
EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This document is an Initial Study that provides justification for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the SAFCA Easement and Fee Title Acquisitions. This MND has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*, and the State CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15000 *et seq.*

An Initial Study is conducted by a Lead Agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, an EIR must be prepared if an Initial Study indicates that the proposed project under review may have a potentially significant impact on the environment. A Negative Declaration may be prepared instead, if the Lead Agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore does not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a Negative Declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

- a) The Initial Study shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or
- b) The Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects, but:
 - (1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed negative declaration is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and
 - (2) There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

If revisions are adopted into the proposed project in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b), a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is prepared.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The Lead Agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over a proposed project. CEQA Guidelines Section 15051 states that if a project will be carried out by a public agency, that agency shall be the Lead Agency, even if the project would be located within the jurisdiction of another public agency. Since the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency would implement the SAFCA Easement and Fee Title Acquisitions, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency is the Lead Agency for the project for the purposes of CEQA.

1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this Initial Study is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed SAFCA Easement and Fee Title Acquisitions. Mitigation measures have also been provided to reduce or eliminate any identified significant and/or potentially significant impacts.

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This document is divided into the following sections:

- **1.0 Introduction** - provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of this document.
- **2.0 Project Description** - provides a detailed description of the proposed project and the alternatives considered.
- **3.0 Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures** - describes the environmental setting for each of the environmental subject areas, and evaluates a range of impacts in response to the environmental checklist. Impacts are classified as "no impact", "less than significant", "potentially significant unless mitigation incorporated", or "potentially significant". Where appropriate, mitigation measures are provided that mitigate potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.
- **4.0 Determination** - provides the environmental determination for the project.
- **5.0 Report Preparation and References** - identifies a list of staff and consultants responsible for preparation of this document, and persons and agencies consulted. This section also identifies the references used in preparation of the MND.

2.1 PROJECT SUMMARY

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|-----|---|--|
| 1. | Project Title: | SAFCA Easement and Fee Title Acquisitions |
| 2. | Lead Agency: | Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) |
| 3. | Contact Person: | Tim Washburn
(916) 874-7606 |
| 4. | Project Location: | Dry Creek in Rio Linda, Sacramento County |
| 5. | Project Sponsor or Applicant: | SAFCA |
| 6. | General Plan Designation(s): | Various |
| 7. | Zoning: | Various |
| 8. | Project Description: | See Section 2.2. |
| 9. | Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: | Various |
| 10. | Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement): | |

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards/Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources |

2.2 INTRODUCTION

Since 1990, Sacramento County has experienced population growth and related development that exceeds that of the state as a whole. This growth and development result in an increase in impervious surfacing in the local watersheds, which in turn creates higher stormwater runoff rates and an increase in peak flows in the streams and rivers. Unless carefully planned, flooding becomes more severe in the downstream reaches of a developing watershed, and Dry Creek is no exception. Proper planning involves establishment of policies requiring new development to detain additional runoff created by impervious surfacing and preservation of existing undeveloped land in the floodplains. This project proposes to do the latter by acquiring rights to various properties along Dry Creek within the 100 year floodplain. Two properties will be acquired via fee title agricultural open space acquisition, and 100 year floodplain easements will be pursued on various properties within the historic floodplain.

2.3 PROJECT LOCATION

The two fee title properties are as follows:

The Eldie C. Long Property is located at 5948 Rio Linda Boulevard, on the east side of Rio Linda Boulevard at the intersection of Marysville Boulevard and 4th Street in Rio Linda, Sacramento County, California. The Mojica Property is located just north of the Long property, south of Elkhorn Boulevard and east of Rio Linda Boulevard (see Figure 2.4-1).

The 100 year floodplain easement acquisition properties are as yet undetermined, but will consist of agricultural or undeveloped parcels along Dry Creek in Sacramento County. The easements will be flowage easements that prohibit future development that may impact the floodwater carrying capacity of the property (see Figure 2.4-2).

2.4 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This project proposes to acquire fee title to two undeveloped parcels and various easements within the 100 year floodplain of Dry Creek. These acquired properties and easements will be held in perpetuity by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, which will prohibit development in these areas and preserve the lands for floodwater storage. Agricultural uses will be permitted, provided that they do not interfere with the floodwater storage ability of the lands. The two fee title acquisitions, the Edie Long property and the Mojica property, are within the Dry Creek Parkway project currently being developed by the City of Sacramento. This Parkway consists of approximately six miles of open space and riparian corridor extending from the Sacramento/Placer County line to the Sacramento City limits. This corridor provides terrestrial and aquatic habitat for

