

# REGIONAL TRANSIT ISSUE PAPER

Agenda Item No.	Board Meeting Date	Open/Closed Session	Information/Action Item	Issue Date
3	11/13/17	Open	Action	11/2/17

Subject: Approving a Resolution Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Dos Rios Light Rail Station Project

## ISSUE

Whether or not to approve a Resolution adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Dos Rios Light Rail Station Project.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 17-11-\_\_\_\_\_, Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Dos Rios Light Rail Station Project

## FISCAL IMPACT

None as a result of this action.

## DISCUSSION

The City of Sacramento (City), in partnership with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) and the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT), proposes implementation of the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project (Project). The Project would develop a mixed-income, mixed-use community comprising of 218 replacement public housing units, 281 new market-rate rental and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units, a realigned internal street network, green open space, and other community amenities on two noncontiguous but properties in close proximity to one another, totaling approximately 24.2 acres that currently includes public housing and undeveloped land. The Project would also include construction and operation of the proposed SacRT Dos Rios Light Rail Station on the existing SacRT light rail Blue Line on and adjacent to North 12th Street.

Although SacRT's existing Blue Line light rail route runs directly through the eastern portion of the River District, the nearest stations to the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex are Alkali Flat/La Valentina Station, which is more than a half-mile to the south, and Globe Station, which is over a mile to the north across the American River. Access to the Green Line to Downtown is almost a half-mile to the west. The distance between stations leaves much of the eastern end of the River District effectively isolated from the rest of the city, with limited access to the regional transit system. Based on this identified need, SacRT conducted an alternatives analysis in 2005 to determine the location for a new station in the River District, with the principal goals being provision of a new station that would maximize opportunities for existing area ridership and eventually provide opportunities for increased ridership as the area undergoes transformation. The proposed location for the new Dos Rios Station site was chosen to meet these goals. Using grant funds provided through a Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Community Design Grant (Federal Transit Administration's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program) and contributions from SHRA, preliminary design for the station and associated track

Approved:

Presented:

Final 11/06/17

General Manager/CEO

Director, Civil & Track Design

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layout has been undertaken and is continuing for the proposed Dos Rios Station site.

The Project requires environmental analysis in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA requires state and local governmental agencies to consider the potential adverse environmental effects of projects over which they have discretionary authority before taking action on those projects, and prohibits public agencies from approving projects as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen a proposed project’s significant environmental effects. The City, as the Lead Agency under CEQA, and as the Responsible Entity under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), prepared an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA), Attachment 1, for the Project. The IS/EA determined that no significant or adverse environmental effects would be likely to result from the Project. Accordingly, the City adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for purposes of CEQA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for purposes of NEPA. Subsequent review and approvals of the IS/EA may also be undertaken by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for those aspects of the Project for which it may provide funding (i.e., the proposed light rail station). At its discretion, FTA may use the findings contained within the IS/EA to make its own NEPA determination for those portions of the Project for which it would provide funds. FTA has indicated that it will likely consider the Project using a Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) per 23 CFR 771.118, and SacRT is in the process of preparing the DCE documentation for FTA’s use.

Under CEQA, SacRT is a Responsible Agency for the light rail station portion of the larger Project, and is ultimately responsible for the station implementation. SacRT, as the Responsible Agency under CEQA, must determine whether the IS/EA adequately satisfies the requirements under CEQA, whether any significant environmental effects would occur, what revisions to the Project would avoid or mitigate such effects to a point where no significant effects would occur, whether any mitigation measures should be adopted, and adopt a program to monitor any changes that it has required in the project. Upon making the required findings, SacRT may then adopt an MND for purposes of CEQA. FTA would subsequently adopt a DCE for purposes of NEPA.

The Draft IS/EA was released for public review on June 12, 2017 on behalf of all partnering agencies. The Notice of Availability (NOA) was distributed to the State Clearinghouse and relevant agencies, organizations, and individuals. The NOA was also distributed via certified mail to affected property owners. In addition, notices announcing the availability of the IS were mailed to property owners and tenants of record in the vicinity of the project area. The NOA was also published in newspapers of general circulation and posted on SacRT’s Web site

The public review period for the Draft IS/EA began on June 12, 2017 and concluded on July 12, 2017. During that time, three comment submittals were received from public agencies. No comments were received from members of the general public. The City prepared responses to the comments and those responses were included as part of the Final IS/EA. On July 27, 2017, the City of Sacramento Planning and Design Commission considered the project, took public testimony, and unanimously approved the Project. On August 22, 2017, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, acting in its capacity as the Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento (HACOS), took public testimony on the project and approved the project unanimously. That same day, the Sacramento City Council also took public testimony on the project and approved the

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project unanimously. During these hearings, approximately three individuals and organizations presented testimony, two provided support for the project, and the third expressed a concern for potential displacement of residents during the redevelopment of the housing area.

The IS/EA has been prepared by the City and SacRT in accordance with CEQA to ascertain whether the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. On the basis of this study, it is determined that the proposed action will have:

*No impact or a less-than significant impact* on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, and utilities and service systems.

*A less-than-significant impact with mitigation* on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, noise and vibration, transportation and traffic, with incorporation of the mitigation measures listed in Attachment 2.

Prior to approving the MND, the SacRT Board must consider the MND, together with any comments received during the public review process that was described above. The Board can then adopt the MND only if there is no substantial evidence that the project would have a significant environmental effect on the environment and that the MND reflects SacRT's independent judgment and analysis.

If the SacRT Board determines that there are no significant environmental effects with the adoption of the specified mitigation measures, a MND (Exhibit A) will be adopted. If the Board adopts the MND, SacRT must file a Notice of Determination within five working days of this approval. The Notice of Determination will approve the project as modified and be available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days per CEQA guidelines.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the attached resolution which adopts a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Dos Rios Light Rail Station, and directs the filing of a Notice of Determination.

# TWIN RIVERS TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AND LIGHT RAIL STATION PROJECT

Final Initial Study / Environmental Assessment

Prepared for  
City of Sacramento

July 2017





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Prepared for  
City of Sacramento

July 2017

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# SUMMARY

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## S.1 Project Overview

The City of Sacramento (City), in partnership with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) and the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT), proposes implementation of the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project (proposed project). The proposed project would develop a mixed-income, mixed-use community comprising 218 replacement public housing units, 292 new market-rate rental and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units, a realigned internal street network, green open space, and other community amenities on two noncontiguous but proximate properties totaling approximately 24.2 acres that currently include public housing and undeveloped land. The project would also include construction and operation of the proposed RT Dos Rios Light Rail Station on the existing RT light rail Blue Line on and adjacent to North 12th Street.

The proposed project is expected to have an estimated project cost of \$291 million. Proposed funding for the project would derive from a number of sources, as summarized below in **Table S-1**.

**TABLE S-1**  
**TWIN RIVERS TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AND LIGHT RAIL STATION FUNDING SOURCES**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Federal, State or Local Funding Source</b>
Private (Tax Credits, Conventional Construction and Mortgage Loans, other)	\$98,000,000	Private
AHSC Funds, CalHFA funds, other	\$28,000,000	State
Housing Replacement Funds, Low/Mod Housing Funds, CDGB Funds, MRB, Fee Credits, other	\$125,000,000	Local
CNI Funds, Infrastructure Grants, other	\$20,000,000	Federal
AHSC and TIRCP Funds	\$16,000,000	State
SACOG Discretionary Funds	\$4,000,000	Federal
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$291,000,000</b>	

## S.2 Alternatives

This IS/EA assesses two alternatives: 1) the No Project Alternative; and 2) the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project Alternative. Briefly, the two alternatives assessed in this document are:

## Alternative 1 – No Project Alternative

Under Alternative 1, the project would not be constructed. Replacement housing at the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex would not be constructed, and the existing units would remain in use. Additional housing at the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area east of North 12th Street would also not be constructed, and the currently vacant parcels would remain in their current condition or made available for development by other parties. A new light rail station would not be constructed on North 12th Street. The entire area would remain in its present condition, subject to the land use and zoning designations currently in place.

## Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project

Alternative 2 would construct and operate the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project. Alternative 2 (the proposed project) would develop a mixed-income, mixed-use community comprising 218 replacement public housing units, 281 new market-rate rental Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units, a realigned internal street network, green open space, and other community amenities on two noncontiguous but proximate properties totaling approximately 24.2 acres. The project would also include the construction and operation of the proposed RT Dos Rios Light Rail Station on North 12th Street on the RT light rail transit (LRT) Blue Line on and adjacent to North 12th Street. Other project elements would include appropriate utility improvements to meet the needs the project.

## S.3 Environmental Analysis

### Topics Analyzed

The IS/EA evaluates a full range of impacts to the physical and social environments associated with implementation of the project alternatives. The implementation of Alternative 1 would result in the continued use of the project site as the current conditions. Accordingly, the impacts for each topic under Alternative 1 were determined be no impact and no effect.

For Alternative 2, the analysis in the IS/EA considers complete development of the project as presented by the proposed project description. The findings of the analysis are summarized below in Table S-2. The following topics are analyzed in detail in the IS/EA:

- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality

- Land Use, Population, Housing, and Socio-Economics
- Noise and Vibration
- Public Services and Recreation
- Transportation
- Utilities

A number of topical issue areas are not evaluated in detail in this IS/EA, generally because the identified environmental resources are not present within or around the project area or because implementation of the project would clearly have no effect with respect to the topic issue area. These issues are summarized in Section 3.14, *Issues Not Subject to Further Evaluation* of the IS/EA:

- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Energy
- Section 4(f) Properties

## Results of the Analysis

The results of the analysis contained in the IS/EA is summarized below in **Table S-2**.

## Public Review of the Draft IS/EA and Next Steps

The Draft IS/EA was made available for public review on June 12, 2017. During that time, three comment letters were received. The City has reviewed the comments and has provided responses in Chapter 5 of this IS/EA, *Coordination and Comments*.

The City, as the Lead Agency under CEQA and as the Responsible Entity under NEPA, has considered the comments and has responded to them as appropriate. Based on the analysis contained within the IS/EA, together with the comments received, the City will determine whether significant or adverse environmental effects would be likely to result from the proposed project. If the City determines that no adverse effects would occur, then the City will adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for purposes of CEQA and will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for purposes of NEPA. Following these actions, the City will then submit a request for release of funds from HUD.

Subsequent review and approvals of this IS/EA may also be undertaken by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for those aspects of the project for which it may provide funding. At its discretion, FTA may utilize the findings contained within this IS/EA to make its own NEPA determination for those portions of the project for which it would provide funds. In such an instance, RT would serve as a joint NEPA lead agency with the FTA as provided for under 23 CFR 771.109(c)(2). In that capacity, RT would prepare environmental review documents for its portion of the project (i.e., the Dos Rios Light Rail Station). The information contained within this IS/EA would form the basis for those documents. FTA would provide guidance during RT's efforts, and would independently evaluate the documents prepared by RT prior to making its own findings with respect to the project's environmental effects.

**TABLE S-2  
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance after Mitigation	NEPA Effect after Mitigation
<b>3.1 Aesthetics and Visual Resources</b>			
<b>AES-1.</b> Would the project create a source of glare that would cause a public hazard or annoyance?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>AES-2.</b> Would the project create a new source of light that would be cast onto oncoming traffic or residential uses?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>AES-3.</b> Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site or its surroundings?	None required	Beneficial	Beneficial
<b>AES-4.</b> Other NEPA-related aesthetic and visual resource criteria related to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.	None required	--	No Adverse Effect
<b>3.2 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b>			
<b>AQ-1.</b> Would the project produce construction emissions of NOX, ROG, PM10 or PM2.5 that would exceed the SMAQMD's construction significance thresholds?	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.2-1:</b> City approval of any grading or improvement plans shall include the following SMAQMD Basic Construction Emission Control Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All exposed surfaces shall be watered two times daily. Exposed surfaces include, but are not limited to soil piles, graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads.</li> <li>Cover or maintain at least two feet of free board space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Any haul trucks that would be traveling along freeways or major roadways shall be covered.</li> <li>Use wet power vacuum street sweepers to remove any visible trackout mud or dirt onto adjacent public roads at least once a day. Use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.</li> <li>Limit vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour.</li> <li>All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots shall be paved as soon as possible. In addition, building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.</li> <li>Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes (as required by the state airborne toxics control measure [Title 13, Section 2485 of the California Code of Regulations]). Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site.</li> <li>Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determine to be running in proper condition before it is operated.</li> </ul>	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect

**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance after Mitigation	NEPA Effect after Mitigation
<b>3.2 Air Quality and Climate Change (cont.)</b>			
<b>AQ-2.</b> Would the project produce operational emissions of NOX, ROG, PM10 or PM2.5 that would exceed the SMAQMD's long-term (operational) significance thresholds?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>AQ-3.</b> Would the project produce CO concentrations that exceed the 1-hour State ambient air quality standard (i.e., 20.0 ppm) or the 8-hour State ambient standard (i.e., 9.0 ppm)?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>AQ-4.</b> Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>AQ-5.</b> Would the project create objectionable odors?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>AQ-6.</b> Would the project create TAC exposures risk of 10 in 1 million for stationary sources, or substantially increase the risk of exposure to TACs from mobile sources?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>AQ-7.</b> Would the project fail to satisfy the requirements of the City's Climate Action Plan?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>AQ-8.</b> Would construction-related and operational emissions exceed the General Conformity Thresholds?	None required	--	No Adverse Effect
<b>AQ-9.</b> Would the proposed project generate GHG emissions that would exceed the Federal GHG Reporting Threshold?	None required	--	No Adverse Effect
<b>Cumulative:</b> Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>Cumulative:</b> Would the proposed project contribute to cumulative increases in short-term (construction) emissions?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>Cumulative:</b> Would the he proposed project contribute to cumulative increases in long-term (operational) emissions?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>Cumulative:</b> Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions or conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<b>Mitigation Measure 3.2-1</b> (above)	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>Cumulative:</b> Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions or conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect



