic calming, improve entrance to Marina Boat Ramp area • South side: Add day-use amenities such as a children’s fishing pond, natural garden, horseshoe pit, picnic amenities, and paved parking at the group camp between picnic shelter and Marina Boat Ramp • West side: Drill new well between Lake View and Baptista Point, perform landform manipulation to increase day-use access of south-facing hillside, develop group camping area with picnic amenities, ADA accessible restrooms, trees, and potable roads/parking lots between Lake View and Baptista, improve day-use facilities at West Boat Ramp day-use area by adding picnic amenities, a swimming dock, paved roads and parking, modifying restroom for ADA compliance • West side: Improve Vivian Cove by grading hill at east side to level and expand existing camping area, adding camp sites with fire pits and BBQ amenities, bringing in potable water and planting more trees • West side: Improve Mud Hen Cove by grading, creating dual use camp/picnic areas, adding vaulted restrooms and potable water, installing group shade shelter and electrical lighting, planting trees and adding paved road and parking • Add structures to support fish habitat in reservoir; stock fish annually to increase success rate and promote fishing • Ensure ADA water access at water ski course • Add fishing docks and ensure ADA compliance for universal access • Assess all campground restrooms and showers; refurbish or replace as needed to modernize and ensure ADA compliance • Add asphalt parking and turf area at RC club area or south of A-Loop in order to accommodate Easter egg hunt and other events • Upgrade RV electrical to 50 Amps • Install irrigation system for trees in C and D Loops • Add group campsite between A Loop and archery range • Construct California Poppy wild flower meadow ecological education area; signage, seating and shade, along with loop path, to encourage passive recreation • Construct outdoor amphitheater for small group gatherings of ~50-100 people

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	District	Recommendations
5	Woodward Reservoir Regional Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand North side for special events and potential camping • Construct a large special events outdoor amphitheater with amenities for performing groups and for use for educational and other special events • Upgrade all roadways to current County road standards (paving, striping, signage, etc.) • Create trail system for walkers, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, with educational signage and trail markers • Increase staffing and equipment to manage litter and grounds management • Bayview Point: Add underground power source, add new well (to service restroom and double-lettered camp areas), renovate/construct new ADA compliant showers and restrooms and ensure handicapped vehicle parking accessibility to restrooms • Bayview Point: Add 40'x 60' event awning with expanded BBQ and picnic facilities northeast of Area T • Bayview Point: Add campgrounds; improvements to include potable water at 2-3 locations throughout, picnic tables/fire rings/BBQ amenities, ADA compliant restroom and shower located centrally, unpaved road access, and trees with irrigation throughout campground • Bayview Point: Construct new day-use area between existing campgrounds L and M; amenities to include ADA compliant vault toilets, all picnic and BBQ amenities, at least 2 potable water locations, paved access road and parking lot, and trees with irrigation throughout • Add trees and irrigation throughout high-activity areas to provide shade for park users • Add (1) additional entrance station on the north side • Add (1) additional entrance station on Dorsey Road or property adjacent to current entrance station • Refurbish and add an additional (4) lanes of dumping access to existing RV dump station • Within undeveloped camping areas, select a location for an RV water station and install water station • Expand the Cocklebur day-use area with new amenities • Upgrade or replace all restrooms and showers with larger capacity facilities • Potential for additional waster water treatment plant onsite as needed

7.2 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Neighborhood Park General Guidelines

Based upon current best practices, design decisions for improvements at all Neighborhood Parks should include the following:

- Include paved walking circuit paths in all redesign and new design projects to encourage healthy community practices.
- Introduce adult exercise options/workout stations.
- Explore options for fenced off-leash areas for dogs (“dog parks”) at parks over 5 acres and on a case-by case basis.
- Assess staff and funding allocations specifically designated for pruning and maintaining trees on a yearly or bi-annual basis. Trees are a dynamic and important part of the regional parks, and must be maintained to ensure customer safety.
- Develop facilities that can be rented to help sustain parks long term.
- Minimum park size of Neighborhood Parks is to be set at 3 acres.

	2017 Inventory: Neighborhood Parks	District	Recommendations
1	Bonita Park & Pool	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add tot lot play area • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation • Construct at least (1) shade shelter with picnic tables • Explore options for community garden area • Renovate pool and construct splash play area • Renovate restroom facilities to ensure ADA and health code compliance
2	Bonita Ranch Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate basketball court • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation • Build group BBQ • Upgrade playground as inclusive play space
3	Burbank-Paradise Park/Hall	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add (1) shade shelter with picnic tables and group BBQ • Add multi-use court adjacent to PAL headquarters building for use for basketball, tennis, or other sports
4	County Center 1: Courthouse Lawn Park	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign park to satisfy modern needs of downtown gathering space; consider design typical of a plaza, with specific design qualities to discourage loitering and to support events in the plaza • Ensure night lighting complies with state and national standards and effectively lights all pedestrian pathways
5	Countrystone Park	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct dog park (to be fenced, with separate areas for small and large dogs, drinking fountains, dog waste disposal stations, shade and seating) • Build walking path around park • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation
6	Empire Community Park & Regional Water Safety Training Center	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate restroom facilities to ensure ADA compliance • Build walking path around park; connect existing paths with extensions along north and east borders of park • Add shade toppers to playground equipment • Build shaded seating areas adjacent to playgrounds • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation • Upgrade playground as inclusive play space

	2017 Inventory: Neighborhood Parks	District	Recommendations
7	Empire Tot Lot	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure night lighting complies with state and national standards and effectively lights all pedestrian pathways • Build shade structure or plant new trees adjacent to picnic area at park entry
8	Fairview Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path loop • Build shaded seating areas adjacent to playground • Add shaded seating adjacent to sport court • Construct community hall within park
9	Grayson United Community Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for community garden area • Construct (1) group shade shelter or at least (2) small shade shelters adjacent to sports courts and playground areas • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation
10	Hatch Park & Keyes Community Center	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct small dog park (to be fenced, drinking fountains, dog waste disposal stations, shade and seating) • Build walking path around park • Construct (1) group shade shelter or at least (2) small shade shelters to encourage passive recreation • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation • Construct ADA compliant restroom and concessions building • Explore addition of another baseball park • Pave parking area
11	Hunter's Pointe Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct at least (1) shade shelter adjacent to playground • Plant trees to shade seating surrounding playgrounds • Add shade toppers to playground equipment • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation • Build walking path around park • Build group BBQ • Upgrade playground as inclusive play space
12	John Murphy Park	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path around park; connect existing paths with extensions along north and west borders of park • Explore options for community garden area • Add shaded seating adjacent to sport court • Upgrade playground and play surfacing • Build shaded seating areas adjacent to playgrounds • Plant trees along pathways to increase shade cover
13	Leroy F. Fitzsimmons Memorial Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add shaded seating adjacent to sport court; replace existing bench at least (3) concrete benches with trees or shade shelters to shade seating area • Resurface sport court with durable brightly colored sports surfacing, striped for multiple sports if possible • Renovate playground and playground safety surfacing to conform with current safety standards • Build shaded seating areas adjacent to playgrounds

	2017 Inventory: Neighborhood Parks	District	Recommendations
14	Mono Park	4	N/A - park slated for sale imminently as of 2017
15	Oregon Drive Park	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for community garden area • Ensure night lighting complies with state and national standards and effectively lights all pedestrian pathways • Resurface sport court with durable brightly colored sports surfacing, striped for multiple sports if possible
16	Parklawn Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct dog park (to be fenced, with separate areas for small and large dogs, drinking fountains, dog waste disposal stations, shade and seating) • Renovate restroom facilities to ensure ADA compliance • Build walking path around park • Remove former play pit; replace with shaded outdoor exercise equipment area
17	Riverdale Park & River Access	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path around park • Pave/grade river access and day-use boat ramp to ensure ADA compliance • Restore native vegetation and improve drainage by implementing a bioswale or similar vegetated stormwater conveyance area • Restore native vegetation at river; thin as needed to ensure safety for park patrons • Expand playground to include nature playground and trail for educational opportunities
18	Salida Park	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path at SE edge of park to connect existing sidewalk and create a full walkable loop for exercise • Add shade toppers to playground equipment • Add at least (2) additional benches adjacent to playground and shade with new trees • Renovate sport court and stripe surface for multiple sports • Add benches adjacent to sports court; shade with new trees • Upgrade playground as inclusive play space
19	Segesta Park	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct dog park (to be fenced, with separate areas for small and large dogs, drinking fountains, dog waste disposal stations, shade and seating) • Construct shaded seating area between playground areas • Resurface sport court with durable brightly colored sports surfacing, striped for multiple sports if possible • Replace all playground equipment and playground surfacing to ensure safety compliance and ADA accessibility • Upgrade playground as inclusive play space • Plant trees along walking paths for shade • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation; potentially construct shaded outdoor fitness area

	2017 Inventory: Neighborhood Parks	District	Recommendations
20	Sterling Ranch Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path around park (basin included), connecting existing portions of perimeter sidewalk to create a loop • Construct shade shelters over existing picnic tables adjacent to playground • Add trees along path at playground to add shade to existing benches • Construct creative/musical play area adjacent to existing playground
21	Wincanton Park	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path around park • Resurface sport court with durable brightly colored sports surfacing, striped for multiple sports if possible • Add benches adjacent to sports court and shade with new trees • Add benches adjacent to play area with new trees for shade

7.3 SPECIAL INTEREST PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Special Interest Park General Guidelines

The County parks categorized as “special interest” parks vary in terms of programmatic needs, regulatory constraints, and target user groups. While individual parks require tailored responses regarding environmental sensitivity, water body protection, fishing regulations, camping, and other specifics, each park should adhere to best practices outlined elsewhere in this master plan.