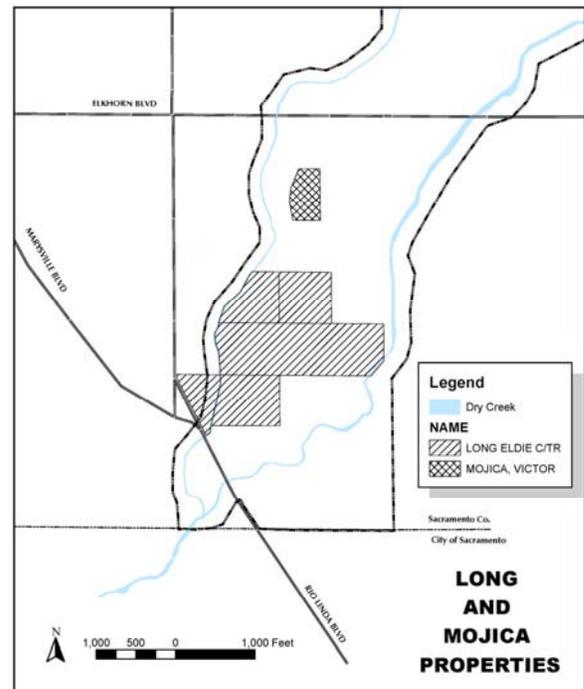
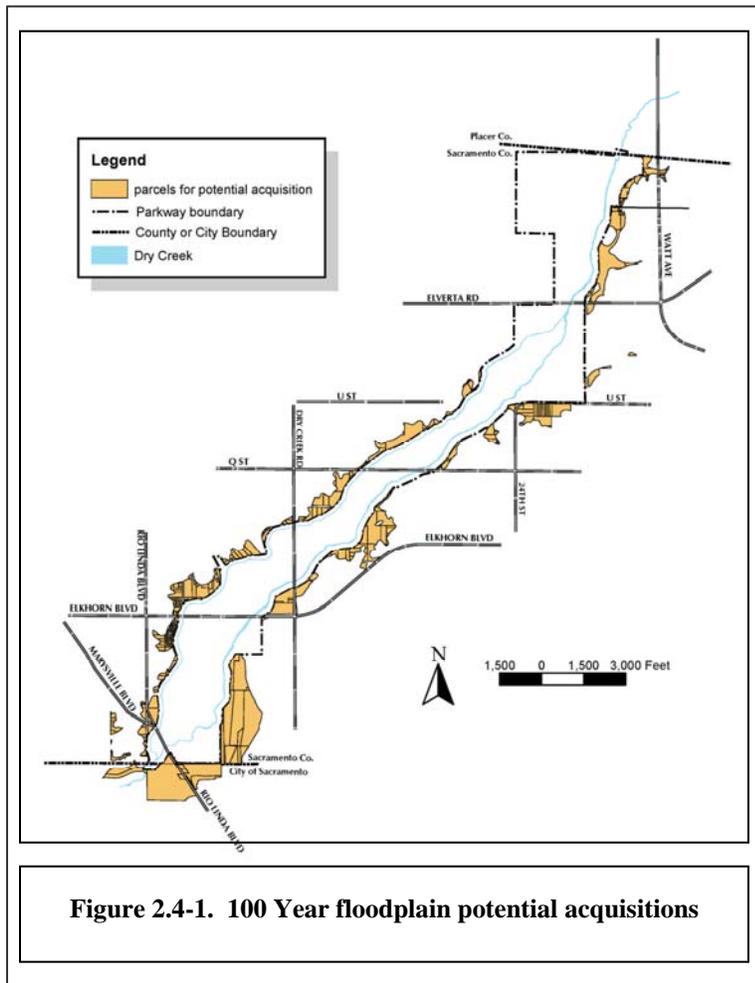


Figure 2.4-1. Location of Long and Mojica Properties

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a wide variety of species as well as active and passive recreation for the residents of Antelope, Elverta, Rio Linda and surrounding communities. The Long property is currently being used for agriculture, although the portion of the parcel that is outside of the floodway, but within the floodplain, has been identified as a potential residential site. The Mojica property is located just north of the Long property and is located entirely within the Dry Creek floodway. The purpose of acquiring both of these properties is to preserve the lands within the Parkway for habitat and recreation. The Dry Creek Parkway Master Plan shows both of these parcels planned to remain in agricultural land use, with recreational trails following the both branches of the creek. The west branch trail is planned to bisect the Long property.

The parcels targeted for the 100 year floodplain easement acquisitions have not yet been identified by SAFCA. The first phase of the proposed project is to work

with local landowners to identify potential properties for these acquisitions. These properties would include parcels outside of the Dry Creek Parkway, yet within the floodplain, as shown in Figure 2.4-2. The purpose of these acquisitions is to extend the Parkway where feasible to preserve floodwater capacity and habitat.

2.5 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

This project consists of land acquisitions. The intent of acquiring the properties is to preserve them for habitat and floodwater capacity. Current agricultural uses are planned to continue on these properties.

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This Initial Study is a public document to be used by the Sacramento Flood Control Agency, designated the Lead Agency for CEQA purposes, to determine whether the project may have a significant effect on the environment. If the Lead Agency finds substantial evidence that any aspect of the project, either individually or cumulatively, may have a significant effect on the environment, regardless of whether the overall effect of the project is adverse or beneficial, the Lead Agency is required to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR), use a previously prepared EIR and add a supplement, or prepare a subsequent EIR to analyze the project at hand. If the Lead Agency finds no substantial evidence that the project or any of its aspects may cause a significant impact on the environment, a Negative Declaration shall be prepared. If, in the course of the analysis, it is recognized that the project may have significant impacts on the environment, but these impacts can be reduced to a level that is less than significant with specific mitigation measures, a Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared.

This Section provides an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, followed by the CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance. There are 16 specific environmental issues evaluated in this Section. The issues evaluated satisfy CEQA requirements. The environmental issues evaluated in this chapter consist of the following:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

For each issue, one of four conclusions is made:

- **No Impact:** No project-related impact to the environment would occur with project development.
- **Less Than Significant Impact:** The impact would not result in a substantial and adverse change in the environment. This impact level does not require mitigation measures.
- **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated:** An impact that is "potentially significant" as described below; however, the incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce the project-related impact to a less-than-significant level.
- **Potentially Significant Impact:** An impact that may have a "substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by

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the project" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15382); however, the occurrence of the impact cannot be immediately determined with certainty.