**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)  
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance after Mitigation	NEPA Effect after Mitigation
<b>3.3 Biological Resources</b>			
<p><b>BIO-1.</b> Would the project 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?</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.3-1:</b> Prior to the issuance of any grading or building permit for the proposed project, the City or its designated cooperator shall purchase compensatory mitigation credits as specified in the project's Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated December 28, 2016. Credits shall be purchased at the ratios prescribed therein. In addition, the following conditions shall apply, as prescribed in the Biological Opinion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The City or its designated cooperator will include full implementation and adherence to the conservation measure as a condition of any permit or contract issued for the proposed project;</li> <li>2. The City or its designated cooperator will provide a completed bill of sale and payment receipt to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service upon purchase of the beetle conservation credits;</li> <li>3. In order to monitor whether the amount or extent of incidental take anticipated from implementation of the proposed project is approached or exceeded, the City will adhere to the following reporting requirements. Should this anticipated amount or extent of incidental take be exceeded, the City must immediately reinstate formal consultation, as per 50 CFR 402.16.                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. For those components of the action that will result in habitat degradation or modification whereby incidental take in the form of harm is anticipated, the City will provide a precise accounting of the elderberry plants impacted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after completion of construction. This report will also include any information about changes in project implementation that result in habitat disturbance not described in the Description of the Action presented in the project Biological Opinion dated December 28, 2016 and not analyzed therein.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.3-2:</b> The City or its designated cooperator shall require construction contractors to conduct tree removal activities outside of the migratory bird and raptor breeding season (defined here as February 1 through August 31), where feasible. For any construction activities that occur between February 1 and August 31, the City or its designated cooperator shall conduct preconstruction surveys in suitable nesting habitat within 500 feet of the construction area for migratory birds and raptor species. In addition, all trees slated for removal during the nesting season shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist no more than 48 hours before removal to ensure that no nesting birds are occupying the tree.</p>	<p>Less than Significant</p>	<p>No Adverse Effect</p>

**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance <i>after Mitigation</i>	NEPA Effect <i>after Mitigation</i>
<b>3.3 Biological Resources (cont.)</b>			
<b>BIO-1</b> (cont.)	<p>If active nests are found during the survey, the construction contractor shall implement mitigation measures to ensure that the species will not be adversely affected, which will include establishing a no-work buffer zone, around the active nest. Avoidance measures will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintaining a 500-foot buffer around each active raptor nest. No construction activities shall be permitted within this buffer. For other migratory birds, a 250-foot no-work buffer zone shall be established, around the active nest. The no-work buffer may vary depending on species and site specific conditions. No project-related activity shall occur within the no-work buffer until a qualified wildlife biologist confirms that the nest is no longer active, or unless otherwise permitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.</li> <li>2. If an appropriate no-disturbance buffer is infeasible, a qualified biologist shall be present during construction activities for the entire duration of activities within the buffer to monitor the behavior of the potentially affected nesting bird. The biologist shall have the authority to stop-work within the buffer area if the bird(s) exhibit distress and/or abnormal nesting behavior (swooping/stooping, excessive vocalization [distress calls], agitation, failure to remain on nest, failure to deliver prey items for an extended time period, failure to maintain nest, etc.) which may cause reproductive failure (nest abandonment and loss of eggs or young). Work shall not resume in the buffer area until bird's behavior has normalized. Completion of the nesting cycle shall be determined by a qualified biologist.</li> </ol>		
<b>BIO-2.</b> Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>BIO-3.</b> Would the project 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, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	None required	No Impact	No Adverse Effect
<b>BIO-4.</b> Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect

**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance after Mitigation	NEPA Effect after Mitigation
<b>3.3 Biological Resources (cont.)</b>			
<b>BIO-5.</b> Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	None required	No Impact	No Adverse Effect
<b>BIO-6.</b> Would the project create a potential health hazard, or use, production or disposal of materials that would pose a hazard to plant or animal populations in the area affected?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>3.4 Cultural and Paleontological Resources</b>			
<b>CR-1.</b> Would the project have the potential to affect historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended, or cause a substantial change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	<p><b>River District Specific Plan Mitigation Measure 5.3-2:</b></p> <p>a) Prior to any excavation, grading or other construction on the project site, and in consultation with Native American Tribes and the City's Preservation Director: a qualified archaeologist will prepare a testing plan for testing areas proposed for excavation or any other ground-disturbing activities as part of future projects, which plan shall be approved by the City's Preservation Director. Testing in accordance with that plan will then ensue by the qualified archaeologist, who will prepare a report on findings, and an evaluation of those findings, from those tests and present that report to the City's Preservation Director. Should any findings be considered as potentially significant, further archaeological investigations shall ensue, by the qualified archaeologist, and the archaeologist shall prepare reports on those investigations and evaluations relative to eligibility of the findings to the Sacramento, California or National Registers of Historic &amp; Cultural Resources/ Places and submit that report to the City's Preservation Director and SHPO with recommendations for treatment, disposition, or reburials of significant findings, as appropriate. Also, at the conclusion of the pre-construction testing, evaluation and reports and recommendations, a decision will be made by the City's Preservation Director as to whether on-site monitoring during any project-related excavation or ground-disturbing activities by a qualified archaeologist will be required.</p> <p>b) Discoveries during construction: For those projects where no on-site archaeological monitoring was required, in the event that any prehistoric subsurface archaeological features or deposits, including locally darkened soil ("midden"), that could conceal cultural deposits, animal bone, obsidian and/or mortars are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities, all work within 50 meters of the resources shall be halted, and a qualified archaeologist will be consulted to assess the significance of the find. Archaeological test excavations shall be</p>	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect

**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance <i>after Mitigation</i>	NEPA Effect <i>after Mitigation</i>
<b>3.4 Cultural and Paleontological Resources (cont.)</b>			
CR-1 (cont.)	<p>conducted by a qualified archaeologist to aid in determining the nature and integrity of the find. If the find is determined to be significant by the qualified archaeologist, representatives of the City and the qualified archaeologist shall coordinate to determine the appropriate course of action. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis and professional museum curation. In addition, a report shall be prepared by the qualified archaeologist according to current professional standards.</p> <p>c) If a Native American site is discovered, the evaluation process shall include consultation with the appropriate Native American representatives.</p> <p>d) If Native American archaeological, ethnographic, or spiritual resources are involved, all identification and treatment shall be conducted by qualified archaeologists, who are certified by the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA) and/or meet the federal standards as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 61), and Native American representatives, who are approved by the local Native American community as scholars of the cultural traditions.</p> <p>e) In the event that no such Native American is available, persons who represent tribal governments and/or organizations in the locale in which resources could be affected shall be consulted. If historic archaeological sites are involved, all identified treatment is to be carried out by qualified historical archaeologists, who shall meet either Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), or 36 CFR 61 requirements.</p> <p>f) If a human bone or bone of unknown origin is found during construction, all work shall stop in the vicinity of the find, and the County Coroner, and City's Preservation Director, shall be contacted immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who shall notify the person most likely believed to be a descendant. The most likely descendant shall work with the contractor to develop a program for re-internment of the human remains and any associated artifacts. No additional work is to take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until the identified appropriate actions have taken place. Work can continue on other parts of the project site while the unique archaeological resource mitigation takes place.</p>		
CR-2. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource?	<b>River District Specific Plan Mitigation Measure 5.3-2</b> (see above)	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect

**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance after Mitigation	NEPA Effect after Mitigation
<b>3.4 Cultural and Paleontological Resources (cont.)</b>			
<b>CR-3.</b> Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<b>River District Specific Plan Mitigation Measure 5.3-2</b> (see above)	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>CR-4:</b> Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, as defined in PRC Section 21074?	<b>River District Specific Plan Mitigation Measure 5.3-2</b> (see above)	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>3.5 Environmental Justice</b>			
<b>EJ-1.</b> Would the project have a disproportionate effect on environmental justice populations	None required specific to Environmental Justice.	--	Beneficial
<b>3.6 Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources</b>			
<b>GEO-1.</b> Would the project be built in a manner that would introduce geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on such a site without protection against those hazards?	None required	No Impact	No Adverse Effect
<b>GEO-2.</b> Would the project result in the loss of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state, or 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?	None required	No Impact	No Adverse Effect
<b>3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials</b>			
<b>HAZ-1.</b> Would the project expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated soil during construction activities?	<b>Mitigation Measure 3.7-1: Phase II Assessment.</b> Prior to construction or development of the proposed project, a Phase II assessment and subsurface geophysical investigation shall be conducted. If the Phase II assessment concludes that site remediation would be necessary to protect human health and the environment, the site shall not be developed until the site is remediated to levels that would be protective of the most sensitive population for the planned use, as prescribed in applicable regulations.	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>HAZ-2.</b> Would the project expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to asbestos-containing materials, or other hazardous materials or situations?	<b>River District Specific Plan Mitigation Measure 5.4-1(b):</b> Prior to demolition or renovation of structures, the project applicant shall provide written documentation to the City that either there is no asbestos-containing materials and/or lead-based paint in the structures or that such materials have been abated and that any remaining hazardous substances and/or waste have been removed in compliance with applicable State and local laws.	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect

**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance after Mitigation	NEPA Effect after Mitigation
<b>3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials (cont.)</b>			
<b>HAZ-3.</b> Would the project expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated groundwater during construction or dewatering activities?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>HAZ-4.</b> Would the project place housing in proximity to explosive hazards at distances less than that prescribed in 24 CFR 51 Subpart C?	None required	No Impact	No Effect
<b>3.8 Hydrology and Water Quality</b>			
<b>HYD-1.</b> Would the project substantially degrade water quality and violate any water quality objectives set by the State Water Resources Control Board, due to increases in sediments and other contaminants generated by construction and/or development of the project?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>HYD-2.</b> Would the project substantially increase the exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>HYD-3.</b> Would the project result in a contamination of a sole source aquifer?	None required	No Impact	No Adverse Effect
<b>3.9 Land Use, Population and Housing, and Socioeconomics</b>			
<b>LU-1.</b> Would the project physically divide an established community?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>LU-2.</b> Would the project conflict with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project site?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>LU-3.</b> Would the project result in a change in land use that would be incompatible with surrounding land uses?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>LU-4.</b> Would the project induce substantial population growth within an area, either directly or indirectly?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>LU-5.</b> Would the project displace substantial numbers of residents or businesses?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>LU-6.</b> Would the project reduce employment or otherwise diminish employment opportunities?	None required	Beneficial	Beneficial

**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance <i>after Mitigation</i>	NEPA Effect <i>after Mitigation</i>
<b>3.9 Land Use, Population and Housing, and Socioeconomics (cont.)</b>			
<b>LU-7.</b> Would the project substantially reduce local jurisdiction revenues through decreases in property tax revenues or other sources of revenue?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>3.10 Noise and Vibration</b>			
<b>NV-1.</b> Would the project result in exterior noise levels in the project area that are above the upper value of the normally acceptable category for various land uses due to the project's noise level increases?	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.10-1:</b> During the design and construction of exterior residential elements in the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area, the project applicant shall consult with a certified acoustical professional to design and implement appropriate noise attenuation elements that are of sufficient effectiveness to reduce noise levels to below the City exterior noise standard as shown in General Plan Table EC-1 for residential land uses. The effectiveness of these measures shall be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the City Community Development Department prior to the issuance of occupancy permits.</p> <p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.10-2:</b> If traction power substation (TPSS) units are placed nearer than 110 feet from proposed residential uses, the applicant shall submit engineering and acoustical specifications for project air conditioning equipment to the City prior to the issuance of building permits. The engineering and acoustical specification shall demonstrate to the City's satisfaction that the air conditioning equipment design (types, location, enclosure, specification) will control noise from the equipment to at least 10 dBA below existing ambient levels at nearby residential and other noise sensitive receptors.</p>	Less than Significant	--
<b>NV-2.</b> Would the project result in residential interior noise levels of 45 dBA $L_{dn}$ or greater caused by noise level increases due to the project?	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.10-3:</b> Prior to the issuance of building permits for residential projects within the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area, the City shall require project applicants for residential development to submit a detailed noise analysis, prepared by a qualified acoustical professional, to identify design measures to be implemented to achieve the City interior standard of 45 <math>L_{dn}</math> in the proposed new residences. The resulting study shall be submitted to the City for review and approval. Design measures such as the following could be required, depending on the specific findings of the noise study: double-paned glass windows facing noise sources; solid-core doors; increased sound insulation of exterior walls (such as through staggered-or double-studs, multiple layers of gypsum board, and incorporation of resilient channels); weather-tight seals for doors and windows; or sealed windows with an air conditioning system installed for ventilation. The building plans submitted for building permit approval shall be accompanied by certification of a licensed engineer that the plans include the identified noise-attenuating design measures and satisfy the requirements of City standards.</p>	Less than Significant	--

**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance after Mitigation	NEPA Effect after Mitigation
<b>3.10 Noise and Vibration (cont.)</b>			
<b>NV-3:</b> Would the project result in construction noise levels that exceed the standards in the City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance?	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.10-4:</b> The City of Sacramento and the project contractor(s) shall implement the following measures as feasible and appropriate during all phases of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whenever construction occurs within 130 feet of occupied residences (on- or off-site), temporary barriers shall be constructed around the construction sites to shield the ground floor of the noise-sensitive uses. These barriers shall be of ¾-inch Medium Density Overlay (MDO) plywood sheeting, or other material of equivalent utility and appearance, and shall achieve a Sound Transmission Class of STC-30, or greater, based on certified sound transmission loss data taken according to ASTM Test Method E90 or as approved by the City of Sacramento Building Official.</li> <li>Construction equipment staging areas shall be located as far as feasible from residential areas while still serving the needs of construction contractors.</li> <li>Use of auger displacement installation techniques for installation of foundation piles shall be used, if feasible. If impact pile driving is required, sonic pile drivers shall be used, unless engineering studies are submitted to the City that show this is not feasible, based on geotechnical considerations.</li> </ul>	Less than Significant	--
<b>NV-4:</b> Would the project permit existing and/or planned residential and commercial areas to be exposed to peak particle vibration velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to project construction?	None required	Less than Significant	--
<b>NV-5:</b> Would the project permit adjacent residential and commercial areas to be exposed to peak particle vibration velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to light rail operations?	None required	Less than Significant	--
<b>NV-6:</b> Would the project permit historic buildings and archaeological sites to be exposed to peak particle vibration velocities greater than 0.2 inches per second due to project construction and light rail traffic?	None required	Less than Significant	--
<b>NV-7:</b> Would the project exceed applicable noise impact criteria as established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development?	<b>Mitigation Measures 3.10-1 and 3.10-2</b> (see above)	--	No Adverse Effect
<b>NV-8:</b> Would the project exceed the Moderate or Severe noise impact criteria as defined by the Federal Transit Administration?	<b>Mitigation Measures 3.10-1 and 3.10-2</b> (see above)	--	No Adverse Effect