- Ensure ADA accessibility to public amenities such as restrooms, boat launches, and seating/shade areas.
- Provide adequate lighting, particularly for parking areas, to discourage criminal use of park spaces.
- Provide adequate litter receptacles and staff sufficient County maintenance personnel to maintain cleanliness of park space.

	2017 Inventory: Special Interest	District	Recommendations
1	Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform professional inspection of historic Basso Bridge and complete recommended repairs • Construct concrete parking area • Develop walking/biking path to link downtown La Grange to Basso Bridge • Improve signage to indicate entry and parking • Incorporate into La Grange Historic District • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area • Replace damaged restroom
2	Fox Grove River & Fishing Access	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path around park • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area • Build group BBQ • Remove closed restroom structure • Repair boat ramp to ensure user safety during low water level periods

	2017 Inventory: Special Interest	District	Recommendations
3	Joe Domecq Wilderness Area	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve signage to indicate entry and parking • Add fishing dock and cleaning station • Remove Tullies in the pond to improve fishing access • Create trail system with educational signage and trail markers • Construct shaded picnic area with group BBQ and seating
4	Kiwanis Camp	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve signage to indicate entry and parking • Create trail system for walkers, hikers, and mountain bikers with educational signage and trail markers • Construct outdoor amphitheater for special events and educational gatherings • Improve water system • Restore historic structures • Build ADA accessible restroom/shower facility • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area • Build nature-play area with experiential play and children’s trail area
5	J-59 Fishing Access	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pave/grade river access path to ensure ADA compliance • Create trail system for walkers, hikers, and mountain bikers with educational signage and trail markers • Integrate educational signage and benches along length of access path between parking area and river • Restore native vegetation at river; thin as needed to ensure safety for park patrons • Improve signage to indicate fishing access location and entry • Construct asphalt parking area with signage • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area
6	Las Palmas River & Fishing Access	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pave/grade river access and day-use boat ramp to ensure ADA compliance • Construct new well and repair vault restroom • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area • Increase access to open natural area • Construct walking path through field
7	Shiloh River & Fishing Access	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pave/grade river access and day-use boat ramp to ensure ADA compliance • Improve signage to indicate entry and parking • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area

	2017 Inventory: Special Interest	District	Recommendations
8	Tuolumne River Regional Park	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all improvements are consistent with Tuolumne River Regional Park Master Plan published December 2001 • Work with project partners to create cohesive branding and signage for all pieces of the park • Restore native vegetation; thin as needed to ensure safety for public access • Coordinate with Tuolumne River Trust and ecological assessments to restore river health at target points to ensure longevity of this resource • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking areas and at identified intervals throughout park

7.4 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

Miscellaneous Public Open Space General Guidelines

Miscellaneous public open space areas typically feature very specific purposes contributing to the infrastructure of Stanislaus County. The flood control basins, cemeteries, and other spaces included in this portion of the County’s inventory typically serve important purposes with specific best practices for which industry standards and best practices should be referenced for specific future planning needs.

	2017 Inventory: Miscellaneous Public Open Space	District	Recommendations
1	Atlas Park Cul-de-Sac	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add at least (1) additional bench and shade with new trees • Explore possibility of replacing all or part of turf with low-water using shrubs and drip irrigation
2	Hideaway Terrace Basin	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for public access to open space
3	Old School North Flood Control Basin	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for public access to open space
4	Pauper’s Field Citizen Cemetery	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post signage indicating County management of area
5	Roberts Ferry Cemetery	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade fence and gates to wrought iron fencing
6	Stanislaus Recovery Center (SRC) Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for public access to park • Add native garden/sensory garden and shaded seating • Add ornamental trees and low-water using shrubs
7	Suncrest Estates Flood Control Basin	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for public access to open space

**APPENDIX B
NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND RESPONSES**



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Administration**

*Jami Aggers
Director*

*Merry Mayhew
Assistant Director*

Date: November 3, 2017

To: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Lead Agency: County of Stanislaus
Department of Parks and Recreation
3800 Cornucopia, Suite C
Modesto, CA 95358

Consulting Firm: BaseCamp Environmental, Inc.
115 South School Street, Suite 14
Lodi, CA 95240

Project Title: STANISLAUS COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Stanislaus County Department of Parks and Recreation will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified above. The Department is soliciting the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location and the probable environmental effects are contained in the attached materials, including an Initial Study.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Cathy Gomez at the Stanislaus County Department of Parks and Recreation at the address shown above. Please also provide the name of a contact person for your agency.

Date: November 3, 2017

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jami Aggers", written over a horizontal line.

Jami Aggers, M.A., R.E.H.S.

Title: Director

Telephone: (209) 525-6770

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIR

1.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Stanislaus County Parks Master Plan Update

Lead Agency Name and Address: Stanislaus County
Department of Parks and Recreation
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C
Modesto, CA 95358

Contact Person and Phone Number: Merry Mayhew
(209) 525-6760

Project Location: Stanislaus County

Project Sponsor Name and Address: Same as Lead Agency above.

General Plan Designation: Not Applicable

Zoning: Not Applicable

Brief Description: The County Parks and Recreation Department proposes to update its Parks Master Plan, which was adopted in 1999. The updated Parks Master Plan would be a long-range plan to guide the development of parks and recreational facilities in the County. The plan includes a needs assessment, plans for development of existing and proposed parks, and economic and fiscal planning. A more detailed description is provided in Section 2.0.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: The Parks Master Plan update would apply to existing and proposed parks and recreational facilities throughout Stanislaus County. Surrounding land uses and settings vary by park location.

Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required: Depending on facility and location, approvals may be required from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 10 and 404 permits), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Streambed Alteration Agreement), Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Section 401 Water Quality Certification), State Lands Commission (Submerged Lands Lease), and Central Valley Flood Protection Board (levee encroachment permit). County encroachment and groundwater permits also may be required. Improvements that may affect irrigation district facilities would require approvals from appropriate irrigation district.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the Parks Master Plan is to guide the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, the County Parks and Recreation Commission, and the County Parks Department in meeting a variety of goals and proposed improvements for County park lands for the planning period 2018-2038. The goals and improvements are intended to meet current and anticipated future needs of park users. The Parks Master Plan offers guidance in planning for the future needs of County residents, while incorporating flexibility to capture opportunities as they may arise.

The Parks Master Plan includes an overview of general park standards and approaches for new park development. Recommended general standards address a variety of active and passive recreational activities including boating, fishing, hunting and wildlife management. They also address special use facilities such as archery, off-highway vehicles, model airplanes, firearm ranges, and sports facilities. More specific park plans inventory the existing County parks and recreational facilities and identify planned improvements at each of the County parks and recreational facilities. Some of these improvements are highlighted below:

Frank Raines Regional Park. Complete Frank Raines Trail Management Plan, open the top 500 acres for OHV use, hall restoration, improve potable systems, new restrooms, expand campground, construct outdoor amphitheater.

La Grange Regional Park. Complete Historic District Master Plan, repair/restore historic buildings and assets, expand track water supply and install watering system, add camper/RV hookup campsites, replace entrance station, repave asphalt parking area.

Laird Regional Park. Add fishing dock(s) and boat launch ramp, new playground and picnic/seating/shade areas, pave parking lot and entrance roadway, construct outdoor amphitheater.

Modesto Reservoir Regional Park. Improve entrance station, walking/biking trail, irrigation improvements, entrance to Marina Boat Ramp area, add day use amenities, add new wells, landform manipulation to increase day use access, develop group camping areas, ADA accessible restrooms, picnic amenities, swimming docks, paved roads and parking, modifying restrooms for ADA compliance.

Woodward Reservoir Regional Park. Construct signature outdoor amphitheater on north side, and add underground power source, new wells, ADA compliant showers and restrooms, event awning and picnic facilities.

Community and Neighborhood Parks. Hard courts, paved walking circuit paths, adult exercise options/workout stations, dog parks, restroom facilities, shade shelters, playground equipment, community gardens, group BBQs, lighting.

Special Interest Parks. Access improvements, new wells, walking paths, signage, shade structures, amphitheaters, additional parking, riparian restoration.

Entertainment Venues. Development of amphitheaters and other public performance venues within the existing regional parks, in particular on the Northside area of Woodward Reservoir Regional Park and Modesto Reservoir.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact.” Potential environmental effects are detailed below and on the following pages.

√	Aesthetics	√	Agriculture & Forestry Resources	√	Air Quality
√	Biological Resources	√	Cultural Resources	√	Geology/Soils
√	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	√	Hazards & Hazardous Materials	√	Hydrology/Water Quality
√	Land Use/Planning	√	Mineral Resources	√	Noise
√	Population/Housing	√	Public Services	√	Recreation
√	Transportation/Traffic	√	Tribal Cultural Resources	√	Utilities/Service Systems
√	Mandatory Findings of Significance				

A. Aesthetics

Projects involving grading or large new facilities could alter existing views of hillsides and hilltops as seen from public roads and recreation areas.

B. Air Quality

Grading and excavation associated with park improvements and park-related traffic could contribute to existing exceedance of air quality standards.

C. Agricultural Resources

Park and improvements and future park development could result in the conversion of agricultural land to other uses.

D. Biological Resources

Planned park improvements could result in adverse effects on native plants, wildlife, wetlands and other special-status biological resources.

E. Cultural Resources

Park improvements could result in adverse effects to undiscovered archaeological resources and Native American cultural sites. The Master Plan would involve improvements to and preservation of historic mining, ranching and transportation resources.

F. Geology and Soils

Park improvements could result in losses of soils, soil erosion and sedimentation.