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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3.1 AESTHETICS. Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The landscape patterns in this area are rural residential and agricultural with some pockets of small lot residential development. The Dry Creek corridor forms a band of riparian vegetation through the agricultural fields, splitting into two stems in the region of the Parkway. Predominant views are of open fields with riparian trees and/or some houses in the distance. The Rio Linda Airport is predominantly visible from some areas of the Dry Creek Parkway. Views of the site are limited to the local vicinity, from Rio Linda Boulevard or the bicycle trail system and consist of creek banks, native and nonnative vegetation, and open fields. The Dry Creek Parkway could be considered a visually sensitive area since it is planned to function as a major natural open space corridor used by a high number of people.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No Impact – This project will not affect scenic vistas. The project proposes to maintain the acquired lands in their existing land use which is predominantly agricultural.
- b) No Impact – Since the project does not change current land use, damage to scenic resources is unlikely to occur.
- c) No Impact – The character of the existing proposed acquisition sites will remain unchanged, therefore this project will not degrade existing visual character.
- d) No Impact – This project proposes no lighting or structures, thus has no adverse impact on light and glare in the region.

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CONCLUSIONS

This project will not affect the aesthetics of the site or surrounding region. The visual character will remain unchanged. No visual impacts are anticipated.

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Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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3.2 AGRICULTURE RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Agriculture in the Dry Creek Parkway area consists primarily of small farms. The Long property is currently used for hay production. Other uses in the region include irrigated pasture, irrigated crops or dryland crops. The commonly grown crops include irrigated wheat, alfalfa, and corn. Soil fertility in the California Central Valley is generally high, supporting a rich diversity of agricultural products. General soils in this area include Rossmoor-Vina along Dry Creek, well-drained soils that are either protected by levees or subject to flooding, and San Joaquin, moderately well drained soils that are moderately deep over a cemented hardpan¹. Soils specific to the Dry Creek Parkway include Liveoak sandy clay loam in the floodway between the stream channels, San Joaquin sandy loam, outside of the floodway but within the floodplain, San Joaquin-Urban land complex, Fiddyment fine sandy loam and various others. Liveoak sandy clay loam is suitable for hay, pasture and irrigated crops. Main limitations include flooding during winter and early spring. San Joaquin sandy loam is suited for irrigated hay and pasture and dryland crops. Depth to claypan is the main limiting factor on production. If used for dryland crops, a surface drainage system is needed. Fiddyment fine sandy loam is suitable for livestock grazing or dryland crops. As with the San Joaquin soils, depth to claypan is an issue.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No Impact – No conversion of Prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance is planned in this project. While it is possible that at some point in the future

¹ Sacramento County USDA SCS General Soil Map, *Soil Survey of Sacramento County, California*, USDA, April 1993.

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SAFCA would decide to remove these lands from agricultural production, at this time agricultural activity will continue to be a management option for these parcels. It is unlikely that these parcels, due to their small size and seasonal inundation, would be classified as prime, unique or of statewide significance.

- b) No Impact – Since these lands will be preserved as agriculture or open space, no conflicts with existing zoning will occur.
- c) No Impact – No other changes in the existing environment which impact farmland or agricultural uses are anticipated.

CONCLUSIONS

This project should have no impacts to existing agriculture or farmland. The intent of the project is to preserve the open space and rural character of the land. While it is possible that SAFCA may choose to retire the Long and Mojica properties from agricultural production at some point in the future, this should not have an impact to prime farmland, unique farmland or farmland of statewide significance, or to adjacent agricultural properties. If these properties were removed from agricultural use, the new use would conform to local zoning codes, and would most likely be undeveloped open space.

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Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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3.3 AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located in Sacramento County, within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB), a broad, flat valley bounded by the coastal ranges to the west and the Sierra Nevada to the east. The entire air basin is about 200 miles long in a north-south direction, and has a maximum width of about 150 miles, although the valley floor averages only about 50 miles in width. The SVAB is bounded on the north by the Cascade Range, on the south by the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, on the east by the Sierra Nevada, and on the west by the Coast Range. The project site is located within the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's (SMAQMD) jurisdictional boundaries.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Air Resources

Board (CARB) has established ambient air quality standards for common pollutants (Table 1). These ambient air quality standards are based upon levels of contaminants, which represent safety standards that avoid specific adverse health effects associated with each pollutant. The ambient air quality standards cover what are called "criteria" pollutants because health and other effects of each pollutant are described in criteria documents. The California Air Resources Board in conjunction with the SMAQMD operates air quality monitoring stations within the region that monitor the level of criteria pollutants in the atmosphere.

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Table 1 – Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Federal Primary Standard	State Standard
Ozone 1-Hour	1-Hour	0.12 ppm	0.09 ppm--
	8-Hour	0.08 ppm	
Carbon Monoxide	8-Hour	9.0 ppm	9.0 ppm
	1-Hour	35.0 ppm	20.0 ppm
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual	0.05 ppm	--
	1-Hour	--	.25 ppm
PM10	Annual	50 ug/m3	30ug/m3
	24-Hour	150 ug/m3	50 ug/m3

Both the federal and State governments have enacted laws mandating the identification of areas not meeting the ambient air quality standards and development of regional air quality plans to eventually attain the standards. Under the federal Clean Air Act, Sacramento County has been designated attainment or unclassified for all national ambient air quality standards except ozone and PM₁₀ standards. Under the State of California system, Sacramento County is designated non-attainment for the California standards of ozone and PM₁₀. In order to comply with the California and Federal Clean Air Acts, Sacramento County prepared an air quality attainment plan. Additionally, the SMAQMD in cooperation with other local air districts prepared the 1994 Sacramento Area Regional Ozone Attainment Plan. These plans contain adopted measures, emission inventories, contingency measures, and demonstration of emission reductions that will help the region obtain attainment status for current ozone and PM₁₀ standards.