**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance after Mitigation	NEPA Effect after Mitigation
<b>3.10 Noise and Vibration (cont.)</b>			
<b>NV-9:</b> Would the project exceed Moderate and Severe vibration impact criteria as defined by the Federal Transit Administration?	None required	--	No Adverse Effect
<b>3.11 Public Services and Recreation</b>			
<b>PSR-1.</b> Would the project result in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, school facilities, or other governmental services beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>PSR-2.</b> Would the project cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities or create a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan?	None required	Beneficial	Beneficial
<b>3.12 Transportation and Traffic</b>			
<b>TRA-1.</b> Would the project have an adverse effect on intersections?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>TRA-2.</b> Would the project have an adverse effect on area freeway facilities?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>TRA-3.</b> Would the project have an adverse effect on transit operations or access to transit?	None required	Beneficial	Beneficial Effect
<b>TRA-4.</b> Would the project have an adverse effect on bicycle facilities or would it fail to provide adequate access for bicycle users?	None required	Beneficial	Beneficial Effect
<b>TRA-5.</b> Would the project adversely affect pedestrian circulation or fail to provide access for pedestrian users?	None required	Beneficial	Beneficial Effect
<b>TRA-6.</b> Would the project result in impacts related to construction-related activities?	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 3.12-1:</b> <i>Construction Traffic Management Plan.</i> The City shall require the project applicant to develop a Construction Traffic Management Plan. The plan shall ensure that acceptable operating conditions on local roadways and freeway facilities are maintained. At a minimum, the plan shall include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of trucks including: number and size of trucks per day, expected arrival/departure times, truck circulation patterns.</li> </ul>	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect

**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	CEQA Impact Significance after Mitigation	NEPA Effect after Mitigation
<b>3.12 Transportation and Traffic (cont.)</b>			
<b>TRA-6 (cont.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of staging area including: location, maximum number of trucks simultaneously permitted in staging area, use of traffic control personnel, specific signage.</li> <li>Description of street closures and/or bicycle and pedestrian facility closures including: duration, advance warning and posted signage, safe and efficient access routes for emergency vehicles, use of manual traffic control, and roadway detours.</li> <li>Description of driveway access plan including: provisions for safe vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle travel, minimum distance from any open trench, special signage, and private vehicle accesses.</li> </ul> <p>Pursuant to City code, the management plan shall be reviewed by the City's Traffic Engineer and any affected agencies, incorporate any requested revisions, and then approved by the City's Traffic Engineer prior to the commencement of project construction. This management plan shall be distributed and implemented by all contractors and subcontractors involved in any project construction activity.</p>		
<b>TRA-7.</b> Would the project have an adverse cumulative effect on intersections?	None required	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>TRA-8.</b> Would the project have an adverse cumulative effect on area freeway facilities?	<b>Mitigation Measure 3.12-2:</b> <i>I-5 Freeway Subregional Corridor Mitigation Program (SCMP)</i> . To mitigate the freeway mainline and off-ramp queuing impacts under the Cumulative Plus Project scenario, the Twin Rivers development shall remit monetary payment to the I-5 Freeway Subregional Corridor Mitigation Program (SCMP), This remittance shall be completed prior to the commencement of construction.	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect
<b>TRA-9.</b> Would the project have an adverse cumulative effect on transit operations or access to transit?	None required	Beneficial	Beneficial Effect
<b>TRA-10.</b> Would the project have an adverse cumulative effect on bicycle facilities or would it fail to provide adequate access for bicycle users?	None required	Beneficial	Beneficial Effect
<b>TRA-11.</b> Would the project result in an adverse cumulative effect on pedestrian circulation or fail to provide access for pedestrian users?	None required	Beneficial	Beneficial Effect
<b>TRA-12.</b> Would the project result in adverse cumulative impacts related to construction activities?	<b>Mitigation Measure 3.12-1</b> (see above)	Less than Significant	No Adverse Effect

**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)  
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>CEQA Impact Significance <i>after Mitigation</i></b>	<b>NEPA Effect <i>after Mitigation</i></b>
<b>3.13 Utilities</b>			
<p><b>UTL-1.</b> Would the project result in the determination that adequate capacity is not available to serve the project's demand in addition to existing commitments such that the project would require or result in either the construction of new utilities or the expansion of existing utilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Supply</li> <li>• Wastewater and Stormwater</li> <li>• Solid Waste Disposal</li> <li>• Electricity and Natural Gas</li> </ul>	None required	No Impact	No Adverse Effect

# CHAPTER 1.0

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## Introduction

The City of Sacramento (City), in partnership with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) and the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT), proposes implementation of the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project (proposed project). The proposed project would develop a mixed-income, mixed-use community comprising 218 replacement public housing units, 281 new market-rate rental and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units, a realigned internal street network, green open space, and other community amenities on two noncontiguous but proximate properties totaling approximately 24.2 acres that currently include public housing and undeveloped land. The project would also include construction and operation of the proposed RT Dos Rios Light Rail Station on the existing RT light rail Blue Line on and adjacent to North 12th Street.

### 1.1 Background to the Proposed Project/Purpose and Need

#### 1.1.1 Choice Neighborhoods Initiative

Beginning in 2005, the Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento (HACOS) initiated development of a strategy to address current and future budget shortfalls as a result of reductions in federal funding for public housing operations and maintenance, leading to the adoption of an Asset Repositioning Strategy and Guiding Principles. The strategy called for, among other things, the upgrading of existing physical public housing stock and the decreased reliance on federal funding sources by leveraging private funding (debt and equity) and other sources such as grants and local funds. The existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex (then known as Dos Rios) was identified as a priority “Action Development” under this strategy.

In 2012, after a previously unsuccessful attempt, HACOS was awarded a two-year planning grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) program<sup>1</sup> to develop a conceptual vision for the redevelopment of the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex. The grant also provided funds to develop strategies to improve the broader neighborhood and the supportive services delivery system to help public housing residents improve their lives.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, see: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/ph/cn](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/cn). Accessed July 20, 2016.

The two-year CNI planning process built on previous planning efforts undertaken during the City's work on the River District and Railyards Specific Plans and included a substantial public involvement component. The CNI planning process culminated in the River District-Railyards Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan (NTP) submitted to HUD in January 2014, which called for, among other things, the potential demolition and redevelopment of the existing Twin Rivers complex into a mixed-use, mixed-income, transit-oriented development with a new light rail station at its center (Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, 2014). As described in the NTP, the redeveloped site would replace the public housing units on a one-for-one basis, and would include additional workforce- and market-rate rental housing to create a more economically balanced neighborhood that could reduce the effects of concentrated poverty. The redeveloped site would accommodate planned changes to the street network as contemplated by the City in the River District Specific Plan (City of Sacramento, 2011).

Also in 2012, the HACOS Board of Commissioners approved the selection of McCormack Baron Salazar (MBS) as the Master Developer for the Twin Rivers site. Since then, SHRA (on behalf of HACOS) and MBS have been working with RT on the design of the proposed Dos Rios light rail station adjacent to the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex site on the existing Blue Line under the terms of a grant secured by RT from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) in 2013. Design of the station is approximately 35 to 50 percent complete, and RT has been awarded additional grant funds from SACOG to complete the design.

## 1.1.2 River District-Railyards Initiative

In 2015, HACOS applied for and was awarded a \$30 million implementation grant from HUD for the River District-Railyards Initiative. Over the course of the seven-year term of the grant, HACOS and its implementation team is expected to utilize the funds as seed money to secure additional resources and to carry out the strategies developed during the previously discussed planning process. Of the \$30 million, approximately 70 percent is intended to be used to develop replacement public housing for the existing units to be demolished, 15 percent will be used for programs and projects to improve the surrounding neighborhood, and 15 percent will be used for projects that promote resident self-sufficiency.

With respect to the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, it is anticipated that the site would be redeveloped in several phases as highly-competitive funds are applied for and received. In general, grant funds would be combined with private funds invested as a result of the sale of federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) which are allocated to projects on a statewide basis by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC), as well as funds from the Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Fund, awarded competitively by the California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) in cooperation with the Strategic Growth Council and California Air Resources Board.

### 1.1.3 Regional Transit Planning

Even though RT's existing Blue Line light rail route runs directly through the eastern portion of the River District, the nearest stations to the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex are Alkali Flat/La Valentina, which is more than a half-mile to the south, and Globe, which is over a mile to the north across the American River. Access to the Green Line to Downtown is almost a half-mile to the west. The distance between stations leaves much of the eastern end of the River District effectively isolated from the rest of the city, with limited access to the regional transit system. Based on this identified need, RT conducted an alternatives analysis in 2005 to determine the location for a new station in the River District, with the principal goals being provision of a new station that would maximize opportunities for existing area ridership and eventually provide opportunities for increased ridership as the area undergoes transformation. The proposed location for the new Dos Rios site was chosen to meet these goals. Using grant funds provided through a SACOG Community Design Grant (Federal Transit Administration's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program) and contributions from SHRA, preliminary design for the station and associated track layout has been undertaken and is continuing for the proposed Dos Rios Station site.

## 1.2 Purpose of This Document and Intended Use

This environmental document is a joint Environmental Assessment (EA), prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Initial Study (IS), prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). NEPA documentation is necessary whenever federal action or funding approval is sought. For this project, funding from HUD and the Federal Transit Administration is being sought, and thus compliance with NEPA is required. In the State of California, CEQA documentation is required whenever non-federal public agency approval of a discretionary project is sought. For this project, the City, SHRA, RT and other partners would fund, approve, construct, and operate the proposed project.

The focus of this joint IS/EA is to determine whether the proposed project would have significant environmental consequences. For purposes of NEPA, if the City determines that there would be no significant environmental effects as a result of the proposed project, the City would certify accordingly in its Request for Release of Funds (RROF) documentation that would then be forwarded to HUD. Unless HUD receives information that supports a denial, HUD would accept the City's certifications and follow its procedures. For purposes of CEQA, if the City and its cooperating local agencies determine that there are no significant environmental impacts that were not previously disclosed in the City's 2035 General Plan Master EIR, they would approve a tiered Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration. These findings would then enable the City and its cooperating local agencies to move forward with construction of the project. On the other hand, if it is determined that significant environmental consequences would result from the proposed project, then an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (pursuant to NEPA) and/or a tiered Focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (pursuant to CEQA) would be prepared, unless modifications could be made mitigating all impacts so they are no longer significant, in which case a tiered Mitigated Negative Declaration could be prepared.

## 1.3 Roles of Participating Entities

### 1.3.1 NEPA Lead Agency

HUD’s regulations for implementing NEPA can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 24, Section 58 (24 CFR 58). HUD regulations provide for the delegation of *Responsible Entity* status to local agencies, which allows those agencies to assume responsibility for environmental review, decision-making, and action that would otherwise apply to HUD under NEPA (24 CFR 58.4). For local public housing agencies such as SHRA, Responsible Entity status falls to “the unit of general local government within which the project is located that exercises land use responsibility” (24 CFR 58(a)(7)(B)). Therefore, the City of Sacramento has assumed the role of Responsible Entity under NEPA for purposes of the proposed project.

In addition, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) may exercise some involvement with the project if funds are sought from FTA by RT to construct the proposed Dos Rios Light Rail Station. At its discretion, FTA may utilize the findings contained within this IS/EA to make its own NEPA determination for those portions of the project for which it would provide funds. In such an instance, RT would serve as a joint NEPA lead agency with the FTA as provided for under 23 CFR 771.109(c)(2). In that capacity, RT would prepare summary environmental review documents for its portion of the project (i.e., the Dos Rios Light Rail Station). The information contained within this IS/EA would form the basis for those documents. FTA would provide guidance during RT’s efforts, and would independently evaluate those documents prior to making its own findings with respect to the project’s environmental effects.

### 1.3.2 CEQA Lead Agency

Since it would have the principal responsibility for approving the proposed project, the City of Sacramento is the local lead agency for purposes of CEQA. Other agencies would serve as CEQA Responsible Agencies, and are described further below.

### 1.3.3 Other Participating Agencies

A number of local agencies would participate in approval, funding, construction, and/or operation of the proposed project. These agencies would each have discretionary authority concerning various aspects of the project, and would use this IS/EA as the basis for their own environmental findings under CEQA. These CEQA Responsible Agencies include:

- Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA)
- Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT)
- Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento (HACOS)
- Housing Authority of the City of Sacramento

## References

City of Sacramento. 2011. River District Specific Plan. Available at: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Long-Range/Specific-Plans>. Accessed July 20, 2016.

Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency. 2014. River-District Railyards Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan. Available at: <http://www.shra.org/ChoiceNeighborhoodsInitiative/TwinRivers.aspx>. Accessed July 20, 2016.