G. Greenhouse Gases

Construction of park improvements and transportation to and from park facilities would involve emissions of greenhouse gases.

H. Hazards

Construction equipment usage could result in soil or groundwater contamination in the event of a spill. Construction in previously-contaminated areas would involve potential for release of hazardous materials to the environment. Demolition of existing structures may also require the need to test for asbestos that may have an impact on the environment.

I. Hydrology and Water Quality

Runoff from soils disturbed during construction could result in siltation of downstream water bodies. Construction of new boating and fishing facilities has the potential for impacts on existing surface waters. Use of on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems at certain park facilities involves potential for water quality impacts.

J. Land Use

Proposed park improvements are not expected to result in any significant land use or planning conflicts.

K. Noise

Construction of some park improvements in and near residential and other sensitive areas could generate noise detrimental to adjacent residents.

L. Population and Housing

The proposed Master Plan Update is intended to reflect the anticipated future needs of the population of Stanislaus County at all income levels and may result in some incidental growth-inducing effect.

M. Public Services, including Recreation

Improvement and expansion of County park facilities will improve the availability and usage of recreational facilities. Improvements are not expected to involve adverse effects on fire and police protection services or schools.

N. Traffic and Circulation

Park facilities addressed by the Master Plan Update would rely primarily on existing County, City and State roads for access. No major transportation improvement needs or impacts on existing transportation facilities are expected to be generated or met by the project.

O. Utilities

Some regional park improvements will involve improvements to existing wastewater and drinking water facilities as required to serve anticipated public use.

P. Cumulative Impacts

The EIR will consider the potential for significant cumulative effects in each of the environmental disciplines addressed.

Q. Alternatives

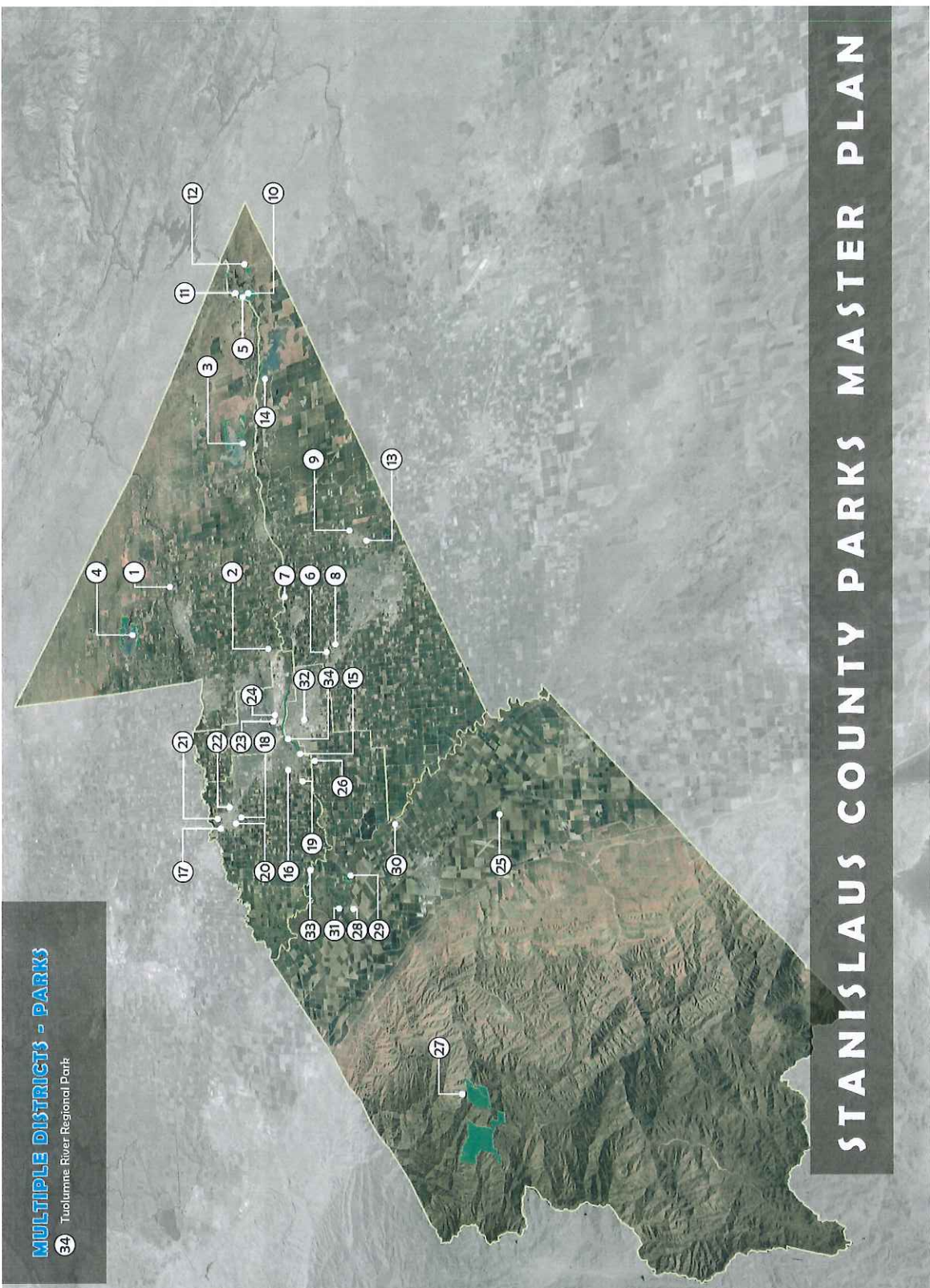
The EIR will explore the comparative environmental effects of a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed Master Plan Update, including the No Project alternative.



SOURCE: Google Maps



Figure 1
STANISLAUS COUNTY



MULTIPLE DISTRICTS - PARKS

34 Tuolumne River Regional Park

DISTRICT 1 - PARKS

- 1 Allou Park
- 2 Empire Community Park and Regional Water Safety Center
- 3 Modesto Reservoir Regional Park
- 4 Woodward Reservoir Regional Park

DISTRICT 2 - PARKS

- 5 Basco Bridge River & Fishing Access
- 6 Bonito Ranch Park
- 7 Fox Grove River & Fishing Access
- 8 Hatch Park/Keyes Community Center
- 9 Hunter's Pointe Park
- 10 Joe Domesq Wildlife Area
- 11 Kwanis Camp
- 12 La Grange Regional Park
- 13 Sterling Ranch Park
- 14 Turlock Lake Fishing Access

DISTRICT 3 - PARKS

- 15 Bellanita Park
- 16 Paradise Park (PAL Headquarters)
- 17 Countryside Park
- 18 John Murphy Park
- 19 Riverdale Park, River & Fishing Access
- 20 Salida Park
- 21 Segesta Park
- 22 Wincanton Park

DISTRICT 4 - PARKS

- 23 Mono Park
- 24 Oregon Drive Park

DISTRICT 5 - PARKS

- 25 Bonito Park & Pool
- 26 Fairview Park
- 27 Frank Raines Regional Park
- 28 Grayson United Community Park
- 29 Laird Regional Park
- 30 Los Palmos River & Fishing Access
- 31 Leroy F. Fitzsimmons Memorial Park
- 32 Parklawn Park
- 33 Shilo River & Fishing Access

STANISLAUS COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Stanislaus County Parks Master Plan Update

Lead Agency: Stanislaus County, Department of Parks and Recreation Contact Person: Merry Mayhew
 Mailing Address: 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C Phone: (209) 526-6760
 City: Modesto Zip: 95358 County: Stanislaus

Project Location: County: Stanislaus City/Nearest Community: Modesto, Turlock, Ceres, Oakdale, Riverbank
 Cross Streets: ENTIRE COUNTY Zip Code: 95358

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ ° _____ ' _____ " N / _____ ° _____ ' _____ " W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 99, I-5 Waterways: Tuolumne River, San Joaquin River, Stanislaus River

Airports: Modesto, Crows Landing, Oak Railways: Empire Traction, SPRR Schools: Multiple

Document Type:

- | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| CEQA: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOP | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR | NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI | Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR | <input type="checkbox"/> EA | <input type="checkbox"/> Final Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec | (Prior SCH No.) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec | Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> FONSI | |

Local Action Type:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Rezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Annexation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Prezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Development Type:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type <u>Signalize intersection</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational: _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>NO DEVELOPMENT</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____ | |

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minerals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous | <input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

NA

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The County Parks and Recreation Department proposes to update its Parks Master Plan, which was adopted in 1999. The updated Parks Master Plan would be a long-range plan to guide the development of parks and recreational facilities in the County. The plan includes a needs assessment, plans for development of existing and proposed parks, and economic and fiscal planning.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # <u>10</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>5S</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>4</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date November 6, 2017 Ending Date December 5, 2017

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>BaseCamp Environmental</u>	Applicant: <u>Stanislaus County, Department of Parks & Recrea</u>
Address: <u>115 S. School Street, Suite 14</u>	Address: <u>3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Lodi, CA 95249</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Modesto, CA 95358</u>
Contact: <u>Charlie Simpson</u>	Phone: <u>(209) 526-6760</u>
Phone: <u>209-224-8213</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  **Date:** 10-30-17

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

3310 El Camino Ave., Ste. 170
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
(916) 574-0609 FAX: (916) 574-0682



November 13, 2017

Ms. Merry Mayhew
Stanislaus County Parks & Recreation
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C
Modesto, California 95358



Subject: Stanislaus County Parks Master Plan, Notice of Preparation,
SCH Number: 1999042017

Location: Stanislaus County

Dear Ms. Mayhew,

Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) staff has reviewed the subject document and provides the following comments:

The proposed project is within the San Joaquin River, Stanislaus River and the Tuolumne River, regulated streams under Board jurisdiction, and may require a Board permit prior to construction.