Thresholds of Significance

Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's guide to Air Quality Assessment for the Sacramento Region contains guidelines for assessing air quality impacts. For the purposes of this Initial Study, the following thresholds will be utilized to determine whether or not a project will result in a significant impact to air quality:

- Reactive Organic Gases (ROG): 82 lbs/day
- Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x): 82 lbs/day

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- Particulate Matter (PM₁₀): 82 lbs/day

In addition to the above criteria, air quality impacts would also be considered significant if the proposed project would result in any of the following:

- Cause or contribute to a cumulatively considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant in a non-attainment area;
- Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- Create odors affecting a substantial number of people.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No Impact – This project will have no impact on Sacramento Air Quality Management District’s air quality plans since no construction activities are planned. Land use will continue to be agricultural or may, at some point in the future, revert to open space preserve.
 - b) No Impact – Since construction or demolition are not components of this project, and the land uses planned for the properties do not represent a significant source of air pollution, this project will not violate air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.
 - c) No Impact – This project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which Sacramento is in non-attainment, since no pollutants will be emitted in implementation of this project.
 - d) No Impact – Since no construction or demolition activities will occur in implementing this project, no sensitive receptors will be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations.
 - e) No Impact – No objectionable odors will be emitted as a result of this project.
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CONCLUSIONS

This project will emit no pollutants and therefore will have no impacts on air quality in the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District.

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal wetlands, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project sites are located within the 100 year floodplain for Dry Creek. This stream is one of four main East-West drainage corridors connecting the foothills to the lower Sacramento Valley through the urban core of the Sacramento metropolitan area. The other corridors include Arcade Creek, the American River, and Morrison Creek. As open water systems with a high degree of connectivity, these corridors form major migratory routes for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, including many raptors, songbirds, steelhead and salmon.

A comprehensive biological resource assessment of the Dry Creek Parkway area performed in 1992 showed that this corridor was characterized by a high level of both plant and animal

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diversity². Over 90 species of plants and 70 species of birds were identified within the Parkway. The riparian habitat along Dry Creek provides valuable nesting, foraging and shelter for bird species, and the grassland, agricultural and riparian ecosystems within the Parkway support a diverse wildlife population.

State Fish and Game surveys have identified thirteen species of fish in Dry Creek reaches within the Parkway, including Steelhead trout and Chinook salmon. Many of these fish species require high water quality and low water temperatures to survive and reproduce.

According to the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database, special status species in the area include great blue heron (*Area herodias*), great egret (*casmerodius albus*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus caeruleus*), western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata marmorata*), giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), California linderiella (*Linderiella occidentalis*), Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola hetersepala*), dwarf downingia (*Downingia pusilla*), legenera (*Legenera limosa*)². Valley elderberry beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) habitat may also occur within the Parkway boundaries. A large rookery used by great blue heron and great egret is located on the Hansen Ranch property within the Parkway.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No Impact – This project will not have an adverse effect on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species. The project proposes no changes to existing land use, and if, in the future, SAFCA decides to convert the Long and Mojica properties from agriculture to natural open space, habitat will improve for species using the riparian corridor.
- b) No Impact – This project will not have an adverse effect on riparian or other sensitive habitats. It will help to preserve the undeveloped buffer between urbanizing land uses and the existing riparian corridor which should benefit species dependant upon riparian or other sensitive habitats.
- c) No Impact – This project will not affect federally protected wetlands. In fact, by preserving additional land as buffers between urbanization and the stream corridor, this project will help to preserve water quality in Dry Creek.
- d) No Impact – This project will not interfere with the movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species. By preserving and expanding existing migratory corridors along Dry Creek, this project will benefit such species.
- e) No Impact – This project does not propose any tree removal or modifications to existing biological resources, thus no conflicts are anticipated with existing local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

² Dry Creek Parkway Master Plan, County of Sacramento, Department of Parks, Recreation and Open Space, April 2002.

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- f) No Impact – This project will not conflict with local, regional or state habitat conservation plans. The project improves protection for habitat which should aid local, regional and/or state conservation plans.

CONCLUSIONS

This project enhances biological resources in the area by preserving land from development within the Dry Creek floodway and 100 year floodplain. By maintaining these parcels in their current undeveloped state, the connectivity of the Dry Creek corridor will be preserved. Additionally, they will help maintain the water quality in the stream by buffering this sensitive resource from development.

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The earliest evidence of widespread human inhabitation of this region indicates that the Windmiller Pattern began occupation around 4000 years ago. These peoples were hunter-gatherers characterized by baked clay artifacts, shell ornaments, basketry and distinctive burial patterns. The Berkeley Pattern replaced the Windmiller Pattern approximately 500 B.C. when Miwok groups moved into the Central Valley from the coastal areas. The Berkeley Pattern was identifiable by their increased use of pestles and mortars, bone artifacts, flaked stone, shell ornaments, and burial practices. At approximately A.D.600, the Augustine Pattern replaced the Berkeley Pattern. These peoples include the Nisenan and the Maidu. They were characterized by the use of bow and arrows, shaped mortars and pestles, trade and large populations as well as their social structure and distinctive burial practices.³

The Nisenan inhabited the Sacramento valley and Sierras from the west bank of the Sacramento River east almost to Lake Tahoe and from the Cosumnes River north to the Feather River. They were hunters and gatherers who seasonally migrated in the warmer months to permit harvesting of mountain foodstuffs such as pine nuts. They lived in small tribes composed of a collection of villages and loosely led by headmen.

Europeans first entered the territory in 1808, when Moraga crossed the lower reaches of the Sacramento River. The first Euroamericans began operations between 1828 and 1836, when fur trappers from the Hudson's Bay Company entered the territory. In 1833, epidemics killed up to

³ Moratto, M.J. *California Archaeology*, Academic Press, 1984, San Diego, CA.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

75% of the Nisenan population, and the remainder were unable to resist further encroachment into their territory by miners and settlers following establishment of Sutter's mill in 1839. Many of the survivors became laborers in mines or on ranches.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No Impact – This project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, since the two fee title acquisitions are undeveloped properties and contain no structures, historic or otherwise. The easement acquisitions will not affect any existing structures, but will prohibit construction of new structures.
- b) No Impact – This project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, since development including excavation or grading is not planned as a part of this project.
- c) No Impact – This project will not impact unique paleontological resources, sites or unique geological features since development including excavation or grading is not planned as a part of this project.
- d) No Impact – This project will not disturb any human remains since development including excavation or grading is not planned as a part of this project.