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# CHAPTER 2.0

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## Project Alternatives

### 2.1 Introduction

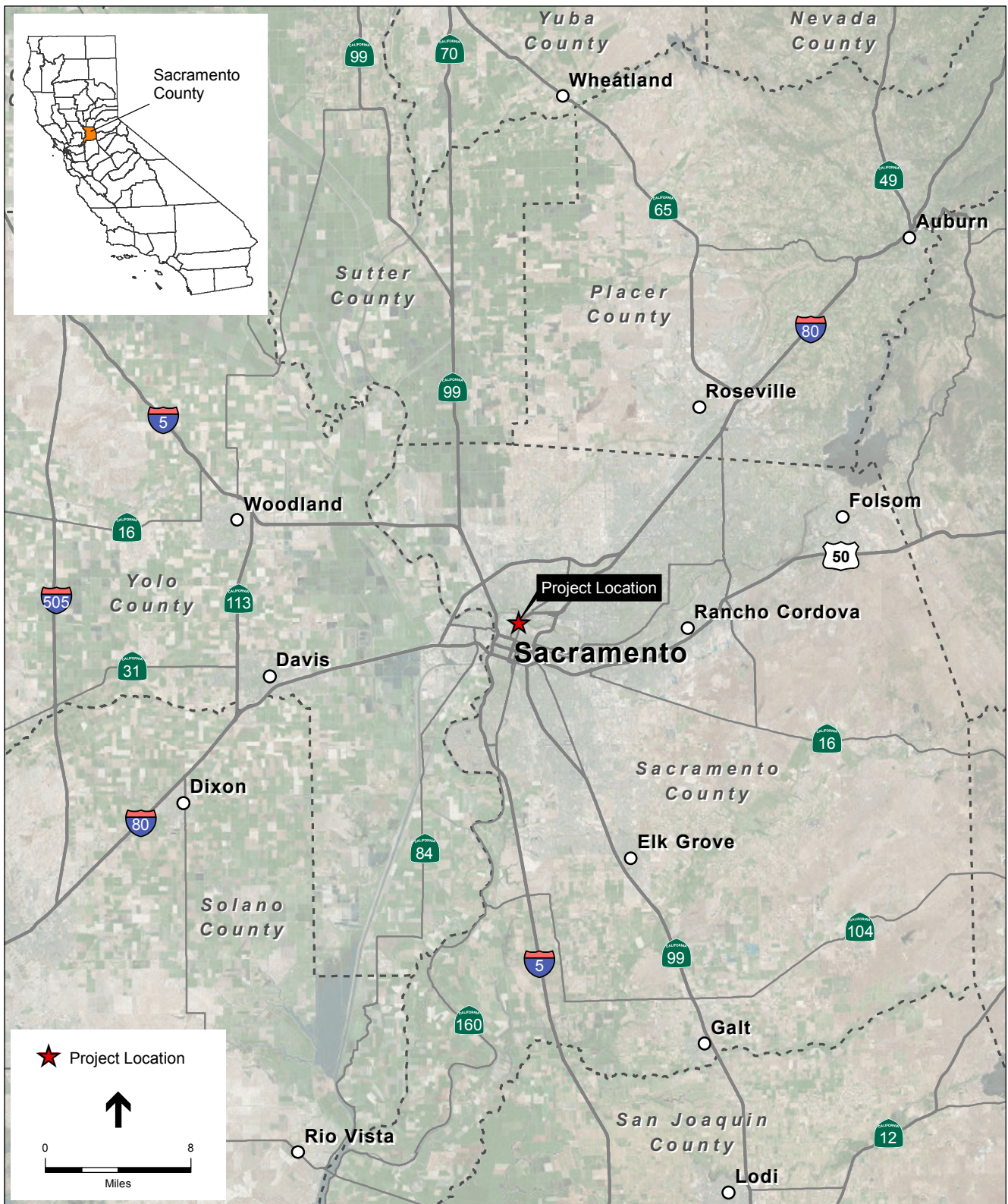
This section of the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) defines and describes the alternatives examined in this environmental document. This IS/EA assesses two alternatives: 1) the No Project Alternative; and 2) the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project (proposed project). These alternatives are described in detail later in this chapter.

### 2.2 Project Location

The project site is located in Sacramento, California, approximately 80 miles east of San Francisco and 85 miles west of Lake Tahoe. The City of Sacramento is bisected by a number of major freeways, including Interstate 5 (I-5) that traverses the state from north to south, and Interstate 80 (I-80) which provides an east-west connection between San Francisco and Reno, Nevada.

**Figure 2-1** shows the regional location of the project site in the greater Sacramento region. The region is bisected by the Sacramento River, which flows south from the Lake Shasta Reservoir to the Sacramento River Delta, and the American River, which flows west from the Sierra Nevada Mountains before joining the Sacramento River in Sacramento.

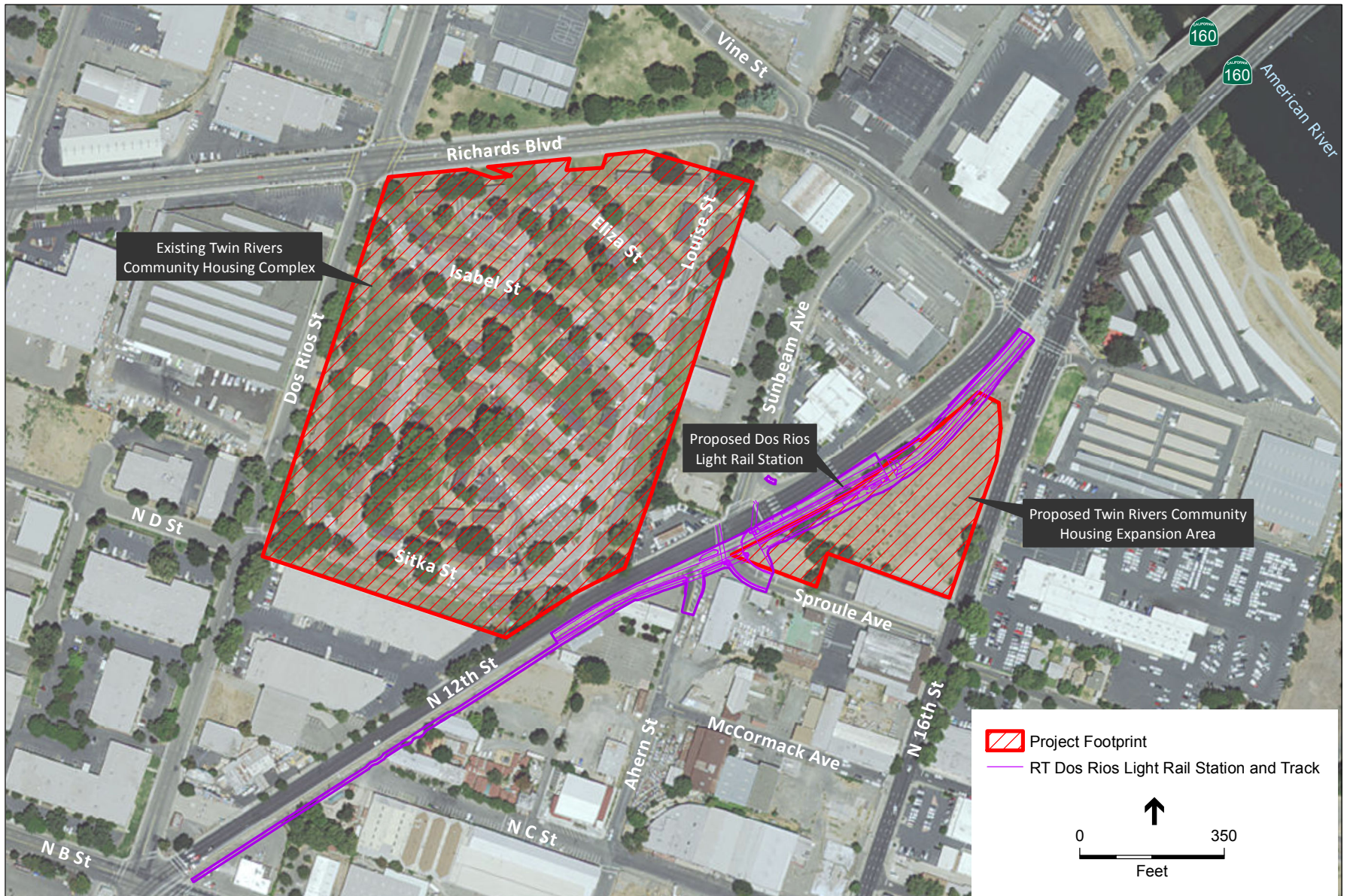
**Figure 2-2** shows an aerial view of the project site. The site is comprised of two subareas totaling approximately 24.2 acres that are separated from one another by North 12th Street and adjacent properties. The larger and westernmost subarea is referred to as the “Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex” and is comprised of a single parcel, approximately 21 acres in size. It is generally bounded by Dos Rios Street to the west, Richards Boulevard to the northeast, Louise Street to the east, and North 12th Street to the south. The second and easternmost subarea is referred to as the “Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area” and is separated from the Community Housing Complex by intervening parcels and North 12th Street. The “Expansion Area” site is comprised of six parcels totaling approximately 3.2 acres. Collectively, the two subareas are referred to throughout this document as the “project site.”



SOURCE: i-cubed, 1999; ESRI, 2012; ESA, 2016

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 2-1**  
Regional Location



SOURCE: ESRI 2014; SHRA, 2015

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 2-2**  
Aerial Overview of Project Site

## 2.3 Previous Environmental Planning in the Project Area

This IS/EA draws and tiers from two previously approved environmental documents: the City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan Master EIR and the River District Specific Plan EIR. Another plan, the Railyards Specific Plan Update, addresses planning efforts for a large-scale development that is in close proximity to the project site. Each of these documents is described below.

### 2.3.1 City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan and Master EIR

The City's 2035 General Plan (City of Sacramento, 2015a) sets policy guidelines for a host of important issues within the City, including economic growth and physical development. The General Plan incorporates a number of elements and the policies found within these elements are directly applicable to the project area, particularly with respect to land use, housing, and circulation.

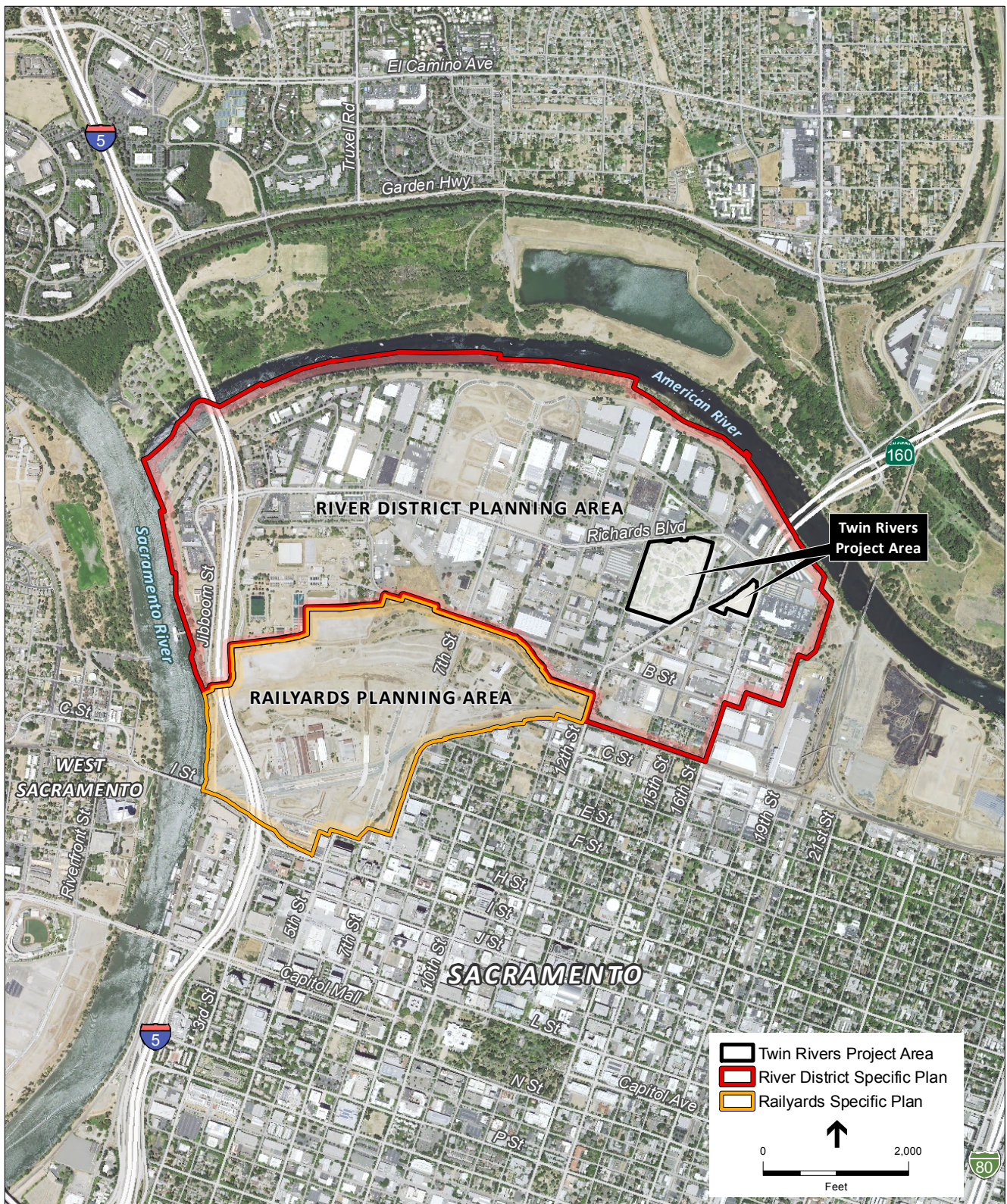
The environmental effects of the General Plan were evaluated in a Master EIR that was released for public circulation in August, 2014. The Final Master EIR was certified and the General Plan was adopted by the Sacramento City Council in March, 2015.

### 2.3.2 River District Specific Plan and EIR

The project site is within the River District Specific Plan (RDSP) area, located near the confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers just north of the Railyards Specific Plan area and downtown Sacramento. **Figure 2-3** shows the locations of the River District and Railyards planning areas. Beginning in 1990, the City targeted the River District as a redevelopment area. The River District, which has historically served primarily as a warehousing, distribution, and commercial area, has been re-envisioned as a mixed-use infill community connected to the surrounding area by a network of local streets, light rail transit, and bicycle and pedestrian pathways.

The RDSP (City of Sacramento, 2011) was adopted in 2011 and established planning and design standards for the redevelopment of approximately 773 acres of land. The RDSP area includes the entirety of the proposed project area under consideration in this IS/EA, and includes a number of land use and circulation elements and policies that are directly applicable to the proposed project.

The RDSP provides for development of a transit-oriented, mixed-use urban environment that would include 8,144 dwelling units, 3.9 million square feet of office, 854,000 square feet of retail/wholesale, 1.5 million square feet of light industrial, and 3,044 hotel units. Provision of a new light rail station on North 12th Street in the River District is a key part of the plan. The vision for the River District is that of an eclectic mix of uses that will transition from a primarily light-industrial, low-intensity commercial district to that of a series of distinctive walkable neighborhoods within a district that is contiguous to the American River and serves as the northern gateway into the central city.



SOURCE: Microsoft, 2011; ESRI, 2012;  
 City of Sacramento, 2015; 2016; ESA, 2016

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 2-3**  
 Planning Areas in the Project Vicinity

The environmental effects of the RDSP were analyzed in a Draft EIR that was released for public circulation in July, 2010. The Final EIR was certified and the RDSP was adopted by the Sacramento City Council in February, 2011.

### 2.3.3 Railyards Specific Plan Update and Subsequent EIR

In June 2016, the City released a Draft Subsequent EIR for an update to the 2007 Railyards Specific Plan (2007 RSP). The Railyards Specific Plan Update (RSPU) revises and refines the land uses and circulation networks and design standards called for in the 2007 RSP. In addition, it provides for the development of a new Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, a multi-purpose sports and entertainment stadium that would serve as the home of a Major League Soccer team, and a new Stormwater Outfall to the Sacramento River. The RSPU and related documents were adopted and the Final Subsequent EIR for the RSPU was certified on November 10, 2016.