The Board's jurisdiction covers the entire Central Valley including all tributaries and distributaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and the Tulare and Buena Vista basins south of the San Joaquin River.

Under authorities granted by California Water Code and Public Resources Code statutes, the Board enforces its Title 23, California Code of Regulations (Title 23) for the construction, maintenance, and protection of adopted plans of flood control, including the federal-State facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control, regulated streams, and designated floodways.

Pursuant to Title 23, Section 6 a Board permit is required prior to working within the Board's jurisdiction for the placement, construction, reconstruction, removal, or abandonment of any landscaping, culvert, bridge, conduit, fence, projection, fill, embankment, building, structure, obstruction, encroachment, excavation, the planting, or removal of vegetation, and any repair or maintenance that involves cutting into the levee.

Permits may also be required to bring existing works that predate permitting into compliance with Title 23, or where it is necessary to establish the conditions normally imposed by

Ms. Merry Mayhew
November 13, 2017
Page 2 of 2

permitting. The circumstances include those where responsibility for the works has not been clearly established or ownership and use have been revised.

Other federal (including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 and 404 regulatory permits), State and local agency permits may be required and are the applicant's responsibility to obtain.

Board permit applications and Title 23 regulations are available on our website at <http://www.cvfpb.ca.gov/>. Maps of the Board's jurisdiction are also available from the California Department of Water Resources website at <http://gis.bam.water.ca.gov/bam/>.

Please contact James Herota at (916) 574-0651, or via email at James.Herota@CVFlood.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrea Buckley".

Andrea Buckley
Environmental Services and Land Management Branch Chief

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, California 95814

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Environmental and Cultural Department
 1650 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
 West Sacramento, CA 95691
 Phone (916) 373-3710
 Email: nahc@nahc.ca.gov
 Website: <http://www.nahc.ca.gov>
 Twitter: @CA_NAHC



November 30, 2017

Merry Mayhew
 Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation
 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C
 Modesto, CA 95358

RE: SCH#1999042017, Stanislaus County Parks Master Plan, Stanislaus County

Dear Mr. Stabler:

The Native American Heritage Commission has received the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the project referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.), specifically Public Resources Code section 21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064.5 (b) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (b))). If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before a lead agency, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report (EIR) shall be prepared. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080 (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064 subd.(a)(1) (CEQA Guidelines § 15064 (a)(1))). In order to determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are historical resources with the area of project effect (APE).

CEQA was amended significantly in 2014. Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) (AB 52) amended CEQA to create a separate category of cultural resources, "tribal cultural resources" (Pub. Resources Code § 21074) and provides that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.2). Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.3 (a)). **AB 52 applies to any project for which a notice of preparation or a notice of negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015.** If your project involves the adoption of or amendment to a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation or proposed designation of open space, on or after March 1, 2005, it may also be subject to Senate Bill 18 (Burton, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (SB 18). **Both SB 18 and AB 52 have tribal consultation requirements.** If your project is also subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the tribal consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (154 U.S.C. 300101, 36 C.F.R. § 800 et seq.) may also apply.

The NAHC recommends consultation with California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project as early as possible in order to avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and best protect tribal cultural resources. Below is a brief summary of portions of AB 52 and SB 18 as well as the NAHC's recommendations for conducting cultural resources assessments. **Consult your legal counsel about compliance with AB 52 and SB 18 as well as compliance with any other applicable laws.**

AB 52

AB 52 has added to CEQA the additional requirements listed below, along with many other requirements:

1. Fourteen Day Period to Provide Notice of Completion of an Application/Decision to Undertake a Project: Within fourteen (14) days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, a lead agency shall provide formal notification to a designated contact of, or tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, to be accomplished by at least one written notice that includes:
 - a. A brief description of the project.

- b. The lead agency contact information.
 - c. Notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (d)).
 - d. A "California Native American tribe" is defined as a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of Statutes of 2004 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21073).
2. Begin Consultation Within 30 Days of Receiving a Tribe's Request for Consultation and Before Releasing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report: A lead agency shall begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving a request for consultation from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1, subs. (d) and (e)) and prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration or environmental impact report. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1(b)).
 - a. For purposes of AB 52, "consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in Gov. Code § 65352.4 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (b)).
 3. Mandatory Topics of Consultation If Requested by a Tribe: The following topics of consultation, if a tribe requests to discuss them, are mandatory topics of consultation:
 - a. Alternatives to the project.
 - b. Recommended mitigation measures.
 - c. Significant effects. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
 4. Discretionary Topics of Consultation: The following topics are discretionary topics of consultation:
 - a. Type of environmental review necessary.
 - b. Significance of the tribal cultural resources.
 - c. Significance of the project's impacts on tribal cultural resources.
 - d. If necessary, project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the tribe may recommend to the lead agency. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
 5. Confidentiality of Information Submitted by a Tribe During the Environmental Review Process: With some exceptions, any information, including but not limited to, the location, description, and use of tribal cultural resources submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with Government Code sections 6254 (r) and 6254.10. Any information submitted by a California Native American tribe during the consultation or environmental review process shall be published in a confidential appendix to the environmental document unless the tribe that provided the information consents, in writing, to the disclosure of some or all of the information to the public. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (c)(1)).
 6. Discussion of Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources in the Environmental Document: If a project may have a significant impact on a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency's environmental document shall discuss both of the following:
 - a. Whether the proposed project has a significant impact on an identified tribal cultural resource.
 - b. Whether feasible alternatives or mitigation measures, including those measures that may be agreed to pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082.3, subdivision (a), avoid or substantially lessen the impact on the identified tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (b)).
 7. Conclusion of Consultation: Consultation with a tribe shall be considered concluded when either of the following occurs:
 - a. The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource; or
 - b. A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (b)).
 8. Recommending Mitigation Measures Agreed Upon in Consultation in the Environmental Document: Any mitigation measures agreed upon in the consultation conducted pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2 shall be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document and in an adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program, if determined to avoid or lessen the impact pursuant to Public Resources

Code section 21082.3, subdivision (b), paragraph 2, and shall be fully enforceable. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (a)).

9. **Required Consideration of Feasible Mitigation:** If mitigation measures recommended by the staff of the lead agency as a result of the consultation process are not included in the environmental document or if there are no agreed upon mitigation measures at the conclusion of consultation, or if consultation does not occur, and if substantial evidence demonstrates that a project will cause a significant effect to a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency shall consider feasible mitigation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21084.3 (b). (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (e)).
10. **Examples of Mitigation Measures That, If Feasible, May Be Considered to Avoid or Minimize Significant Adverse Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources:**
 - a. Avoidance and preservation of the resources in place, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context.
 - ii. Planning greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.
 - b. Treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource.
 - ii. Protecting the traditional use of the resource.
 - iii. Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.
 - c. Permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places.
 - d. Protecting the resource. (Pub. Resource Code § 21084.3 (b)).
 - e. Please note that a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC to protect a California prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place may acquire and hold conservation easements if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. (Civ. Code § 815.3 (c)).
 - f. Please note that it is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated. (Pub. Resources Code § 5097.991).
11. **Prerequisites for Certifying an Environmental Impact Report or Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration with a Significant Impact on an Identified Tribal Cultural Resource:** An environmental impact report may not be certified, nor may a mitigated negative declaration or a negative declaration be adopted unless one of the following occurs:
 - a. The consultation process between the tribes and the lead agency has occurred as provided in Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21080.3.2 and concluded pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.
 - b. The tribe that requested consultation failed to provide comments to the lead agency or otherwise failed to engage in the consultation process.
 - c. The lead agency provided notice of the project to the tribe in compliance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) and the tribe failed to request consultation within 30 days. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (d)).

The NAHC's PowerPoint presentation titled, "Tribal Consultation Under AB 52: Requirements and Best Practices" may be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation_CalEPAPDF.pdf

SB 18

SB 18 applies to local governments and requires local governments to contact, provide notice to, refer plans to, and consult with tribes prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation of open space. (Gov. Code § 65352.3). Local governments should consult the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's "Tribal Consultation Guidelines," which can be found online at: https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/09_14_05_Updated_Guidelines_922.pdf

Some of SB 18's provisions include:

1. **Tribal Consultation:** If a local government considers a proposal to adopt or amend a general plan or a specific plan, or to designate open space it is required to contact the appropriate tribes identified by the NAHC by requesting a "Tribal Consultation List." If a tribe, once contacted, requests consultation the local government must consult with the tribe on the plan proposal. **A tribe has 90 days from the date of receipt of notification to request consultation unless a shorter timeframe has been agreed to by the tribe.** (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (a)(2)).
2. **No Statutory Time Limit on SB 18 Tribal Consultation.** There is no statutory time limit on SB 18 tribal consultation.
3. **Confidentiality:** Consistent with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Gov. Code section 65040.2, the city or county shall protect the confidentiality of the information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of places, features and objects described in Public Resources Code sections 5097.9 and 5097.993 that are within the city's or county's jurisdiction. (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (b)).
4. **Conclusion of SB 18 Tribal Consultation:** Consultation should be concluded at the point in which:
 - a. The parties to the consultation come to a mutual agreement concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
 - b. Either the local government or the tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached concerning the appropriate measures of preservation or mitigation. (Tribal Consultation Guidelines, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (2005) at p. 18).