CONCLUSIONS

This project will have no impact to cultural resources because no existing structures will be affected, and no construction, grading or excavation will be performed.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

California's Central Valley began formation approximately 130 million years ago when a pre-Sierran mountain range on the western margin of the North American Continent began an erosional phase. Sediments from this possibly 15,000 foot mountain range were carried to the continental margin and deposited, causing the underlying structure to subside beneath the weight to form a long, sediment filled trough. This erosion, which occurred over 55 to 80 million years, exposed the underlying granite that eventually uplifted to become the Sierra Nevada mountains.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

Geomorphologically, the valley lowlands in which this project is located are organized into three significant types: low floodplains, high floodplains and low stream terraces. The low floodplains are the youngest geomorphic surfaces and are frequently inundated during storm events. Waterways in this formation exhibit significant meanders. The surface is composed of alluvium, derived from mixed sedimentary, granitic and metamorphic rock sources, covering older geomorphic surfaces. These low floodplains have a seasonally high water table due to seepage. High floodplains are found above low floodplains along rivers and in streams. In the high floodplains, creeks exhibit weak bar and channel topography and some meander scars. Above the high floodplains, low stream terraces such as the Liveoak soils along Dry Creek are formed from mixed rock sources, primarily granitic. In stream drainages such as Dry Creek, low and high floodplains and low stream terraces mix intricately, making strict geomorphological classifications difficult. Above the low stream terraces are the low, intermediate and high terraces, but these are less likely in the project area.

General soils in this area include Rossmoor-Vina along Dry Creek, well-drained soils that are either protected by levees or subject to flooding, and San Joaquin, moderately well drained soils that are moderately deep over a cemented hardpan⁴. Soils specific to the Dry Creek Parkway include Liveoak sandy clay loam in the floodway between the stream channels, San Joaquin sandy loam, outside of the floodway but within the floodplain, San Joaquin-Urban land complex, Fiddymont fine sandy loam and various others. Runoff is slow on Liveoak sandy clay loam and erosion potential is slight. The soil is occasionally flooded during storms. Channel and deposition are common along streambanks. San Joaquin sandy loam has a claypan at 20 to 36" depth. The shrink-swell potential is high. Runoff is very slow to moderate, and erosion potential is slight to moderate. Runoff and erosion potential are somewhat dependant upon slope. As with San Joaquin soils, Fiddymont soils have a claypan at a depth of 15 to 25 inches. They have moderate shrink-swell potential and runoff is slow to moderate, depending upon slope. The water erosion hazard is slight.

Due to the presence of active and potential faults in the state, all areas within the state are susceptible to some degree of seismic ground-shaking and associated seismic hazards including liquefaction. The Sacramento Valley is generally considered less seismically active than other areas of California, and there are no known active faults in Sacramento County. However, the project area is susceptible to seismic groundshaking due to earthquake faults associated with the Foothills/Bear Mountain system, Coast Range-Sierran block boundary, and the San Andreas.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a)
- i) No Impact – This project is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, and no known faults are in the vicinity. Since no improvements are planned with this project, risk to people or structures due to earthquakes, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic related ground failure, or landslides is minimal. No major faults are known to underlie the properties under consideration, although the possibility of unknown faults cannot be entirely dismissed anywhere in California. While some slight increase of public usage may occur following the acquisition of the fee title properties, public access is not planned for these parcels, and low usage will make hazards slight.
 - ii) No Impact – See comments under Section i above.

⁴ Sacramento County USDA SCS General Soil Map, *Soil Survey of Sacramento County, California*, USDA, April 1993.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

- iii) No Impact – See comments under Section i above.
- iv) Less than Significant Impact – See comments under Section i above.
- b) No Impact – Erosion potential for the soils on these properties is low to moderate. Since no construction, demolition or grading will occur as part of these projects, risk of erosion is slight.
- c) Less than Significant Impact – The Edie Long project site has an existing potential for instability in the steep banks overlooking the creek. These banks are currently armored in places with concrete and asphalt riprap and vegetated with trees, shrubs and groundcover. This project should not increase the instability of the soils on the properties under consideration. In the near term, agriculture will be considered as a valid management strategy on those parcels, and if at some point they are converted to natural open space, additional woody vegetation will be encouraged to grow on the stream banks which will further stabilize the soils.
- d) Less than Significant Impact – The San Joaquin and Fiddymont soils on the sites have moderate to high shrink-swell potential, but since no construction is planned that would be affected by these soils, they do not represent a risk to life or property.
- e) No Impact – No septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems are planned as a part of this project.

CONCLUSIONS

While earthquake and related damage is always a possibility in California, Sacramento County has no major known faults, and the danger to public safety as a result of this project will be minimal. The soils on the Long property have some chance of erosion or slumping in the vicinity of the creek banks, and soils on both properties and in the general region have moderate to high shrink-swell potential, however, since this project does not include disturbance of these soils or incompatible land uses, the potential problems should not be significant.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project 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 a public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The U.S. EPA database contains one Air Emissions site and four Hazardous Waste sites within one mile of the Parkway. The Air Emission site is listed as R.C. Collet Incorporated on Elkhorn