The RSP Area is approximately 244 acres that formerly housed a major locomotive works and maintenance yard for the Central Pacific (and later, Southern Pacific) Railroad, situated between the downtown Sacramento Central Business District and the River District, near the confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers. The RSP Area is located to the southwest of the project site and is generally bounded by North B Street and the Sacramento River Water Treatment Plant to the north; the Sacramento River and Interstate 5 (I-5) to the west; I Street, H Street, the Union Pacific heavy rail line, and the Alkali Flat neighborhood to the south; and 12th Street to the east, as shown on Figure 2-3. While the proposed project lies outside of the RSP Area, the Railyards and the River District are immediately adjacent to one another and are interrelated with respect to public infrastructure such as roadways and transit networks.

The RSPU provides for medium- and high-rise single use and mixed use residential, retail, office, and hotel structures as well as a hospital, medical office uses, a new light rail station, and a sports and entertainment stadium. The RSPU also provides cultural/recreational facilities, including the refurbished Central Shops buildings, as well as numerous public parks and walkways. The RSPU provides a network of public streets with vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access, parking facilities, and water, wastewater, and drainage infrastructure and facilities. The RSPU also includes approximately 32 acres designated for the development of the Sacramento Intermodal Transit Facility (SITF) south of the Union Pacific heavy rail line, which would provide multiple modes of public transit service including bus, rail, light rail, streetcar, and passenger auto.

## 2.4 Environmental Setting and Surrounding Land Uses

Figure 2-2 shows an aerial view of the project vicinity, with the project site outlined. The project site is comprised of two areas totaling approximately 24.2 acres that are separated from one another by North 12th Street. The larger parcel (21 acres) west of 12th Street contains the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex. The portion of the project area that lies east of 12th Street is comprised of six separate parcels, all of which are undeveloped and vacant. Portions of two additional parcels east of North 12th Street would also need to be acquired to facilitate project construction. **Table 2-1** lists the affected Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN), their respective sizes, their current zoning, and their General Plan land use designations.

**TABLE 2-1  
AFFECTED ASSESSOR PARCELS**

APN	Owner	Address	Size (acres)	Existing Zoning	Existing General Plan Land Use Designation	Existing Use
001-0090-003	Sacramento County Housing Authority	1209 Sitka Street	21.0	R-5-SPD - Multi-Family Residential 70-150 Units / Acre/Special Planning District RMX-SPD - Residential Mixed Use/Special Planning District	Urban Center Low Density	Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex
001-0103-001	16th Street LLC	550 North 16th Street	1.48	C-1-SPD - Limited Commercial/Special Planning District C-2-SPD - General Commercial/Special Planning District	Urban Center Low Density	Vacant
001-0103-002	16th Street LLC	540 North 16th Street	0.23	C-1-SPD - Limited Commercial/Special Planning District	Urban Center Low Density	Vacant
001-0103-003	Harold G.	520 North 16th Street	0.57	C-1-SPD - Limited Commercial/Special Planning District	Urban Center Low Density	Vacant
001-0103-006	16th Street LLC	551 North 12th Street	0.58	C-1-SPD - Limited Commercial/Special Planning District	Urban Center Low Density	Vacant
001-0103-010	Bruce J.	1451 Sproule Avenue	0.32	C-1-SPD - Limited Commercial/Special Planning District	Urban Center Low Density	Vacant
001-0103-008	City of Sacramento	Sproule Avenue	0.03	C-1-SPD - Limited Commercial/Special Planning District	Urban Center Low Density	Vacant
001-0103-027	Loaves & Fishes	304 Friendship Alley	0.03	C-4-SPD – Heavy Commercial/Special Planning District	Employment Center (Low Rise)	Loaves & Fishes parking area (partial acquisition) <sup>1</sup>
001-0141-001	Bruce B.	McCormack Avenue	167 square feet	C-4-SPD – Heavy Commercial/Special Planning District	Employment Center (Low Rise)	Endless Auto Body parking area (partial acquisition) <sup>2</sup>

## NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Approximately 0.03 acres of this 1.78-acre parcel would be acquired as part of the project. Existing uses on the remaining portions of the parcel would remain.

<sup>2</sup> Approximately 167 square feet of this 16,291-square foot parcel would be acquired as part of the project. Existing uses on the remaining portions of the parcel would remain.



## 2.4.1 Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex

The existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex is comprised of 218 public housing units in approximately 95 one and two-story multi-family structures that are divided into individual units. The existing population of the Complex is approximately 550 persons. **Table 2-2** shows the existing mix of residential units in the Complex.

**TABLE 2-2  
EXISTING UNIT TYPES**

Unit Type	Number of Units
1 Bedroom	52
2 Bedroom	48
3 Bedroom	58
4 Bedroom	18
5 Bedroom	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> One 2-bedroom unit has been converted to a non-dwelling

<sup>2</sup> One 5-bedroom unit has been converted to a non-dwelling

SOURCE: SHRA

Most of the Complex was constructed in the mid-1940s, with a small subset of buildings built in the 1970s. As determined in the 2014 River District-Railyards Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan (SHRA, 2014), much of the Complex's buildings and infrastructure have reached the end of their useful lives.

The Complex is landscaped with turf and ornamental trees and shrubs. A tree inventory conducted in 2017 on the existing Complex logged 130 trees of 26 species with trunk diameters four inches or greater.

Two small playgrounds are located near the central portion of the Complex, and a basketball court is located at the Complex's northern boundary adjacent to Richards Boulevard. An administration building is located near the southeastern corner of the Complex.

The Complex contains an internal street structure and is accessible from several points along Richards Boulevard, North 12th Street, and Dos Rios Street. Richards Boulevard is a four-lane arterial roadway with a center turn lane. North 12th Street is also an arterial roadway comprised of four lanes that are restricted to one-way travel in a southwesterly direction. North 12th Street also contains RT's light rail transit (LRT) Blue Line that is comprised of two parallel trackways positioned on the eastern side of the roadway. Dos Rios Street is a two-lane local roadway with travel provided in both directions.

## 2.4.2 Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area

The Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area is made up of six vacant parcels east of North 12th Street which are dominated primarily by disturbed grassland and ruderal vegetation. Tree of heaven is the dominant tree species within the vacant parcels. Collectively, the parcels make up a site that is roughly triangle-shaped, bounded by North 12th Street to the west, North 16th Street to the east, Sproule Avenue to the south, and Richards Boulevard to the north at the northernmost tip of the site. As noted previously, North 12th Street is an arterial roadway comprised of four lanes that are restricted to one-way travel in a southwesterly direction. North 12th Street also contains RT's light rail transit (LRT) Blue Line that is comprised of two parallel trackways positioned on the eastern side of the roadway. North 16th Street is also an arterial roadway comprised of four lanes that serves as a counterpart to North 12th Street, with travel restricted to one-way travel in a northerly direction. Sproule Avenue is a short two-lane roadway that travels in an east-west direction between North 12th Street and North 16th Street. Since none of the parcels are developed, there are no formal points of ingress or egress to the adjacent streets.

## 2.5 Land Uses in the Vicinity

Surrounding land uses in the area are generally commercial, industrial, and institutional. Uses adjacent to the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex include an indoor and outdoor vehicle and boat storage facility and a light commercial complex to the west across Dos Rios Street; similar light industrial and commercial uses to the south, including a print shop and an auto body shop; Loaves & Fishes to the southeast across North 12th Street, which is a private organization that provides services to the homeless; a used car dealership and a commercial/light industrial complex to the east; and the Smythe Academy Middle School and Dos Rios School Park to the north, separated by Richards Boulevard.

Land uses adjacent to the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area include commercial uses to the west across North 12th Street, including a restaurant supply store and automotive-related commercial retailers; the Downtown Ford dealership and a self-storage facility to the east across North 16th Street; Capital Sheet Metal to the immediate south, and a carpet store, a used car dealership, and an auto/body shop further south across Sproule Avenue, as well as the aforementioned Loaves & Fishes; and the junction of Richards Boulevard, North 12th Street, and North 16th Street to the immediate north.

## 2.6 Traffic and Circulation

### 2.6.1 Local Circulation

The Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex is served primarily by Richards Boulevard, an east-west four-lane arterial that connects I-5 to State Route (SR) 160, as well as North 12th Street and North 16th Street, which connect the RDSP area to Downtown Sacramento. North 12th and North 16th Streets are a one-way pair of four-lane roadways designated as SR-160 near the project site. Access to the Complex can also be gained using Dos Rios Street, which is a two-lane street that runs along the western side of the Complex and provides a connection to North 12th

and North B Streets to the south. A number of single-lane streets are also present within the Complex to provide internal circulation. Parking within the Complex is limited to approximately 315 dedicated parking stalls, about 40 of which are located near the Complex's management office and are reserved for community staff and visitors. Roadside parking is also available along Dos Rios Street on the western side of the complex.

The Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area is bounded to the west and east by North 12th Street and North 16th Street, respectively. The southern side of the Expansion Area is bounded by Sproule Avenue, which is a two-lane roadway that runs in an east-west direction between North 12th Street and North 16th Street. Since the Expansion Area is currently vacant, there are no dedicated driveways or access point present, nor are there any parking facilities.

## 2.6.2 Regional Circulation

Regional vehicular access to the project site is provided by the freeway system that serves the central areas of Sacramento. I-5 is accessed via Richards Boulevard one mile west of the project site and provides access to the southern and northern portions of the city and county, as well as other Central Valley communities. Business Loop Interstate 80 (Business 80), also known as the Capitol City Freeway (and SR-51 between U.S. Route 50 (US-50) and Auburn Avenue), lies approximately one mile east of the project site. Direct access to Business 80 is provided via SR-160 and the 12th Street and 16th Street crossings of the American River, about 0.25-mile north of the project area. SR-160 provides access to North Sacramento, northeastern portions of the city and county, South Natomas via Northgate Boulevard, and I-80 extending into Placer County. The east-west US-50 lies approximately 2.2 miles south of the project site. Access to US-50 is provided primarily via 15th and 16th Streets. To the east, US-50 serves eastern portions of the city and county and extends into El Dorado County. To the west, US-50 extends via the Pioneer Bridge to West Sacramento and Yolo County.

## 2.6.3 Public Transit

Bus service is provided within and near the project site by RT. Existing RT bus routes include Route 11, which runs from downtown north on North 7th Street to Richards Blvd., then west to I-5 into Natomas; Route 15, which runs along Richards Boulevard from I-5 to North 16th Street and northeast across the American River into North Sacramento; Route 33, which circulates along Sunbeam Avenue, Vine Street, Richards Boulevard and Dos Rios Street, running to the Alkali Flat neighborhood to the south; and Route 29, which runs from Downtown Sacramento to North Sacramento along North 12th Street and North 16th Street. Route 33 was created primarily to serve the Twin Rivers neighborhood in the absence of a station on the Blue Line.

RT's Blue Line light rail service passes through the project area along North 12th Street, but there is no station near the project site. The nearest stations along the Blue Line are the Globe Station approximately one mile to the north across the American River, and the Alkali Flat/La Valentina Station approximately 0.7-mile to the south near 12th Street's intersection with D Street. The nearest Green Line station, Township 9, is 0.4-mile to the west at North 7th Street and Richards Boulevard.

## 2.6.4 Bicycle Access

Several bicycle pathways and lanes are present in the project vicinity. The American River Bike Trail is a Class I bikeway that provides access to adjacent areas of Sacramento, including the Sacramento River and downtown Sacramento to the west and eastern Sacramento and Sacramento County to the east. The American River Bike Trail lies north of the project site along the American River levee, and is accessible from the intersection of Richards Boulevard and North 12th Street. Class II bike lanes are also provided along both sides of Richards Boulevard north of the project site. Dos Rios Street is classified by the City as a bike route, but no dedicated bike lanes are provided along the roadway in the vicinity of the project site (City of Sacramento, 2015b).

## 2.7 Alternative 1 – No Project Alternative

Under Alternative 1, the project would not be constructed. Replacement housing at the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex would not be constructed, and the existing units would remain in use. Additional housing at the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area east of North 12th Street would also not be constructed, and the currently vacant parcels would remain in their current condition or made available for development by other parties. A new light rail station would not be constructed on North 12th Street. The entire area would remain in its present condition, subject to the land use and zoning designations currently in place.

## 2.8 Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project

Alternative 2 (proposed project) would construct and operate the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project. **Figure 2-4** shows a plan view of the proposed project. There are three main development components to this alternative: 1) the redeveloped and expanded Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex west of North 12th Street; 2) the new Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area east of North 12th Street (Block “F” in Figure 2-4); and 3) the new Dos Rios Light Rail Station on the eastern side of North 12th Street, adjacent to the Expansion Area.

The proposed project would develop a mixed-income, mixed-use community comprising 218 replacement public housing units, 281 new market-rate rental Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units, a realigned internal street network, green open space, and other community amenities on two noncontiguous but proximate properties totaling approximately 24.2 acres. The project would also include the construction of the proposed RT Dos Rios Light Rail Station on North 12th Street on the RT light rail transit (LRT) Blue Line, including realigning light rail tracks to accommodate the proposed station, extending light rail signal blocks, and adding a traction power substation. Other project elements would include appropriate utility improvements to meet the needs the project. Each of these elements is described in detail below.

**UNIT COUNT BY TYPE**

Block	Area (Acres)	3BR L/W	3BR TH	1BR	2BR	3BR	4BR	Total	DU/Acre	Parking
A	2.92		17	36	49	1	1	104	35.6	77
B	1.66		6	24	31	4	1	66	39.8	50
C	2.75		12	27	33	6	3	81	29.5	64
D	3.25	4	6	30	41	4	2	87	26.8	82
E	1.15		3	24	32	2	1	62	53.9	47
L	2.68		15	57	27			99	36.9	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.41</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>420</b>
		0.8%	11.8%	39.7%	42.7%	3.4%	1.6%			



**Existing Street Grid**  
Large blocks inhibit north-south and east-west movement through the study area

SMYTHE ACADEMY SCHOOL SITE

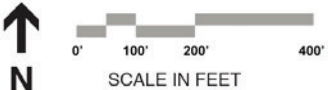
Richards Boulevard

Vine Street

TO INTERSTATE 5

**Legend**

- 2-Story 3-Bedroom Townhouse
- 3-Story Garden Apartment Building
- 3-Story Multi-Family Apartment Building
- 4-Story Multi-Family Apartment Building
- 4-Story Multi-Family Apartment Building with Non-Residential Ground Floor
- 3-Story 3-Bedroom Live/Work Unit
- Parking



Dos Rios Street

Street W

North 12th Street

Light Rail Station

Sproule Avenue

North 16th Street

TO DOWNTOWN SACRAMENTO



## 2.8.1 Redeveloped and Expanded Twin Rivers Community Housing

### Housing

The proposed project would utilize both the 21-acre sub-area that is currently occupied by the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and the currently vacant 3.2-acre Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion subarea across North 12th Street to construct a range of residential unit sizes and types. The units would include multi-story townhouses, garden apartments, live/work units, and multi-family apartment buildings. The existing 218 housing units on the Complex would be demolished and replaced with approximately 400 new housing units. Approximately 99 housing units would be constructed in the Expansion Area, for a total in both areas of approximately 499 units, providing a net increase of 281 housing units. **Table 2-3** lists the unit types and unit specifications for the proposed project. Each residential unit type would contain a mix of public housing, affordable, and market-rate units.