Agencies should be aware that neither AB 52 nor SB 18 precludes agencies from initiating tribal consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with their jurisdictions before the timeframes provided in AB 52 and SB 18. For that reason, we urge you to continue to request Native American Tribal Contact Lists and "Sacred Lands File" searches from the NAHC. The request forms can be found online at: <http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/forms/>

NAHC Recommendations for Cultural Resources Assessments

To adequately assess the existence and significance of tribal cultural resources and plan for avoidance, preservation in place, or barring both, mitigation of project-related impacts to tribal cultural resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

1. Contact the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) Center (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068) for an archaeological records search. The records search will determine:
 - a. If part or all of the APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
 - b. If any known cultural resources have been already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
 - c. If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - d. If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
 - a. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum and not be made available for public disclosure.
 - b. The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional CHRIS center.
3. Contact the NAHC for:
 - a. A Sacred Lands File search. Remember that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the Sacred Lands File, nor are they required to do so. A Sacred Lands File search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project's APE.
 - b. A Native American Tribal Consultation List of appropriate tribes for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in planning for avoidance, preservation in place, or, failing both, mitigation measures.

4. Remember that the lack of surface evidence of archaeological resources (including tribal cultural resources) does not preclude their subsurface existence.
 - a. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of inadvertently discovered archaeological resources per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5(f) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(f)). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
 - b. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the disposition of recovered cultural items that are not burial associated in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
 - c. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains. Health and Safety Code section 7050.5, Public Resources Code section 5097.98, and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5, subdivisions (d) and (e) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5, subds. (d) and (e)) address the processes to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery of any Native American human remains and associated grave goods in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: sharaya.souza@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Sharaya Souza
Staff Services Analyst
(916) 573-0168

cc: State Clearinghouse



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 November 2017

Merry Mayhew
Stanislaus County
Park and Recreation
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C
Modesto, CA 95358

CERTIFIED MAIL
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COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, STANISLAUS COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE PROJECT, SCH# 1999042017, STANISLAUS COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 6 November 2017 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Notice of Preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report* for the Stanislaus County Parks Master Plan Update Project, located in Stanislaus 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.

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

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PAMELA C. CREEDON P.E., BCEE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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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/.

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 Policy is available on page IV-15.01 at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalleywater_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr.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.

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 Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-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:

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

Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits¹

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.

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 Caltrans Phase I MS4 Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:

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

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.

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.

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 (USACOE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACOE, 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 Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACOE at (916) 557-5250.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACOE 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 (i.e., discharge of dredge or fill material) 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.

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)

Discharges to Waters of the State

If USACOE 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.

Land Disposal of Dredge Material

If the project will involve dredging, Water Quality Certification for the dredging activity and Waste Discharge Requirements for the land disposal may be needed.

Local Agency Oversight

Pursuant to the State Water Board's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy (OWTS Policy), the regulation of septic tank and leach field systems may be regulated under the local agency's management program in lieu of WDRs. A county environmental health department may permit septic tank and leach field systems designed for less than 10,000 gpd. For more information on septic system regulations, visit the Central Valley Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/owts/sb_owts_policy.pdf

For more information on the Water Quality Certification and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit2.shtml.

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 Risk General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board's Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Risk Waiver) R5-2013-0145. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage 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 Risk 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 Risk Waiver and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2013-0145_res.pdf

Regulatory Compliance for Commercially Irrigated Agriculture

If the property will be used for commercial irrigated agricultural, the discharger will be required to obtain regulatory coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. There are two options to comply:

1. **Obtain Coverage Under a Coalition Group.** Join the local Coalition Group that supports land owners with the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The Coalition Group conducts water quality monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of its growers. The Coalition Groups charge an annual membership fee, which varies by Coalition Group. To find the Coalition Group in your area, visit the Central Valley Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/app_approval/index.shtml; or contact water board staff at (916) 464-4611 or via email at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.
2. **Obtain Coverage Under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Individual Growers, General Order R5-2013-0100.** Dischargers not participating in a third-party group (Coalition) are regulated individually. Depending on the specific site conditions, growers may be required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit a notice of intent, farm plan, and other

action plans regarding their actions to comply with their General Order. Yearly costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 10-100 acres are currently \$1,084 + \$6.70/Acre); the cost to prepare annual monitoring reports; and water quality monitoring costs. To enroll as an Individual Discharger under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, call the Central Valley Water Board phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.

Low or 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 *Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters* (Low Threat General Order) or the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges of Treated/Untreated Groundwater from Cleanup Sites, Wastewater from Superchlorination Projects, and Other Limited Threat Wastewaters to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete application must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under these General NPDES permits.

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/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0074.pdf

For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0073.pdf

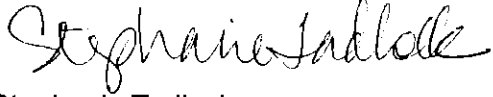
NPDES Permit

If the proposed project discharges waste that could affect the quality of the 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:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit3.shtml

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4644 or
Stephanie.Tadlock@waterboards.ca.gov.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Tadlock".

Stephanie Tadlock
Environmental Scientist

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

APPENDIX C
SUMMARY OF
STANISLAUS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN EIR

DRAFT

**STANISLAUS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN AND
AIRPORT LAND USE COMPATIBILITY PLAN UPDATE
DRAFT PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

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April 2016



Contents

List of Tables	vi
List of Figures.....	viii
List of Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	ix
Executive Summary	ES-1
ES.1 Purpose	ES-1
ES.2 Project Summary.....	ES-1
ES.2.1 General Plan Update Objectives	ES-3
ES.2.2 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Objectives	ES-3
ES.3 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures	ES-4
ES.4 Significant and Unavoidable Impacts.....	ES-15
ES.4.1 Aesthetics, Light, and Glare	ES-15
ES.4.2 Air Quality	ES-15
ES.4.3 Cultural Resources	ES-15
ES.4.4 Hydrology and Water.....	ES-15
ES.4.5 Noise	ES-15
ES.4.6 Recreation.....	ES-16
ES.4.7 Transportation	ES-16
ES.4.8 Utilities and Service Systems	ES-16
ES.5 Summary of Alternatives	ES-16
ES.5.1 Alternative 1—No Project Alternative	ES-17
ES.5.2 Alternative 2—Reduced Developable Area	ES-17
ES.6 Areas of Known Controversy and Issues to be Resolved	ES-18
ES.6.1 Areas of Known Controversy	ES-18
ES.6.2 Disagreement among Experts.....	ES-19
ES.7 Public Review of the Draft Program EIR	ES-19
ES.8 Future Use of this Program EIR.....	ES-20
Chapter 1 Introduction	1-1
1.1 California Environmental Quality Act	1-1
1.1.1 Purpose of the Environmental Impact Report.....	1-1
1.1.2 Program EIR	1-3
1.1.3 Level of Detail	1-3
1.2 Intended Use of the Environmental Impact Report	1-4
1.2.1 General Plan Adoption.....	1-4
1.2.2 Future Use of this EIR.....	1-4

1.3	Environmental Impact Report Focus	1-5
1.4	Document Format.....	1-5
1.5	Approach to the Impact Analysis	1-6
Chapter 2	Project Description	2-1
2.1	Background	2-1
2.2	Project.....	2-2
2.2.1	Stanislaus County General Plan Update	2-2
2.2.2	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.....	2-16
Chapter 3	Impact Analysis.....	3-1
3.1	Aesthetics.....	3.1-1
3.1.1	Introduction	3.1-1
3.1.2	Environmental Setting	3.1-1
3.1.3	Impact Analysis	3.1-10
3.1.4	References Cited	3.1-26
3.2	Agricultural Resources	3.2-1
3.2.1	Introduction	3.2-1
3.2.2	Environmental Setting	3.2-1
3.2.3	Impact Analysis	3.2-8
3.2.4	References Cited	3.2-14
3.3	Air Quality	3.3-1
3.3.1	Introduction	3.3-1
3.3.2	Environmental Setting	3.3-1
3.3.3	Impact Analysis	3.3-20
3.3.4	References Cited	3.3-31
3.4	Biological Resources	3.4-1
3.4.1	Introduction	3.4-1
3.4.2	Environmental Setting	3.4-1
3.4.3	Impact Analysis	3.4-22
3.4.4	References Cited	3.4-33
3.5	Cultural Resources	3.5-1
3.5.1	Introduction	3.5-1
3.5.2	Environmental Setting	3.5-1
3.5.3	Impact Analysis	3.5-12
3.5.4	References Cited	3.5-16
3.6	Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources.....	3.6-1
3.6.1	Introduction	3.6-1
3.6.2	Environmental Setting	3.6-1

3.6.3	Impact Analysis	3.6-16
3.6.4	References Cited	3.6-22
3.7	Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy	3.7-1
3.7.1	Introduction	3.7-1
3.7.2	Environmental Setting	3.7-2
3.7.3	Impact Analysis	3.7-14
3.7.4	References Cited	3.7-21
3.8	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	3.8-1
3.8.1	Introduction	3.8-1
3.8.2	Environmental Setting	3.8-1
3.8.3	Impact Analysis	3.8-8
3.8.4	References Cited	3.8-14
3.9	Hydrology and Water Quality	3.9-1
3.9.1	Introduction	3.9-1
3.9.2	Environmental Setting	3.9-1
3.9.3	Impact Analysis	3.9-13
3.9.4	References Cited	3.9-23
3.10	Land Use and Planning	3.10-1
3.10.1	Introduction	3.10-1
3.10.2	Environmental Setting	3.10-1
3.10.3	Impact Analysis	3.10-11
3.10.4	References Cited	3.10-20
3.11	Mineral Resources	3.11-1
3.11.1	Introduction	3.11-1
3.11.2	Environmental Setting	3.11-1
3.11.3	Impact Analysis	3.11-3
3.11.4	References Cited	3.11-5
3.12	Noise	3.12-1
3.12.1	Introduction	3.12-1
3.12.2	Environmental Setting	3.12-5
3.12.3	Impact Analysis	3.12-20
3.12.4	References Cited	3.12-33
3.13	Population and Housing	3.13-1
3.13.1	Introduction	3.13-1
3.13.2	Environmental Setting	3.13-1
3.13.3	Impact Analysis	3.13-6
3.13.4	References Cited	3.13-11