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

Boulevard. No address is given, but the map shows it to be within the boundaries of the Parkway. None of the four hazardous waste sites are within the Parkway, but are listed here because they are nearby: the Pacific Bell facility at 721 L Street in Rio Linda, a second Pacific Bell site several hundred feet southeast of the first, TOSCO Northwest Company at 8001 Watt Avenue in Antelope, and the Shell Service Station at 7969 Watt Avenue in Sacramento. The majority of the land within the Parkway is open space, rural residential or small parcel agricultural. No significant hazardous wastes would normally be associated with these types of land uses, however, household chemicals and agricultural pesticides and herbicides could be contaminants in the soil. Because no ground-breaking will be done in this project, no hazards are expected to be encountered.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No Impact – No hazardous materials will be used, transported or disposed of as part of this project.
- b) No Impact – No potential exists for release of hazardous materials into the environment.
- c) No Impact – No hazardous emissions will be emitted or hazardous materials handled.
- d) No Impact – Only one site is listed in the Department of Toxic Substances Control database for the community of Rio Linda/Elverta. It is Interstate Battery at 451 Antelope Street, Elverta. This site is approximately 3 miles northwest of the Parkway.
- e) No Impact – This project sites are within close proximity to the Rio Linda Airport, a public use airport that borders the Parkway; however, the property fee title and easement acquisitions will not require personnel to work in close proximity to the Airport.
- f) No Impact – This project is not in the vicinity of a private airstrip.
- g) No Impact – This project will not affect any emergency response or evacuation plans.
- h) Less than Significant Impact – If the land use for the Long and Mojica properties remains in unirrigated agricultural production, the risk for wildfire on these properties will remain unchanged. If, at some future date, the land is returned to natural open space and larger woody vegetation is allowed to grow, it could contribute to the intensity or spread of a wildfire that moved through the area. However, if this was done, the area would be under the existing Parks and Recreation management plans for open space maintenance, which would adequately manage the fire potential to a less than significant level.

CONCLUSIONS

This project does not involve the handling of hazardous materials and will have no environmental or health impacts related to hazardous materials. It will not impact airport safety, nor will it affect emergency planning. While later changes in land use could slightly increase wildfire danger, existing open space management plans should minimize this impact.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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3.8 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. *Would the project:*

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be 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 which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) 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 on- or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The properties under consideration in this project are either within the Dry Creek floodway, or within the 100 year floodplain. The Dry Creek watershed encompasses approximately 60,000 acres of foothill and valley lands in Placer and Sacramento Counties and includes Dry Creek, Linda Creek, Cirby Creek, Miner's Ravine, Secret Ravine, Antelope Creek and Clover Valley Creek. Water quality in the creek is particularly high for an urban stream. Both steelhead trout and Chinook salmon have been observed by CDFG in the creek. A brief site visit performed in February 2003 showed this section of Dry Creek to have relatively high banks (approximately 6 to 8 feet above the current water level), moderately healthy structure (pools and riffles), and flowing at a moderate rate (roughly 1-3 fps).

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No Impact – Since no development or land use changes are proposed, this project will have no impact on water quality in Dry Creek.
- b) No Impact – This project will help to preserve open space and agricultural lands that function as groundwater recharge and infiltration areas, and therefore may actually improve groundwater supplies.
- c) No Impact – This project does not include structures or modifications that affect the existing drainage patterns of the site or area. No impact to siltation or erosion.
- d) No Impact – This project does not include structures or modifications that affect the existing drainage patterns of the site or area. This project, in fact, preserves open space to allow for flooding in the natural floodplain.
- e) No Impact – This project does not change the existing drainage pattern. No impact to existing runoff patterns.
- f) No Impact – This project does not include construction, grading or any modifications that will affect water quality in Dry Creek or any other water bodies.
- g) No Impact – This project does not involve the construction of housing, or any modifications that affect of the 100 year floodplain.
- h) No Impact – This project does not involve the placement of any structures and will not influence flood flows, except to prohibit future development in the floodplain.
- i) No Impact – This project will not result in risk to people or structures due to flooding, other than those already naturally occurring along Dry Creek during intense storm events.
- j) No Impact – Seiche, tsunamis or mudflows are not applicable to this area.

CONCLUSIONS

This project will not affect the hydrology or water quality of Dry Creek or any other waterbodies in the area.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.9 LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Land use in the Parkway includes public, vacant, agricultural, residential, open space/park, and floodplain. Residential usage is mostly rural, large lot single family. Much of the land in the floodway is publicly owned floodplain/open space. Figure 3.9-1 shows the land uses within the Dry Creek floodplain. Planning goals for the Parkway are as follows:

1. To develop Dry Creek Parkway as a valuable asset to both the community and the region.
2. To manage the Parkway in a manner that will preserve, protect, enhance, and interpret the diverse resources of the Parkway including archaeological and cultural resources, adequate flow of high quality water, anadromous and resident fishes, migratory and resident wildlife, habitat to support these species, diverse natural vegetation, and adequate channel capacity and conveyance to support flood control.
3. To provide opportunities for the protection, and enhancement of wildlife and habitat through the creation of a continuous open space corridor along Dry Creek extending from the Sacramento/Placer County line to the Sacramento city limits.
4. To provide for public use and trail access opportunities compatible with the goals of the Parkway.
5. To obtain funding and develop partnerships to facilitate development and management of the Parkway.
6. To establish realistic and sustainable development and management strategies for the Parkway.
7. To insure continued inter-agency and inter-departmental coordination and cooperation in support of the Dry Creek Parkway and development of the regional trail system within Sacramento County, the City of Sacramento, Placer County, and surrounding communities.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No Impact – This project does not physically divide an established community. The Dry Creek Parkway already forms a physical division in this area. Integrating these properties into the Parkway will only preserve the existing conditions.
 - b) No Impact – This project supports the land use plans for the Parkway.
 - c) No Impact – This project supports the habitat conservation plans for the Parkway.
-

CONCLUSIONS

This project supports the Dry Creek Parkway Master Plan, developed to meet the goals of the Parkway. It will have no negative impacts on land use or planning in the area.