**TABLE 2-3  
PROPOSED UNIT TYPES**

Unit Type	Bedroom Size	Number of Units
Townhouse	3-Bedroom	59
Multi-Family Apartments	1-Bedroom	198
	2-Bedroom	213
	3-Bedroom	17
	4-Bedroom	8
Live/Work	3-Bedroom	4
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>499</b>

**Figure 2-5** shows the proposed building heights within the project area. **Figure 2-6** shows an architectural rendering of the project site when viewed from the existing Complex's main entrance leading from North 12th Street.

Residential unit designs would include multiple energy efficiency and water conservation features, including high-efficiency water fixtures and toilets; high-efficiency glazing, insulation, and sealing; and Energy-Star rated appliances, including central heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) system. All of these features would be part of the overarching goal for the project to attain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, which combines energy-efficiency measures similar to those described above with New Urbanist principles such as neighborhood connectivity, smart locations, neighborhood design, and access to jobs, quality schools, quality services, and retail.





SOURCE: Torti Gallas and Partners • McCormack Baron Salazar, 2015

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**Figure 2-6**  
Conceptual Street Rendering



## Street Alignments

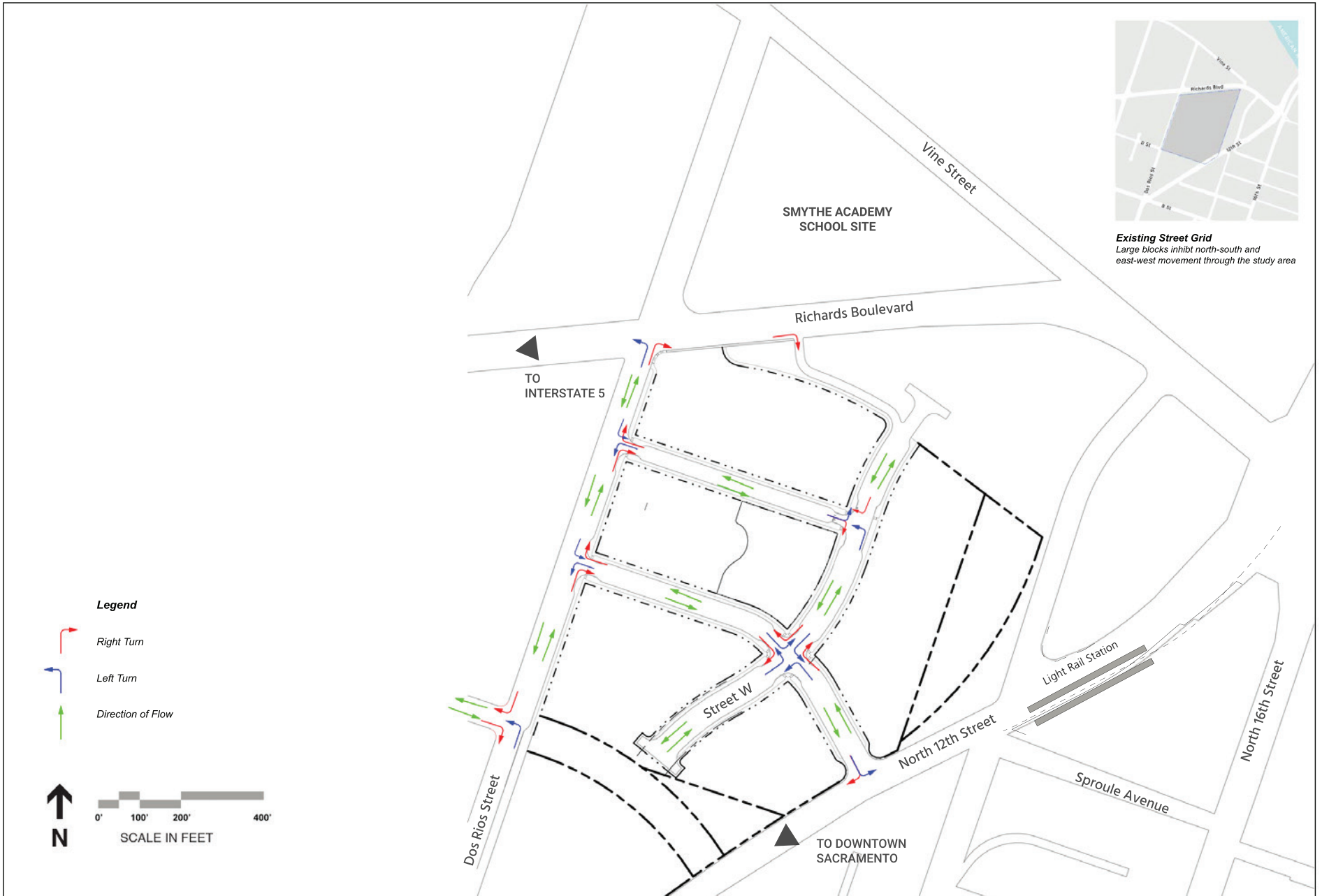
### *Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex*

Within the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, the proposed project would realign existing streets to facilitate mobility, accessibility, access, development, and continuity with the projected buildout of the RDSP. Proposed turning movements into and out of the project site are shown in **Figure 2-7**. The altered street alignment within the Complex would complement the planned partial realignment of Richards Boulevard, which is not a part of this project but is discussed in more detail below. The proposed project would eliminate neighborhood feeder streets within the existing Complex to make way for new street alignments and alter the shape of residential blocks. Figure 2-4 shows the proposed street layout. Roadways within the Complex area would have the following configurations:

- “Street W” on the site plan would serve as the main roadway within the Complex, and would contain a landscaped median/center turn lane, one traffic lane in each direction, one bicycle lane in each direction, parking lanes, sidewalks and landscape planters along both sides of the roadway, for a total right-of-way (ROW) width of 90 feet.
- The principal entry street would enter the Complex from North 12th Street and pass through the Complex to the existing Dos Rios Street on to the west of the Complex. This roadway would consist of two different street sections. The portion of C Street between W Street and 12th Street would contain a landscaped median/center turn lane, one traffic lane in each direction, one bicycle lane in each direction, parking lanes, sidewalks and landscape planters along both sides of the roadway, for a total ROW width of 90 feet. The portion of C Street between Dos Rios Street and W Street would contain one traffic lane in each direction, one bike lane in each direction, parking lanes, sidewalks and landscape planters along both sides of the roadway, for a total ROW width of 78 feet,
- One additional internal street, comprised of one traffic lane in each direction, parking lanes, sidewalks and landscape planters along both sides of the roadway, for a total ROW width of 68 feet.

Approximately 420 parking spaces would be included as part of the project within the reconfigured Complex. These would be provided through a combination of dedicated parking stalls and on-street parking, for a net increase of approximately 105 spaces above the 315 that are currently available within the Complex.

As mentioned above, the RDSP projected that several streets within the RDSP planning area would eventually be realigned and/or improved to accommodate future buildout and provide more effective circulation. With respect to the proposed project, these planned realignments include realignment of Richards Boulevard in the northern portion of the project site. While not part of the proposed project, this eventual realignment is shown in Figure 2-4 for reference. Richards Boulevard would be realigned to intersect North 12th Street and connect with North 16th Street south of the existing intersections for both roadways.



The realignment of Richards Boulevard would be developed as a separate project at a later time and is not a part of the proposed project. However, the proposed project would preserve the ROW for the eventual full construction of this planned-for RDSP circulation improvements.

Other planned roadway improvements in the project area include the reconfiguration of North 12th Street to include a dedicated bikeway. The City is currently in the design stage for the North 12th Street Complete Streets Project, which will add the bikeway and ancillary improvements to North 12th Street between the American River Bridge near Richards Boulevard to the north and H Street to the south, and reduce a portion of North 12th Street from 4 vehicular lanes to 3 (City of Sacramento, 2015c). Construction of improved sidewalks along the eastern side of North 12th Street between Richards Boulevard and North B Street is currently being planned as part of a separate project. While these two projects are not a part of the proposed project, extensive coordination between the various implementing parties is ongoing to ensure that the proposed project would not interfere with the other projects currently underway or planned in the area.

### ***Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area***

With respect to the proposed Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area east of 12th Street (Block “F” in Figure 2-4), new driveways from Sproule Avenue and North 16th Street would be constructed to provide access to the Expansion Area. Approximately 114 parking spaces would be provided to serve the 110 housing units planned for the area.

## **Landscaping and Open Space/Recreation Areas**

**Figure 2-8** shows the conceptual landscaping plan for the proposed project. Several open space and recreation areas would be constructed in the reconfigured Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex area, including a 1.15-acre park area in the center of the Complex, as well as a pool and amenity space in the northern portion of the Complex and several small parklets/tot-lots in other areas of the site. A child care center would be located in the northeastern portion of the Complex area and would have its own playground.

All roadways within the Complex would be lined with trees and supplemented by shrubs and other vegetation to provide a complete landscaped effect. Parking areas would also be interspersed with trees. Similar landscape treatments would be applied in the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area across North 12th Street.

Of the existing 130 trees in the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex area, approximately 100 would be removed. These trees would be replaced with a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees.

Exterior lighting on both the existing Complex and in the Expansion Area sites would consist of street lighting as well as security and building lighting at appropriate locations. All lighting would comply with City of Sacramento exterior lighting standards.



## Utilities

### ***Domestic and Irrigation Water Supply***

Water supply for the proposed project would be provided by existing water supply infrastructure. The City currently has three water transmission mains (pipes larger than 12 inches) that serve the RDSP area. The proposed project is anticipated to access water supply from existing ancillary water pipes that draw water from a 36-inch main in North B Street and 42-inch main in 18th Street. Proposed domestic water and irrigation water services would be metered services protected with City-approved backflow devices in accordance with City of Sacramento cross control policies. Fire water services would also be protected with approved backflow devices, but would not be metered. The fire water system would be a looped system, with multiple points of connection to the City's public water main system to increase on-site fire supply and pressure.

### ***Stormwater and Sewer Systems***

The existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex is currently served by the Combined Storm-Sewer System (CSS). The CSS is an underground pipe network system that conveys both storm drain flows and sanitary sewer flows through a single pipe. The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) provides wastewater collection and treatment for the project site. Wastewater is conveyed to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plan (SRWTP). The proposed project improvements would re-direct the project storm water runoff from the CSS into the separated storm drain system adjacent the project site. The project sanitary sewer flows will continue to be directed into the CSS adjacent the project site.

The proposed Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area east of North 12th Street is located within the City's CSS. Existing CSS mainlines are located within Sproule Avenue and North 16th Street, ranging in size from 8-inch to 15-inch diameter pipes. Within the CSS, the City standards require on-site sanitary sewer and on-site storm drain systems to be separated, with separate service connections to the City CSS mainlines. Although exact service locations of the proposed storm and sewer services have not been determined, it is assumed the proposed project storm drain and sanitary sewer services would be provided from the existing CSS mainlines located within Sproule Avenue and North 16th Street.

The City requires all infill developments to comply with the City's "Do No Harm" policy, which requires that all existing affected drainage systems function as well, or better, as a result of the new construction, and that there is no increase in flooding or in water surface elevation with negative impacts to individuals, streets, structures, infrastructure, or property. In order to comply with this standard, underground storage facilities through the use of oversized pipes, storm vaults, or similar methods, would be incorporated into the project design. A storm drain study would be submitted to the City Department of Utilities demonstrating compliance with the City's "Do No Harm" policy at time of improvement plan review. Because all flows within the CSS are diverted to the County sewer treatment facilities, the portion of the site located within the CSS system would not be required to provide post-construction stormwater quality treatment. However, the portion of the project site located outside of the CSS (Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex) would provide post construction stormwater quality treatment in accordance with

current City requirements. Post construction treatment methods may include stormwater planters, vegetated swales, subsurface infiltration methods, and possibly underground mechanical systems.

## Dos Rios Light Rail Station

The proposed Dos Rios Light Rail Station would add a stop on RT's Blue Line, which runs from Watt Avenue and I-80 in North Sacramento to its southerly terminus at Cosumnes River College located on the southern edge of Sacramento. The Dos Rios Light Rail Station would be located on the east side of North 12th Street, north of Sproule Avenue, adjacent to the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area.

### Station and Tracks

The proposed layout of the light rail station and associated trackwork is shown in **Figure 2-9**. The addition of the station would require realignment of the existing light rail tracks along North 12th Street and site preparation to include demolition, grading, filling and compacting of the station site. The station would consist of raised platforms that allow for safe entry and exit to and from light rail cars for both north and southbound rail lines. The existing track configuration would be shifted east to create space for the platform between the tracks and North 12th Street. Space between the north and southbound tracks would be widened on the approaches to the station to accommodate Overhead Catenary System (OCS) poles that support the overhead electrical conductors.