3.14	Public Services.....	3.14-1
3.14.1	Introduction	3.14-1
3.14.2	Environmental Setting	3.14-1
3.14.3	Impact Analysis	3.14-13
3.14.4	References Cited	3.14-19
3.15	Recreation.....	3.15-1
3.15.1	Introduction	3.15-1
3.15.2	Environmental Setting	3.15-1
3.15.3	Impact Analysis	3.15-10
3.15.4	References Cited	3.15-13
3.16	Transportation and Traffic	3.16-1
3.16.1	Introduction	3.16-1
3.16.2	Environmental Setting	3.16-1
3.16.3	Impact Analysis	3.16-11
3.16.4	References Cited	3.16-30
3.17	Utilities and Service Systems	3.17-1
3.17.1	Introduction	3.17-1
3.17.2	Environmental Setting	3.17-1
3.17.3	Impact Analysis	3.17-9
3.17.4	References Cited	3.17-16
Chapter 4 Alternatives		4-1
4.1	Project Objectives	4-1
4.2	Significant Impacts.....	4-2
4.2.1	Aesthetics.....	4-2
4.2.2	Air Quality	4-2
4.2.3	Biological Resources	4-2
4.2.4	Cultural Resources	4-2
4.2.5	Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources.....	4-2
4.2.6	Hydrology and Water Quality	4-2
4.2.7	Noise	4-2
4.2.8	Recreation.....	4-3
4.2.9	Transportation and Traffic	4-3
4.2.10	Utilities and Service Systems	4-3
4.3	Methodology and Screening Criteria	4-3
4.4	Alternatives Considered but Rejected	4-4
4.5	Alternatives Analyzed in this EIR.....	4-4
4.5.1	Alternative 1—No Project Alternative	4-4

4.5.2	Alternative 2—Reduced Developable Area	4-7
4.6	Environmentally Superior Alternative	4-12
4.7	References Cited	4-13
Chapter 5 Other CEQA Considerations		5-1
5.1	Overview	5-1
5.2	Cumulative Impacts	5-1
5.2.1	Agricultural Resources	5-2
5.2.2	Air Quality	5-3
5.2.3	Biological Resources	5-3
5.2.4	Noise	5-4
5.2.5	Recreation.....	5-4
5.2.6	Traffic/Transportation	5-5
5.2.7	Water Supply	5-6
5.3	Growth Inducing Impact	5-7
5.4	Significant and Unavoidable Impacts.....	5-7
5.5	Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Cannot Be Avoided if the Project is Implemented.....	5-9
5.6	References Cited	5-10
Chapter 6 List of Preparers.....		6-1
 APPENDICES		
Appendix A	Notice of Preparation	
Appendix B	Proposed Updated Text to the Stanislaus County General Plan and Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan	
Appendix C1	Traffic Data Used in Emissions Modeling	
Appendix C2	2014 CT-EMFAC Emissions Factors	
Appendix D	Stanislaus Countywide Regional Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory	

Executive Summary

ES.1 Purpose

This environmental impact report (EIR) has been prepared to evaluate and disclose the significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed Stanislaus County General Plan Update and Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (project). This is an update of the County's existing plans for the unincorporated areas of the County. Impacts are evaluated on the basis of the plans' 2035 planning horizon. Copies of the proposed general plan update and new Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan are available at the County Planning and Community Development Department office at the address listed below. Copies are also available online at the County's website: <http://www.stancounty.com/planning/pl/GPupdate.shtm>.

This EIR has been prepared in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3). Accordingly, it discusses the existing physical and regulatory setting, describes the plans, and examines the plans' potential to result in significant effects on the physical environment. In addition to disclosing significant environmental impacts, the EIR also proposes mitigation measures, where feasible, to minimize or otherwise avoid significant environmental impacts and reviews two alternatives to the plans.

The purpose of this EIR is to inform Stanislaus County decision-makers, representatives of other affected/responsible agencies, the public, and other interested parties of the potential environmental effects that may be associated with the project. As authorized under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15146, the project's impacts are analyzed on a general scale, in keeping with the broad level of detail found in the plans themselves. Accordingly, the reader should not expect to find parcel-specific analyses here.

ES.2 Project Summary

The proposed project consists of an update of the existing Stanislaus County General Plan and the separate Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). Stanislaus County is located at the northern end of the San Joaquin Valley and is bounded by Santa Clara County to the west, San Joaquin County to the north, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties to the east, and Merced County to the south (see Figure 2-1).

California Planning Law (Government Code Section 65300 et seq.) requires the County to adopt "comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county." The general plan serves as a "blueprint" for growth; that is, it establishes the general pattern of land use and adopts goals and policies to guide the County in future land use decision-making. The proposed general plan update conforms to California Planning Law and is being considered for the purpose of ensuring that the general plan meets all current requirements of state law. The update consists solely of amendments to the goals, policies, and implementation measures of the general plan. It does not include any changes to the general plan's land use map.

The ALUCP conforms to Airport Land Use Commission Law (Public Utilities Code 21670 et seq.) and provides for the orderly growth of each public airport and the area surrounding the airport to safeguard the general welfare of the inhabitants near the airport and the public in general. The ALUCP reflects the anticipated growth of each airport during at least the next 20 years. The ALUCP includes height restrictions on buildings, specifies use of land within its planning areas, and determine building standards, including soundproofing adjacent to airports, within the airport influence area. The ALUCP is consistent with the general plan.

The proposed project is described in Section 2, *Project Description*, of this Draft EIR. Table ES-1 provides a brief summary of the key components of the proposed project. For more detail, see Chapter 2.

Table ES-1. Key Components of the General Plan and ALUCP

Issue Area	General Plan
Elements Affected	Land Use, Circulation, Conservation/Open Space, Noise, Safety
Land Use	Adds and amends goals and policies to conform the general plan to current state, regional, and local requirements. No changes are proposed to the land use diagram. Changes address the elimination of the Redevelopment Agency, new policies encouraging economic development, strengthened policies related to connecting new development to public water and sewer, strengthened policies related to growth management and preference for new development to occur in cities, and new policies related to “complete streets.”
Agricultural	Updates this element to address the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA); add an implementation measure encouraging the development of alternative energy sources on lands located outside “Most Productive Agricultural Areas;” add an implementation measure encouraging the development and use of appropriately treated water (reclaimed wastewater and stormwater) for both agricultural and urban irrigation; and add a policy and implementation measures on the subject of protecting local groundwater for agricultural, rural domestic, and urban use in Stanislaus County.
Circulation	Updates the nomenclature for roads within the county to match federal and state standards. Other changes include amending the policy of maintaining Level of Service (LOS) C on county roads at LOS D or better for motorized vehicles on all roadway segments and LOS of C or better for motorized vehicles at all roadway intersections, updating the County road standards, updating the study areas for future major roads, revising the standards for project-level traffic impact analysis, clarifying that new development will pay its fair share of road impacts attributable to that development, requiring multi-modal facilities, and updating references to documents and agencies.
Conservation/ Open Space	Changes include new policies to avoid conflicts between airport operations and new wildlife habitat; require mitigation for impacts on wetlands as may be required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; encourage better management of water resources, including groundwater, through county actions and cooperation with other agencies; strengthen policies requiring dedication of parks and recreation facilities with new development; review development proposals for conformance with all applicable Hazard Mitigation Plans and the Safety Element; and updated references to documents and agencies.
Noise	Changes include a policy commitment to enforce the Stanislaus County Noise Control Ordinance to reduce the number of incidents of excessive noise; new policies related to review of projects for airport noise conflicts, and updated references to documents and agencies.

Issue Area	General Plan
Safety	Changes include strengthened policies regarding review of projects for fire hazard; new references to the ALUCP and coordination of project review with the Airport Land Use Commission; strengthened flood protection policies; and updated references to documents, such as the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and public agencies.
ALUCP (not part of the general plan)	Updates the ALUCP to meet the standards for this type of plan established in the California Department of Transportation's current <i>Airport Land Use Planning Handbook</i> . That includes revisions to the Airport Influence Areas and elimination of ALUCPs for airports that no longer qualify for inclusion.

ES.2.1 General Plan Update Objectives

The proposed general plan has the following objectives.

- To comprehensively review and amend the general plan to incorporate current requirements of State law related to planning issues.
- To update existing and incorporate new goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures to reflect local changes in land use policy.
- To update technical data found within the general plan and support documents.
- To update the ALUCP to ensure consistency with the general plan; incorporate the requirements of the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') *Airport Land Use Planning Handbook*; and reflect new information relating to noise contours, safety zones, airspace protection zones, overflight areas, and current city general plan provisions.
- To prepare the environmental documentation necessary to support adoption of the general plan update and ALUCP update.
- To make these revisions while limiting changes to the land use diagram to a minimum.

ES.2.2 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Objectives

The proposed ALUCP has the following objectives:

- To update the ALUCP to ensure consistency with the general plan; incorporate the requirements of the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') *Airport Land Use Planning Handbook*; and reflect new information relating to noise contours, safety zones, airspace protection zones, overflight areas, and current city general plan provisions
- To prepare the environmental documentation necessary to support adoption of the general plan update and ALUCP
- Provide for the orderly growth of each public airport and the area surrounding the airport to safeguard the general welfare of the inhabitants near the airport and the public in general.
- Establish height restrictions on buildings, specifies use of land within its planning areas, and determine building standards, including soundproofing adjacent to airports, within the airport influence area to limit impacts on residents near the airports.
- Control new development near airports in order to minimize conflicts between the airport and that development.