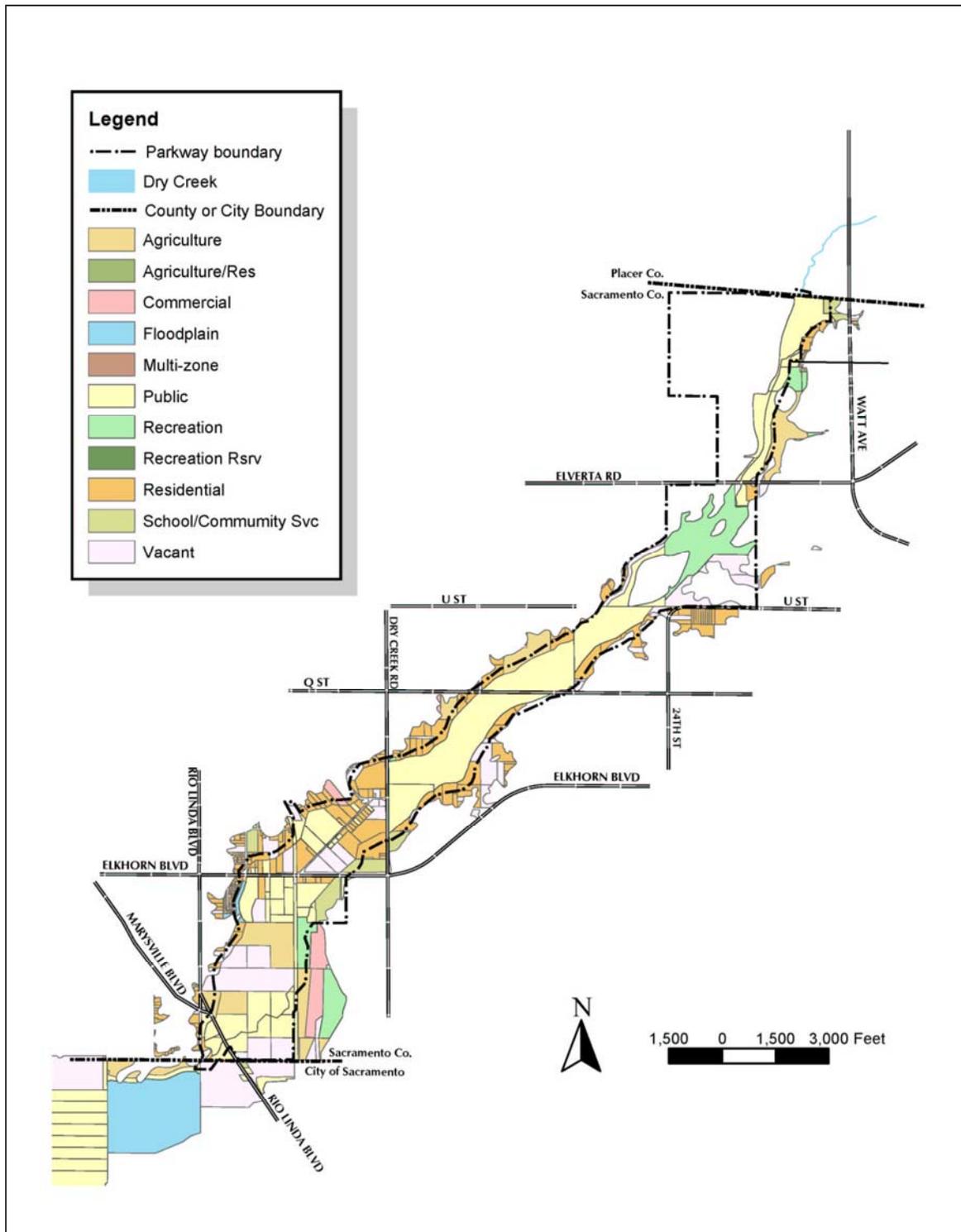


Figure 3.9-1. Land Use within Dry Creek Floodplain

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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3.10 MINERAL RESOURCES. *Would the project:*

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project sites may contain minerals including sand and/or gravel. However, no mineral extraction is planned in this project.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No Impact – The project site is not designated as a mineral resource that is of value to the region or the residents of the state.
- b) No Impact - The proposed property and easement acquisitions are not located in an area delineated in the City of Roseville General Plan as locally important mineral resource recovery sites.

CONCLUSIONS

This project will not result in impacts to mineral resources.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.11 NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or of applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project 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 a public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The area surrounding the Parkway is primarily composed of single family rural residential homes with some agriculture. Residential land uses can be sensitive to noise sources, such as those accompanying construction. Also adjacent to the Parkway, near the Long and Mojica properties, are a small public airport and three water-ski lakes.

The County of Sacramento has identified maximum allowable noise levels applicable to new projects affected by or including non-transportation noise sources. Generally, projects that result in noise levels equal to or greater than 60 decibels at or adjacent to sensitive noise receptors is considered a significant impact. Noise sensitive receptors are generally considered to include churches, residences, libraries, schools, hotels and other places where low noise levels are an essential element of their intended purposes. Residential land uses are of a primary concern because noise can result in prolonged exposure of individual to both interior and exterior noises. Noise sensitive land uses located in close proximity to the project site primarily consist of single family dwellings and users of the existing bicycle and pedestrian trails

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No impact -- This project will not create significant noise.
 - b) No impact -- This project will not create additional ground vibration.
 - c) No impact -- This project will not permanently increase ambient noise levels.
 - d) No impact -- This project will not temporarily increase ambient noise levels.
 - e) No impact -- This project will not create noise.
 - f) No impact -- This project does not lie in the vicinity of a private airstrip.
-

CONCLUSIONS

This project does not create noise or ground vibration.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Housing in this region is mostly rural residential. Some pockets of higher density single-family detached homes are also in the vicinity. Growth in the Sacramento Metropolitan area is high. Since 1990, Sacramento County has experienced population growth and related development that exceeds the state as a whole. It is likely that this sparsely populated area of large-lot residential homes will experience increasing growth pressures over the coming years.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) Less than significant impact -- This project of itself will not induce substantial population growth. The Dry Creek Parkway, of which this is a part, is a significant community amenity, and as such it may entice some residential development to occur along its periphery. If the pace of growth of Sacramento County continues, however, this is likely to happen even if the Parkway is not developed. In either case the Parkway may attract higher value development into the area. Either way, the acquisition of fee title properties and easements will have a less than significant effect on regional growth.

b) No impact -- This project will not displace existing housing.

c) No impact -- This project will not displace people.