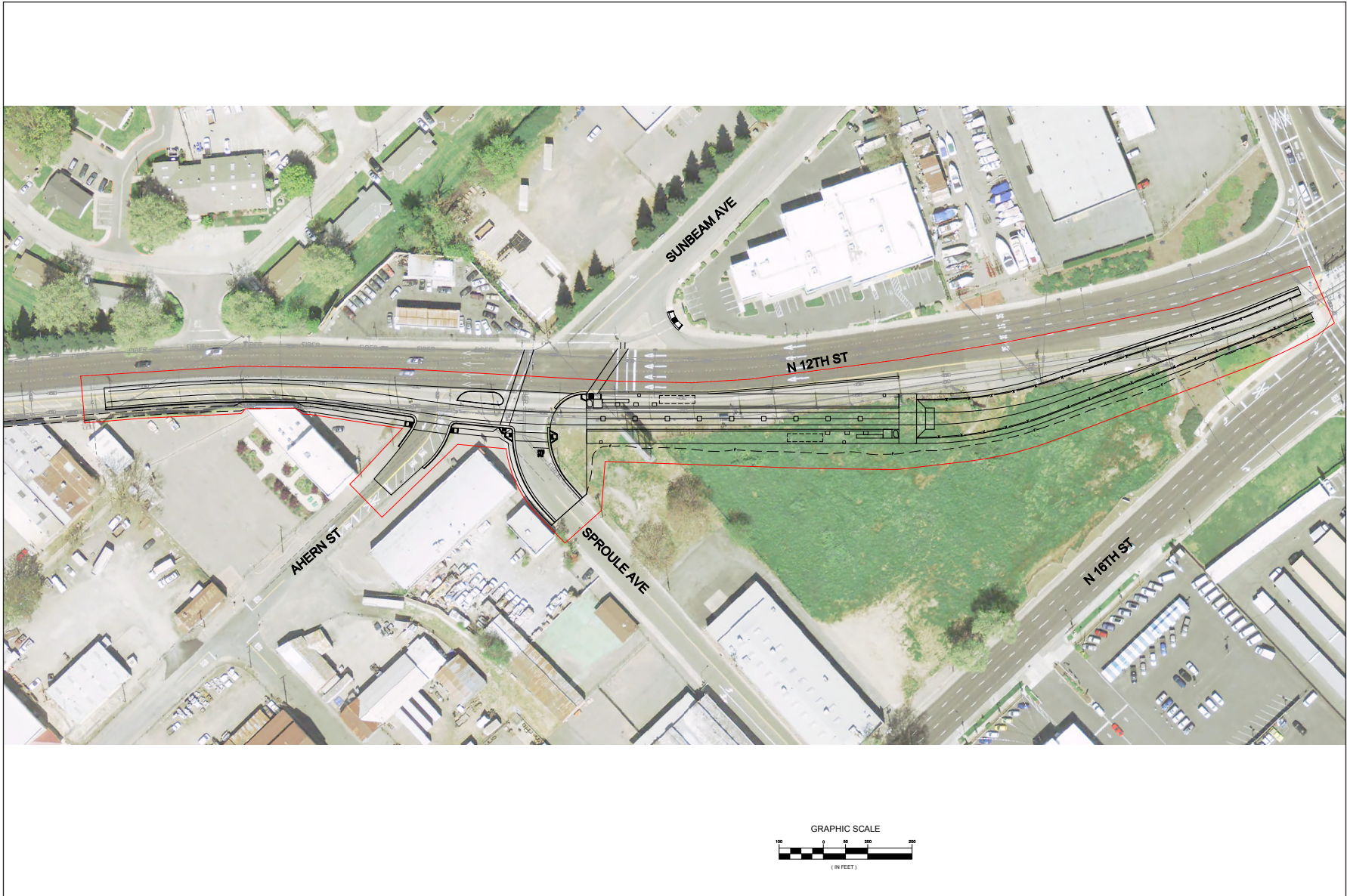
Realignment of the tracks would require acquisition of additional ROW for RT. Two private property parcels would be affected, one on either side of where Ahern Street meets North 12th Street. **Figure 2-10** shows the locations of these two parcels and the amount of property that would be required to facilitate realignment of the RT tracks. Both acquisition areas are currently utilized for parking for the adjoining businesses. **Table 2-4** shows the characteristics of the partial acquisition parcels.

**TABLE 2-4**  
**PARTIAL ACQUISITION PARCEL CHARACTERISTICS**

Assessor's Parcel Number	Total Size of Parcel (sq ft)	Portion of Parcel to be Acquired	Percentage of Parcel to be Acquired
001-0103-027	179,467	1,306	1%
001-0141-001	16,458	167	1%

SOURCE: RT, 2016

As shown in Table 2-4 and in Figure 2-10, acquisition of a small portion of each parcel would be required, and no full property acquisitions would be needed. Federal and State laws govern the taking of private property, and include requirements for just compensation and other assistance measures. Accordingly, the acquisition of property would occur in accordance with the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and Amendments (Public Law 91-646) and the California Relocation Act (California Government



SOURCE: Kimley Horn

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**Figure 2-9**  
Dos Rios LRT Station Plan





Code, Chapter 16, Section 7260 *et. seq.*) and related laws and regulations. The acquisition process that would be implemented for this project is explained in detail in Section 3.9 of this IS/EA, Land Use, Population and Housing, and Socio-Economics.

Landscaping would also be added to the station area as appropriate, consistent with River District Design Guidelines (City of Sacramento, 2016a).

### ***Off-Site Switch Replacement and Signals***

South of the proposed station site, there is a crossover that connects the western (inbound, or southbound) and eastern (outbound, or northbound) tracks on North 12th Street, between C and D Streets. The crossover allows trains to use the eastern track for travel in both directions between Richards Boulevard and the Alkali Flat Station (located on 12th Street, between D and E Streets), but currently the crossover is used for emergency purposes only and requires light rail personnel to manually operate the switch. The proposed project would add a powered switch machine, which would be required since the proposed track realignment construction phasing would require trains to operate on a single track through the Dos Rios Station area during portions of the construction. Addition of a powered switch machine would minimize the operating cost of diverting trains to the opposite track. The powered switch machine would be embedded in the pavement similar to the existing manual switch.

The turnouts would be controlled from track circuits and onboard equipment, and not from a central location. A new signal case would be required to house control equipment and interfaces, and would appear similar to similar cases typically used for traffic signal equipment. Railway approach circuits would be added for normal direction of rail traffic. New train signals would be added at appropriate locations.

Where signalized roadway intersections exist in close proximity to a railroad crossing, the railroad signal control equipment and the traffic signal control equipment should be interconnected. The normal operation of the traffic signals controlling the intersection should be preempted to operate in a special control mode when trains are approaching to provide for safe vehicular and pedestrian movements (Institute of Transportation Engineers, 2006). Existing signal blocks to the north and south of the proposed station would require modifications to their timing and logic functions to accommodate the new station. These blocks are controlled by an existing relay case, located to the north of the American River Bridge and another, located at the northeast corner of 12th Street and D Street. The project would add an instrument house at Dos Rios Station and would also modify traffic signal interfaces (pre-emption) between the American River and 12th and E Streets to accommodate dwell time for the new station. The instrument house would have a footprint of approximately 10 feet by 14 feet and would be about 9 feet in height.

### ***Traction Power Substation***

Traction power substations (TPSS) are spaced at calculated distances along electrified light rail trackways to allow for power redundancy. Existing TPSS facilities along this section of the Blue Line are located to the south and north of the proposed Dos Rios Station site, but are not optimally situated to provide the required power distribution needed to operate the line following the addition of the new station. As such, a new TPSS would be required in the vicinity of the new station.

TPSS facilities must be located no more than 400 feet from the tracks and the associated OCS poles. Three options are under consideration for placement of the new TPSS:

- Option 1, on City-owned land in the triangular-shaped parcel at the intersection of North 12th Street, North 16th Street, and Richards Boulevard, immediately north of the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area. This option would require RT to acquire the site from the City.
- Option 2, in the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area in the area shown as Block “F” in Figure 2-4. This parcel is currently privately-held, but would be acquired as part of the development of the Expansion Area.
- Option 3, on the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, adjacent to North 12th Street near the existing entrance to the housing complex at the intersection of Sitka Street and North 12th Street.

Regardless of location, the new TPSS would consist of a prefabricated building measuring 14 feet in width, 44 feet in length, and 12 feet in height located within a fenced area approximately 40-feet by 60-feet in size. Maintenance vehicle access would be provided by a 12-foot-wide vehicle gate and a 3-foot-wide personnel gate. Besides the prefabricated building, the fenced area would also include a 12-foot by 25-foot paved vehicle apron between the adjacent public roadway and the gate. Landscaped screening would be provided around the facility.

### ***Electricity, Communications, and Natural Gas***

There are existing overhead high voltage Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) distribution lines along the east side of North 12th Street that would be in conflict with the revised track realignment. The RDSP calls for these overhead lines to be placed underground. SMUD has indicated that these are radial lines, which are not SMUD’s preferred distribution configuration since they feed customers from a single point. SMUD proposes to reroute this overhead line segment via other streets to create an underground loop configuration, which would allow for more service redundancy. The SMUD line undergrounding would be paid for through existing undergrounding commitments between SMUD and City of Sacramento.

Existing City of Sacramento fiber optic traffic signal interconnects exist along North 12th Street. The City fiber optic lines would be rerouted away from the light rail tracks.

Existing PG&E 6” and 8” natural gas distribution pipes cross the light rail tracks at Sproule Avenue. These pipes would be sleeved where the tracks get realigned.

## **Project Construction**

### ***Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and Expansion Area***

The redevelopment of the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and construction of the Expansion Area housing east of North 12th Street would take approximately seven years, beginning in 2018 with anticipated project completion in 2025. Property acquisition, infrastructure availability, market conditions, demolition, and the timing of the new Dos Rios light rail station construction would have an effect on the phasing of physical development of the housing facilities.

In the Expansion Area, the civil, track and systems (signaling, communications, and overhead contact system) work would be completed prior to the construction of the adjacent housing. This would be done to avoid nighttime noise and other construction-related effects on residents that could arise if housing were to be constructed and occupied prior to the station's construction. Construction within the existing Housing Complex, and construction of the light rail station platform proper, would not be subject to these constraints, and could be constructed at any time.

The proposed phasing plan is shown in **Figure 2-11**. The project would be constructed in phases to meet market conditions and also to potentially facilitate efficient relocation of residents from existing units into new replacement housing as the existing units are demolished. The phasing would involve sequential steps as new housing is constructed, residents are moved into the new units, and the older vacated units are demolished, with the process repeating itself until the project is complete. Some residents may need to be moved to off-site housing during certain phases of construction.

A detailed Relocation Plan would be developed to maximize the options available to residents. These options could include temporary and/or permanent relocation with housing choice vouchers, relocation to other public housing units, and/or the phased demolition and development described previously that would allow residents to move from their current unit to a new unit within the Complex. All relocations would be required to occur in accordance with the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and Amendments (Public Law 91-646) and the California Relocation Act (California Government Code, Chapter 16, Section 7260 *et. seq.*) and related laws and regulations.

Physical construction of the housing units would occur in typical fashion, with demolition occurring first, followed by site preparation and grading, construction of roadways and utility improvements, and then construction of the housing units. Construction of the housing units would begin with the pouring of foundations, followed by framing and installation of rough electrical, plumbing, and HVAC components. Interior and exterior walls would be finished, followed by final fitting out of interior components and exterior landscaping.

### ***Dos Rios Light Rail Station***

Construction of the station and associated light rail modifications would take approximately 18 months for infrastructure work and 12 months for construction of the station proper. Some night work would likely be required to avoid disruption to existing light rail service and also to avoid traffic conflicts along North 12th Street. The civil, track, and systems (signaling, communications, and overhead contact system) work would be completed prior to the construction of the adjacent housing in the Expansion Area. This would be done to avoid nighttime noise and other construction-related impacts to residents that could arise if housing were to be constructed and occupied prior to the station's construction.

Construction of the station would require the temporary closure of Sproule Avenue and Ahern Street at North 12th Street to accommodate construction of the widened track alignment. Construction would generally occur in four phases: 1) utility relocation and streetwork; 2) track realignment and signal modifications; 3) station construction; and 4) TPSS placement.



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**Figure 2-11**  
Proposed Phasing Plan

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# **CHAPTER 3.0**

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## **Environmental Analysis**

### **Introduction**

This section provides an overview of the organization and methods of the environmental analysis included in this IS/EA.

### **Organization of the Analysis**

The subsections in Chapter 3 are organized by environmental resource area. Thirteen separate resource areas are presented in these subsections, plus an additional section that briefly describes issues that were not subjected to detailed evaluation. For each environmental resource area, the analysis follows the presentation and organization described below.

#### **Introduction**

The introduction provides an overview of the resource area and the issues that are discussed in the subsection.

#### **Environmental Setting**

This section describes the existing conditions for the resource area under discussion. The environmental setting provides a point of reference for assessing the environmental effects of the project alternatives. The environmental setting discussion addresses the conditions that exist prior to implementation of the project alternatives and establishes the baseline by which the project alternatives are measured for environmental impacts.

#### **Applicable Policies and Regulations**

This section presents relevant information about federal, state, regional, and/or local laws, regulations, plans, or policies that pertain to the environmental resources addressed in each section.

#### **Summary of Analysis Under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR**

This section provides an overview of the analysis contained within City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan Master EIR and the City's River District Specific Plan EIR. Future development on

the project site is considered in both of these documents, and both documents provide important information concerning the setting in and around the project site and the anticipated effects of implementing the project pursuant to those two plans. CEQA Guidelines Sections 15175 through 15179.5 describe the process for evaluating subsequent projects that have already been considered in a Master EIR. Similarly, CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15384 allow for “tiered” evaluation of projects whereby they are assessed within the context of the findings that were presented in a previously certified Program EIR. For the proposed project, this section describes the findings of the two previous EIRs, and also discusses any mitigation measures or policies that were adopted that would apply to the project.

## Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

This section evaluates the project-specific and cumulative environmental effects that could occur with construction and operation of the project alternatives and, where applicable, identifies mitigation measures to avoid or minimize adverse effects. The major elements of this discussion are described below.

### **Standards of Significance and Evaluation Criteria**

The “standards of significance” describe the criteria by which an environmental impact is determined to be significant and therefore in need of mitigation to avoid or minimize the impact. These criteria are largely based on the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.), which generally describe circumstances when impacts would be considered significant. However, since this IS/EA is a combined CEQA and NEPA document, and since CEQA and NEPA use the term “significant” differently, consideration is also given to the definition of significance that is appropriate for NEPA evaluation. “Evaluation Criteria” are listed for specific areas of interest to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as listed in their NEPA regulations or NEPA guidance documents. Similar criteria, if any, are also listed for other federal agencies with a potential interest in the project, such as the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Where possible, significance criteria are based on federal, state, or local standards. For example, air quality significance criteria, or thresholds, are based on the state, federal, or local ambient air quality standards. In other cases, such as visual resources, the significance criteria are based on standards provided in CEQA and NEPA guidance documents or other established professional standards. In cases where there are overlapping federal, state, local regulations or standards of significance, this IS/EA evaluates environmental effects against the most stringent of the applicable regulations or significance criteria.