ES.3 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the plans would result in a number of significant impacts on the environment. At the same time, the general plan and ALUCP contain many policies that are intended to minimize or mitigate the potential impacts of their implementation. The analysis in this Program EIR considered the policies contained in the 2007 General Plan when determining whether the plans would result in a significant environmental impact. Where the policies are insufficient to avoid an impact, additional mitigation is identified in the Program EIR. Table ES-2 briefly summarizes the impacts and mitigation measures that have been identified in the Program EIR.

Table ES-2. Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance after Mitigation
3.1 Aesthetics			
Impact AES-1: Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the county and its surroundings, including scenic vista	Less than significant	–	–
Impact AES-2: Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings along a scenic highway	Less than significant	–	–
Impact AES-3: Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area	Significant	No mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable
3.2 Agricultural Resources			
Impact AGR-1: Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the FMMP of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use	Less than significant	–	–
Impact AGR-2: Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract	Less than significant	–	–
Impact AGR-3: Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220[g]), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104[g])	Less than significant	–	–
Impact AGR-4: Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use	Less than significant	–	–
Impact AGR-5: Involve other changes in the existing environment that, because of their location or nature, could result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or the conversion of forestland to non-forest use	Less than significant	–	–

Impact	Level of Significance before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance after Mitigation
3.3 Air Quality			
Impact AQ-1: Generate construction-related emissions in excess of SJVAPCD thresholds	Significant	No mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable
Impact AQ-2: Generate on-road mobile source criteria pollutant emissions in excess of SJVAPCD thresholds	Less than significant	–	–
Impact AQ-3: Expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of carbon monoxide	Less than significant	–	–
Impact AQ-4: Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations	Less than significant	–	–
Impact AQ-5: Expose sensitive receptors to substantial odors	Less than significant	–	–
3.4 Biological Resources			
Impact BIO-1: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Less than significant	–	–
Impact BIO-2: Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Less than significant	–	–
Impact BIO-3: Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, etc.) or waters of the State through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means	Less than significant	–	–
Impact BIO-4: Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites	Significant	No mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable

Impact	Level of Significance before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance after Mitigation
Impact BIO-5: Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources	No Impact	–	–
Impact BIO-6: Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan	No impact	–	–
Impact BIO-6: Introduce or spread invasive species	Less than significant	–	–

3.5 Cultural Resources

Impact CUL-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5	Significant	No mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable
Impact CUL-2: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5	Significant	No mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable
Impact CUL-3: Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries	Less than significant	–	–

3.6 Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources

Impact GEO-1: Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving fault rupture	Less than significant	–	–
Impact GEO-2: Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking; seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or landslides	Less than significant	–	–
Impact GEO-3: Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil	Less than significant	–	–
Impact GEO-4: Location on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the project and potentially result in an onsite or offsite landslide	Less than significant	–	–
Impact GEO-5: Location on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property	Less than significant	–	–

Impact	Level of Significance before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance after Mitigation
Impact GEO-6: Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater	Less than significant	–	–
Impact GEO-7: Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature	Less than significant	–	–
3.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy [Pending]			
3.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials			
Impact HAZ-1: Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HAZ-2: Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HAZ-3: Emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HAZ-4: Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HAZ-5: Be located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, be within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HAZ-6: Be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HAZ-7: Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan	Less than significant	–	–

Impact	Level of Significance before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance after Mitigation
Impact HAZ-8: Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands	Less than significant	–	–
3.9 Hydrology and Water Quality			
Impact HYD-1: Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HYD-2: Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, resulting in a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)	Significant	No mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable
Impact HYD-3: Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HYD-4: Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding onsite or offsite	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HYD-5: Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HYD-6: Otherwise substantially degrade water quality	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HYD-7: Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HYD-8: Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows	Less than significant	–	–

Impact	Level of Significance before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance after Mitigation
Impact HYD-9: Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam	Less than significant	–	–
Impact HYD-10: Contribute to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow	Less than significant	–	–
3.10 Land Use and Planning			
Impact LAN-1: Physically divide an established community	Less than significant	–	–
Impact LAN-2: Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect	Less than significant	–	–
Impact LAN-3: Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan	No impact	–	–
3.11 Mineral Resources			
Impact MIN-1: Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state	Beneficial impact	–	–
Impact MIN-2: Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan	Beneficial impact	–	–
3.12 Noise			
Impact NOI-1: Expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies	Significant	No mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable
Impact NOI-2: Expose persons to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels	Less than significant	–	–
Impact NOI-3: Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project	Less than significant	–	–

Impact	Level of Significance before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance after Mitigation
Impact NOI-4: Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project	Less than significant	–	–
Impact NOI-5: Be located within an airport land use plan area, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport and expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels	Less than significant	–	–
Impact NOI-6: Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip and expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels	Less than significant	–	–
3.13 Population and Housing			
Impact POP-1: Induce substantial population growth, either directly, by proposing new homes and businesses, or indirectly, through the extension of roads and other infrastructure	Less than significant	–	–
Impact POP-2: Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere	Less than significant	–	–
Impact POP-3: Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere	Less than significant	–	–
3.14 Public Services			
Impact SER-1: Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives: Fire protection	Less than significant	–	–
Impact SER-2: Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives: Police protection	Less than significant	–	–

Impact	Level of Significance before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance after Mitigation
Impact SER-3: Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives: Schools	Less than significant	–	–
Impact SER-4: Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives: Parks	No impact	–	–
Impact SER-5: Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives: Other public facilities	Less than significant	–	–
3.15 Recreation			
Impact REC-1: Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated	Significant	No mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable
Impact REC-2: Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment	Less than significant	–	–
3.16 Transportation and Traffic			
Impact TRA-1: Result in increased VMT on a per capita basis	Less than significant	–	–
Impact TRA-2: Result in traffic operations below LOS C for Stanislaus County roadways, which is the minimum acceptable threshold according to the General Plan	Less than significant (individual and cumulative)	–	–

Impact	Level of Significance before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance after Mitigation
Impact TRA-3: Result in traffic operations below the minimum acceptable thresholds on roadways outside Stanislaus County's jurisdiction (i.e., Caltrans facilities)	Significant	No mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable
Impact TRA-4: Create demand for public transit unable to be met by planned services and facilities or disrupt existing, or interfere with planned, transit services or facilities	Less than significant	–	–
Impact TRA-5: Disrupt existing, or interfere with planned, bicycle or pedestrian facilities	Less than significant	–	–
Impact TRA-6: Result in transportation network changes that would prevent the efficient movement of goods within the county	Less than significant (individual) Significant (cumulative)	– No mitigation available	– Significant and unavoidable
Impact TRA-7: Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks	Less than significant	–	–
Impact TRA-8: Create additional vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian travel on roadways or other facilities that do not meet current county design standards	Significant	No mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable
Impact TRA-9: Substantially conflict with applicable plans, policies, and regulations of other agencies and jurisdictions where such conflict would result in an adverse physical change in the environment	Less than significant	–	–

Impact	Level of Significance before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance after Mitigation
3.17 Utilities and Service Systems			
Impact UTL-1: Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	Less than significant	-	-
Impact UTL-2: Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects	Significant	No mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable
Impact UTL-3: Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects	Less than significant	-	-
Impact UTL-4: Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or would new or expanded entitlements be needed?	Less than significant	-	-
Impact UTL -5: Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments	Significant	No feasible mitigation available	Significant and unavoidable
Impact UTL-6: Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs	Less than significant	-	-
Impact UTL-7: Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste	Less than significant	-	-

ES.4 Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

The Program EIR has identified the following areas where, after the implementation of feasible mitigation measures, the proposed project may nonetheless result in impacts that cannot be fully mitigated to a level of insignificance.

ES.4.1 Aesthetics, Light, and Glare

Development contemplated by the general plan would result in new development on undeveloped lands. This new development would irreversibly change the localized visual character of these areas and introduce new sources of light and glare, which may adversely impact the quality of daytime and night time views.

ES.4.2 Air Quality

Development and land use activities would result in emissions that would contribute to the region's air quality problem. The San Joaquin Valley Air Basin is in non-compliance for the emissions of ozone precursors and dust.

ES.4.3 Cultural Resources

Future development under the general plan, as amended by the project, will introduce new structures, roads, and other features that will adversely affect existing cultural resources.

ES.4.4 Hydrology and Water

Within the time frame of the general plan's 2035 planning horizon, development under the general plan will have a significant effect on groundwater overdraft. Although the general plan update includes measures intended to reduce or minimize this impact, those measures are reliant upon implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan that may not be fully implemented for decades.

ES.4.5 Noise

Noise impacts would be significant along numerous road segments where future noise levels would equal or exceed 60 L_{dn} and expose existing noise sensitive land uses to these higher levels. Mitigation of this impact would vary, depending on the level of noise, distance of the sensitive receptor from the road, and construction of the affected building. Based on the specific circumstances, methods of mitigation could include, but are not limited to, installation of a solid wall along the road frontage, retrofitting of existing buildings with double-pane windows, and installation of insulation in walls facing the road. The County does not have a program for mitigating noise impacts affecting existing sensitive receptors. This impact would be significant and unavoidable because there is no feasible program to mitigate the impact.

ES.4.6 Recreation

Future development under the general plan, as amended by the project, will increase demands on parks and may lead to the physical deterioration of those facilities. Further, the construction of regional parks often times results in significant effects from lighting and traffic.