CONCLUSIONS

This project will have a less than significant impact on population and housing. It may help to improve the quality of residential development in the region.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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3.13 PUBLIC SERVICES. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:*

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Fire protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Police protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Schools? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Parks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Other public facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Dry Creek Parkway falls within the unincorporated communities of Rio Linda and Elverta, and is served by Sacramento County Sheriff and Sac Metro fire departments. Due to the nature of the project, it should have no impact to schools, parks or other public facilities.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No Impact – This project does not increase reliance on fire protection services.

-
- b) No Impact – This project will does not require police protection services.
 c) No Impact – This project does not increase requirements for school services.
 d) No Impact – This project does not increase requirements for public parks.
 e) No Impact – This project will have no impacts on other public facilities.

CONCLUSIONS

This project will have no impact on public services.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The properties and easements being acquired fall within or just outside of the Dry Creek Parkway, an open space corridor planned to contain bikeways, equestrian trails, and pedestrian paths and linked to the Ueda Parkway to the west and the Dry Creek Greenway to the east. Local parks and other recreational resources within or adjacent to the Parkway include Central (Rio Linda) Park, Depot Park, Cherry Island Golf Course, Cherry Island Soccer Complex, Gibson Ranch Park, and Antelope Greens Golf Course. This project should have no negative impact on recreational resources. It will enhance existing recreational resources by protecting open space within or adjacent to the Parkway.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) No impact -- Acquisition of the fee-title properties or the easements will not increase usage of these areas.

b) No impact -- No recreational facilities are included in this project.

CONCLUSIONS

This project will have no impact on existing recreational resources beyond preserving open space within or adjacent to the Dry Creek Parkway.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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3.15 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. *Would the project:*

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Parkway is crossed by several major arterials in the area of the fee title and potential easement acquisitions. These crossings include Elverta Road, Elkhorn Boulevard, and Rio Linda Boulevard. Local collector streets within the Parkway include Cherry Lane, Curved Bridge Road, Q Street, Linda Lane, Crystal Road, and Gibson Ranch Park Road. Access to the Parkway will likely be via Elverta Road, Elkhorn Boulevard, or Rio Linda Boulevard. Watt Avenue may also experience a traffic increase as a result of the Parkway. The property acquisitions, while supporting the Parkway by preserving open space, will not, of themselves, increase traffic on any of the arterials or local collector roads.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) No impact -- Acquisition of these properties and easements will not affect traffic in the area.

b) No impact -- Acquisition of these properties and easements will not affect traffic in the area.

c) No impact -- Acquisition of these properties and easements will not affect air traffic.

d) No impact -- No roads or other improvements are planned in this project that could increase hazards.

e) **NO IMPACT -- NO IMPROVEMENTS ARE PLANNED IN THIS PROJECT THAT WOULD REQUIRE EMERGENCY SERVICE ACCESS.**

f) **NO IMPACT -- NO IMPROVEMENTS ARE PLANNED IN THIS PROJECT THAT WOULD REQUIRE PARKING.**

g) **NO IMPACT -- THIS PROJECT SUPPORTS AND ENCOURAGES ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION SUCH AS BICYCLING BY PRESERVING ADDITIONAL OPEN SPACE ALONG A PLANNED MAJOR BICYCLE ROUTE.**

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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3.16 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. WOULD THE PROJECT:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

No public utility or service facilities exist in the project area that will require water or contribute to wastewater

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No impact -- This project will not generate wastewater.
- b) No impact -- This project will not generate wastewater.
- c) No impact -- This project will not increase stormwater runoff above current levels. In the long-term, it will preserve these properties from development, maintaining their runoff and infiltration rates at current levels or better.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

- d) No Impact -- The proposed project does not require potable water. No existing or new water supplies are necessary to serve the project. As such no existing entitlements, or new or expanded entitlements are needed to serve the project and therefore no impact would occur.
- e) No impact – The project has no demand for wastewater treatment.
- f) No impact – The project does not generate waste requiring the services of a landfill.
- g) No impact -- The project does not generate solid waste.

CONCLUSIONS

The fee title and easement acquisitions have no impact on utilities or service systems.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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3.17 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plants or animals, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) No Impact – The project will not degrade the quality of the environment, and will not substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plans or animals. The project does not include construction, grading, or demolition, and thus the project has no potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- b) Less than Significant Impact – No significant cumulatively considerable impacts would occur with development of this project. The fee title and easement acquisitions proposed support the development of the Dry Creek Parkway, a large open space network that encourages alternative transportation and recreation; however, any negative contributions resulting from implementation of these acquisitions are insignificant.
- c) No Impact – No project related environmental effects were identified that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. This project has an overall benefit to the environment in that it preserves open space within the Dry Creek floodplain for habitat and flood control.

EASEMENT AND FEE TITLE ACQUISITIONS

4.1 Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

Signature

Date

Printed Name

For

4.2 MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PROJECT

No Mitigation Measures are required for this project.