ES.4.7 Transportation

Future growth anticipated by the general plan will result in greater traffic volumes on local and regional roadways (i.e., highways). The cumulative traffic generated by both cities and the County will cause some County and state roadways to operate at LOS E or F. Future development projects will be required to pay a traffic impact fee; however, it would not fully reduce the project's contribution to this significant impact to a less than considerable level. In addition, this will result in a considerably considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact on goods movement.

Vehicle, bicycle, and/or pedestrian travel are anticipated to increase on roadways that do not currently meet county design standards with build-out of the General Plan, as amended by the General Plan update. Circulation Element Policies 1 and 2 and their appurtenant Implementation Measures, as amended by the General Plan update, will require applicants for development projects to identify and mitigate impacts on the transportation system, including upgrading the existing county road system as new development occurs and roadway network improvements are needed to accommodate increased travel demand. However, implementation of upgrades to the county roadway system may be limited by lack of funding sources.

ES.4.8 Utilities and Service Systems

Future development under the general plan, as amended by the project, will require the installation of new water and wastewater treatment facilities. Those facilities often result in significant effects on the environment. Existing water and wastewater treatment facilities in some rural communities are unable to serve anticipated future development. Funding to expand those facilities may not be available.

ES.5 Summary of Alternatives

CEQA requires the lead agency to consider a reasonable range of feasible alternatives to the proposed project that: (1) meet most or all of the project's objectives; (2) substantially reduce one or more of its significant effects; and (3) are potentially feasible. The County has examined two alternatives to the proposed project, including the No-Project alternative.

Below are very brief summaries of the alternatives that are examined in Chapter 4 of this EIR. See Chapter 4 for a more complete description of each of the alternatives and a qualitative comparison of their potential impacts. As authorized under Section 15126.6 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the alternatives are examined at a lesser level of detail than the proposed project. The alternatives are qualitatively compared to each other in Table ES-3.

Table ES-3. Summary of General Plan Alternatives Impacts

Impact Topic	Alternative 1— No Project		Alternative 2— Reduced Developable Area	
Aesthetics	SU	(S)	SU	(L)
Agricultural Resources	LTS	(S)	LTS	(L)
Air Quality	SU	(S)	SU	(L)
Biological Resources	SU	(S)	SU	(L)
Cultural Resources	SU	(S)	SU	(S)
Geology, Soils, and Paleontology	LTS	(S)	LTS	(S/L)
Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy	SU	(G)	SU	(L)
	LTS	(S)	LTS	(S)
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	SU	(S)	SU	(S)
			LTS	(S)
Hydrology and Water Quality	SU	(S)	SU	(L)
Land Use and Planning	LTS	(S)	LTS	(S)
Mineral Resources	LTS	(S)	LTS	(S)
Noise	SU	(S)	SU	(L)
Population and Housing	SU	(S)	SU	(G)
Public Services	SU	(S)	SU	(L)
Recreation	LTS	(S)	LTS	(S)
Transportation and Traffic	SU	(G)	SU	(L)
Utilities and Service Systems	SU	(S)	SU	(L)

(G) = impact greater than the project.
(L) = impact less than the project.
(S) = impact the same as the project.

ES.5.1 Alternative 1—No Project Alternative

Under Alternative 1—No Project Alternative, the current general plan would remain in effect and future development would occur in accordance with the land use map and policies of this plan. The County's future development would continue to be guided by the existing adopted plans and their policies. As with the project, there would be no site-specific changes in existing land use designations or zoning. Because the level and pattern of development would be substantially the same under both the project and the No Project Alternative, the key differences between the two are the proposed new goals, policies, and implementation measures being proposed by the project.

The No Project Alternative would not reduce any of the impacts attributed to the project.

ES.5.2 Alternative 2—Reduced Developable Area

This alternative would reduce the area of the county that is designated for residential or urban development. This would reduce the general plan's impacts on agricultural conversion, biological resources, and traffic. Those undeveloped or underdeveloped areas of the county with residential, commercial, and other urban planning designations include the communities of Del Rio, Denair, Diablo Grande, Keyes, Salida, and Westley. Measure E (enacted by voter initiative in 2008) requires

that any redesignation or rezoning of land in the unincorporated area from agricultural or open space use to a residential use must be approved by a majority vote of the county voters at a general or special local election. The planning strategies of the Stanislaus County General Plan must reflect the requirements of Measure E. The unincorporated communities of Crows Landing, Knights Ferry, and La Grange have little or no capacity for additional growth.

Under this initiative, the future development potential for the communities of Del Rio, Denair, Keyes, and Westley would be reduced. Both Diablo Grande and Salida are subject to approved entitlements that limit the County from “down zoning” them to reduce urban densities. Furthermore, the Salida Community Plan was adopted by voter initiative. As a result, it cannot be changed except by another popular vote at a county-wide election. The County cannot reduce development density within Salida through the general plan amendment process.

There are substantial undeveloped areas in Del Rio, Denair, Keyes, and Westley. Alternative 2 would include all of the proposed amendments to the General Plan and ALUCP, but would add new policies to each of these community plans to restrict new residential development projects on all vacant, agriculturally zoned lands to the residential use allowed in the particular agricultural zone. This would effectively preclude large scale residential subdivisions and limit development to single-family residences on lots meeting the minimum parcel size.

ES.6 Areas of Known Controversy and Issues to be Resolved

Pursuant to Section 15123 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the summary identifies areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public. In addition, the summary section also identifies issues to be resolved. Each of these issues is discussed below.

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Program EIR was distributed to the State Clearinghouse, responsible agencies, and other interested parties for a 30-day public review period from April 29, 2014 through May 29, 2014. In addition, public scoping workshops were held in Modesto, Patterson, and Oakdale.

A limited number of agencies, organizations, and individuals provided comments on the NOP. These comments suggested areas of study and identified environmental impacts.

ES.6.1 Areas of Known Controversy

No controversial issues were raised during the Notice of Preparation and scoping process of this project. However, the following are areas that have consistently been of concern to the public and decisionmakers.

ES.6.1.1 Agricultural Resources – Loss of Farmland

Development and land use activities contemplated by the general plan would potentially result in the loss of Important Farmland and Williamson Act land (much of it overlapping). The general plan encourages development to occur first in the cities and community plan areas. However, development would also be allowed on existing lots outside of these areas.

ES.6.1.2 Traffic Congestion

Future growth anticipated by the general plan, as well as city growth during the planning horizon, would result in additional vehicle trips on local and regional roadways. These additional vehicle trips may result in some roadways operating at levels that exceed the County's preferred standard of traffic flow, causing increased traffic congestion in the county.

ES.6.1.3 Water Supply

Stanislaus County has substantial existing water constraints. The major groundwater basins in the county are in a state of overdraft. Although initiatives are either underway (County groundwater "mining" ordinance adoption) or in the early planning stages (legislatively-mandated regional groundwater management plan) that would reduce this overdraft, the initiatives may not be sufficient to avoid continued overdraft and do not offer short-term relief. Given these constraints, future development and land use activities would further exacerbate these water-related problems without careful planning.

ES.6.2 Disagreement among Experts

The Program EIR contains substantial evidence to support the conclusions presented herein. However, there is the possibility that there will be disagreement among various parties regarding these conclusions. Both the State CEQA Guidelines and case law provide the standards for treating disagreement among experts. Where evidence and opinions conflict on an issue concerning the environment, and the lead agency knows of these controversies in advance, the Program EIR must acknowledge the controversies, summarize the conflicting opinions of the experts, and include sufficient information to allow the public and decision-makers to make an informed judgment about the environmental consequences of the proposed project.

Evidence presented during the public and agency review of the Draft Program EIR will be incorporated into the Final Program EIR for this project. In their proceedings, the decision-makers will consider comments received concerning the adequacy of the Draft Program EIR and address any objections raised in those comments. Decision-makers reviewing the Final Program EIR will have the ability to consider this material during the public hearing process.

ES.7 Public Review of the Draft Program EIR

The Draft Program EIR will be available for public review for the statutory 45-day public review period, beginning [date] and ending on [date]. During that time, agency representatives and members of public can submit written comments on the Draft Program EIR to the address provided below.

Ms. Kristin Doud, Associate Planner
Stanislaus County Planning and Community Development Department
1010 10th Street, Suite 3400
Modesto, CA 95354

After the end of the public review period and as part of preparing the Final Program EIR, the County will prepare written responses to all environmental issues that are raised by commenters. The Final Program EIR will consist of the Draft Program EIR, comments received, written responses to

comments, and list of commenters. It may also contain additional information necessary to respond to the comments. All public agencies that submit comments will be sent a copy of the County's response to their comment at least 10 days prior to the public hearing at which the Final Program EIR will be considered for approval by Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors will certify the Final Program EIR prior to taking separate actions on the proposed general plan and ALUCP. At that time, they will adopt findings regarding the disposition of each significant effect identified in the Final Program EIR, as well as a statement of overriding considerations describing the specific benefits that outweigh the projects significant and unavoidable impacts.

ES.8 Future Use of this Program EIR

After certification by the County Board of Supervisors, the Program EIR may be used by the County and other agencies as a "first tier" document for later actions, as authorized by Section 15183 (projects consistent with a community plan or zoning) or Section 15162 (subsequent EIR) of the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15000, et seq.), as applicable. Under these provisions, later CEQA reviews would focus on the site-specific or project-specific impacts of that action. Reviews of later actions under this provision of CEQA would be required to consider any project-specific impacts that were not addressed in this Program EIR.

These later projects are not known at this time. However, they may include County actions such as the following.

- Rezoning undertaken to make zoning consistent with the general plan.
- Adoption of the Capital Infrastructure Financing Plans and similar infrastructure-related plans set out under the general plan, with the understanding that site-specific impacts will require additional CEQA analysis.

Tiering would not apply if the later action was not analyzed in the Program EIR.