### **Environmental Analysis**

The environmental analysis describes the effects of the alternatives on existing conditions, and also compares effects of each of the two project alternatives. Whenever possible, the impacts are quantified so that the effects of the alternatives can be compared.

Effects can generally be thought of as the change from existing conditions. Since this IS/EA serves as a combined CEQA/NEPA document, below is a description of how effects are discussed in this document for both CEQA and NEPA.

This IS/EA employs both qualitative and quantitative significance thresholds to evaluate environmental effects. Some environmental topic areas, such as air quality and noise, lend themselves to scientific or mathematical analysis and, therefore, to quantification. For other impact categories that are more qualitative, such as aesthetics or cultural resources, a quantitative threshold is not generally feasible. In these cases, the definition of significant effects from the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15382), “a substantial adverse change in physical conditions,” has been applied as the significance criterion.

For CEQA, effects are classified as “significant,” “potentially significant,” “less than significant,” “no impact,” and “beneficial.” These five impact levels are defined as follows:

- **Significant impacts** include effects that would exceed the established standard of significance. For example, air emissions that would exceed federal ambient air quality standards, or unauthorized take of a rare or endangered species would be a significant impact.
- **Potentially significant impacts** include effects where a significant impact may occur depending on the timing or conditions present at the time of construction or operation, but depending on unknown factors it is not evident whether a significant impact would occur. The analysis in these instances conservatively assesses the worst-case conditions, but the discussion acknowledges that there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood or severity of the impact.
- **Less-than-significant impacts** include effects that would not exceed the standards of significance. For example, if an area has been determined to be adjacent to habitat for a sensitive species, but if the project would not directly or indirectly impact that species, then the effect would be considered less than significant. Similarly, if the ambient noise levels would increase because of project operations, but the noise levels would not exceed City, HUD, or FTA criteria for a specified level of impact, the effect would be considered less than significant.
- **No impact** includes a condition when the project alternative would clearly not result in any effect on an environmental resource. For example, if there are no agricultural uses on or adjacent to the project site, the project would result in no impacts to agricultural resources.
- **Beneficial** effects include effects that enhance or improve an existing condition, such as conversion of a vacant urban lot to a modern residential facility.

The determination of a significant impact under NEPA is a function of context and intensity. Context means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts, such as society as a whole (e.g., human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant. Intensity refers to the severity of impact. To determine significance, the severity of the impact must be examined in terms of the type, quality, and sensitivity of the resource involved; the location of the proposed project; the duration of the effect (i.e., short- or long-term), and other considerations of context.



For NEPA, HUD’s guidance lists the following impact determinations:

- **Beneficial effect;**
- **No impact anticipated;**
- **No adverse effect;**
- **Significant or potentially significant** requiring avoidance or modification which may require an EIS.

## Mitigation Measures

For each impact identified as being significant under CEQA or minor adverse/significant under NEPA, this IS/EA identifies mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or eliminate the negative effect for each of the alternatives. The discussion indicates whether the mitigation measures individually or collectively avoid or minimize the effect to a less-than-significant level. If the mitigation measures would not successfully minimize the effects to a less-than-significant level, the impacts are classified as “significant and unavoidable” for the purposes of CEQA and “unavoidable and adverse” for the purposes of NEPA. Based on regulations contained within the CEQA Guidelines and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Regulations, such a finding would necessitate preparation of an EIR for the purposes of CEQA and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the purposes of NEPA.

## Enumeration of Impacts

Topical issue areas are presented in alphabetical order in this document. For each topical issue, each impact is numbered using an alpha-numerical system that identifies the environmental issue and corresponds with the standards of significance that have been previously described. For example, “*AES-1. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*” denotes the first impact discussion in the Aesthetics and Visual Resources section. The letter codes used to identify the environmental issues discussed in this document are identified below.

- AES – Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- AQ – Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- BR – Biological Resources
- CR – Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- EJ – Environmental Justice
- GEO – Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources
- HAZ – Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- HYD – Hydrology and Water Quality
- LU – Land Use, Population and Housing, and Socioeconomics
- NV – Noise and Vibration
- PS – Public Services and Recreation
- TRA – Transportation and Circulation
- UT – Utilities and Service Systems

## 3.1 Aesthetics and Visual Resources

### 3.1.1 Introduction

Aesthetic or visual resources are generally defined as both the natural and built features of the landscape that contribute to the public's experience and appreciation of the environment. Depending on the extent to which a project would alter the perceived visual character and quality of the environment, an aesthetic or visual impact could occur. This IS/EA section evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with light and glare, as well as impacts to existing visual resources as defined in the discussion of applicable standards of significance and evaluation criteria below. This analysis of potential visual effects is based on review of a variety of data, including project maps and drawings, aerial and ground-level photographs of the project area, a site visit to the project area, and other data in the record, including local planning documents. The study area for visual resources encompasses the landscapes directly affected by the proposed project and the surrounding areas from which the project would be visible. The visual analysis focuses on travel route views and views from parks and recreational areas. Visual resources consist of the landforms, vegetation, rock and water features, and cultural modifications that create the visual character and sensitivity of a landscape.

### 3.1.2 Environmental Setting

#### Existing Visual Conditions

##### *Regional and Local Setting*

The detailed Environmental Setting for the City of Sacramento is provided in the Background Report to the 2035 General Plan EIR. As described in the report, Sacramento is frequently referred to as the "City of Trees" due to the abundance of trees throughout the City.

The City is located at the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers. These river corridors create two of the primary natural scenic resources of the City. The Sacramento River is situated in a north/south direction, and serves as the western boundary for much of the City. The American River flows eastward through the City and meets the Sacramento River near the City's western boundary. The American River Parkway, an open space greenbelt/riparian corridor, extends 29 miles from the confluence of the Sacramento River east to Folsom Dam. The two rivers provide recreational opportunities, create a permanent visual break in the pattern of urban development, and provide scenic contrast and interest in the city.

The average elevation in the Central City portion of Sacramento is approximately 25 feet above sea level. The City of Sacramento's downtown is distinguished by high-rise towers, a few of which are more 400 feet in height and are visible from many locations around the City. Besides the towers, other noteworthy buildings in downtown Sacramento also include the California State Capitol and Sutter's Fort located in downtown and midtown Sacramento, respectively. Historic buildings also make up an important component of the built environment and are located mostly within the Central City.

### ***Project Site***

As described in Chapter 2.0, Alternatives, the 24.2 acre project site is comprised of two areas separated from one another by North 12th Street. To the west of North 12th Street is the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, and to the east of North 12th Street is the currently vacant Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex Expansion Area.

Primarily built in the 1940s, the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex is generally characterized by public housing units in one- and two-story multi-family structures separated by internal streets that provide access to the residences. The Complex is landscaped with turf and ornamental trees and shrubs, including magnolia, cypress, and London plane. Two small playgrounds are located near the central portion of the Complex, and a basketball court is located at the Complex's northern boundary adjacent to Richards Boulevard. For the most part, the Complex presents a typical urban residential visual setting that is somewhat similar to that which would be experienced in an older apartment Complex dating from the same period. Representative photos taken within the Complex are provided in **Figure 3.1-1**.

The Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex Expansion Area east of North 12th Street is currently vacant and is generally dominated by disturbed grassland and ruderal vegetation. Tree of heaven is the dominant tree species within the vacant parcels. The area presents a visual appearance that is typical of an urban vacant lot, with generally untended vegetation and occasional debris. Representative photos of the Expansion Area are provided in **Figure 3.1-2**.

### ***Areas Surrounding the Project Site***

The project site is located within the River District Specific Plan (RDSP) area, which is north of the downtown Sacramento Central City area. The RDSP can be characterized as highly urbanized, with an emphasis on commercial and light industrial uses. According to the Design Guidelines for the RDSP, the area surrounding the project site is “eclectic in its existing uses and mixture of building sizes, ranging from two-unit dwellings in a suburban setting, to large warehouses and trucking companies requiring large paved surfaces for deliveries of goods.” Landscaping throughout the area is sparse, and generally consists of occasional ornamental trees adjacent to roadways, but minimal landscaping within the interior of nearby parcels. The existing Twin Rivers Community Complex is a residential island that is surrounded by commercial and light industrial uses. These uses are typically housed in large warehouse-type structures that are surrounded by expansive parking and outside storage areas. Many of these uses are automotive or trucking in nature, such as Downtown Ford to the east of the Expansion Area, or the Valet Indoor RV and Self-Storage facility immediately west of the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex. As a result of these types of uses, large parking areas and parked vehicles are prominent features in the area's visual setting. **Figure 3.1-3** presents representative photos of the area surrounding the project site.

### ***Existing Lighting***

Existing nighttime lighting in the vicinity primarily consists of street lighting along North 12th Street, Richards Boulevard, and Dos Rios Street, as well as security lighting for the surrounding businesses.



Typical view of internal streetscape within the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, showing one-story housing units.



Typical view of internal streetscape within the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, showing two-story housing units.

SOURCE: ESA

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 3.1-1**  
Representative Photos of the Existing  
Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex



Overview of Expansion Area parcel, looking south.



View of Expansion Area and proposed Dos Rios LRT Station site, looking north from corner of North 12th Street and Sproule Avenue.

SOURCE: ESA

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 3.1-2**  
Representative Photos of the Twin Rivers  
Community Housing Expansion Area



View looking north along North 12th Street, as viewed from existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex main entrance.



View looking north on Dos Rios Street, with existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex on the right, and warehouse-style buildings on the left.

SOURCE: ESA

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 3.1-3**  
Representative Photos of the Project Vicinity

## **Scenic Vistas/Corridors and Scenic Resources**

### ***Scenic Resources***

The American River lies approximately 900 feet from the northern boundary of the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and approximately 700 feet from the northern boundary of the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area. The American River is identified as a scenic resource in the City's 2035 General Plan (City of Sacramento, 2015). In addition, the American River (Lower) was included as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1981. Rivers can be designated as Wild River Areas, Scenic River Areas, or Recreational River Areas. The portion of the American River near the project area is designated as a Recreational River Area. Areas so designated are defined as rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past [16 USC 1273(a)(b)(3)].

Intervening land uses between the project site and the American River include major arterial roadways (Richards Boulevard, North 12th Street, and North 16th Street), large industrial and commercial buildings on multi-acre lots, and associated urban development such as streetlights and above-ground power lines. Due to the flat nature of the surrounding terrain, the intervening land uses, and the river's adjoining levee, the river is not visible from the project site, nor is the project area visible from the river or its adjoining banks.

### ***Scenic Highways***

There are no designated State Scenic Highways in the vicinity of the project site. The nearest such highway is State Route (SR) 160, with the nearest designated portion lying approximately 9 miles to the south of the project site.

### ***Gateways to Downtown***

Historical gateways into the City of Sacramento have been largely obscured by the network of freeways that now dominate the landscape. The sole northern gateway along SR 160/North 12th Street is more intentional in its layout as an entry than typical freeway offramps and has the benefit of the American River as a gateway element. Upon crossing the river going southbound, SR 160 provides a view of the buildings in downtown Sacramento. At Richards Boulevard SR 160 becomes North 12th Street, and the view of the Central City becomes obstructed by intervening buildings and is no longer visible. The entry experience is compromised by the intervening industrial area and the railroad underpass near the northern boundary of the Central City. At the intersection of Richards Boulevard and North 12th Street, about 700 feet south of the American River crossing, the triangular Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area is visible as a vacant lot adjacent to the light rail line. Billboards and other signage are also prominent along this portion of North 12th Street. Commercial and industrial buildings adjacent to the roadway are typically fronted by paved parking areas and parked vehicles, with minimal landscaping. A consistent architectural theme is not present along the North 12th Street corridor.

### 3.1.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations

#### **Wild and Scenic Rivers Act**

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 USC 1271-1287) established a method for providing federal protection for certain free-flowing rivers, preserving them and their immediate environments for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Eligible rivers can be designated as Wild River Areas, Scenic River Areas, or Recreational River Areas. The American River is designated as a Recreational River from the confluence with the Sacramento River to Nimbus Dam, located just east of the city. Recreational River Areas are “[t]hose rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.”

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, under Section 10, includes management direction for designated rivers, stating that “...primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its aesthetic, scenic, historic, archaeological, and scientific features.”

#### **California Scenic Highway Program**

In 1963, the State legislature established the California Scenic Highway Program through Senate Bill 1467. This Senate Bill added Section 260 et seq. to the Streets and Highway Code. In these statutes, the State proclaims its intent to: “...establish the State’s responsibility for the protection and enhancement of California’s natural scenic beauty” (Caltrans 2008).

A Scenic Corridor is defined as the area of land generally adjacent to, and visible from, the highway. It is usually limited by topography and/or jurisdictional boundaries. Local jurisdictions, with support of their citizens, must adopt programs to protect the scenic qualities of qualifying corridors, and zoning and land use along the highway must meet the State’s minimum requirements for scenic highway corridor protection. Actions required by Section 261 of the code include:

- Regulation of land use and density of development,
- Detailed land and site planning,
- Control of outdoor advertising,
- Careful attention to, and control of, earthmoving and landscaping, and
- Regulation of the design and appearance of structures and equipment (i.e., placement of utility structures, microwave receptors, etc.).

#### **City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan**

The City of Sacramento adopted its 2035 General Plan on March 3, 2015. The General Plan includes redevelopment of the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and the construction of the proposed Dos Rios LRT Station in its long range plans. A summary of General Plan policies that are relevant to the proposed project is provided below.



## River District Specific Plan

The River District Specific Plan (RDSP) was adopted in 2011 and established planning and design standards for the redevelopment of approximately 773 acres of land (City of Sacramento, 2011). The RDSP area includes the entirety of the proposed project area under consideration in this IS/EA, and includes a number of elements that are directly applicable to the proposed project. Along with the RDSP are the associated River District Design Guidelines (City of Sacramento, 2016) that govern both Private Realm and Public Realm development within the RDSP area. Projects proposed in the area are subject to review by the Planning and Design Commission for consistency with the Design Guidelines. A summary of RDSP policies that are relevant to the proposed project is provided below.

### 3.1.4 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR

#### 2035 General Plan Master EIR

The 2035 General Plan Master EIR (City of Sacramento, 2014) described the existing visual conditions in the City of Sacramento and the potential changes to those conditions that could result from development consistent with the 2035 General Plan. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.13, *Visual Resources*.

The Master EIR identified potential impacts related to light and glare (Impact 4.13-1) and concluded that impacts would be less than significant. The Master EIR also determined that implementation of the General Plan could interfere with important existing scenic resources and degrade the view of those resources as seen from visually sensitive public locations (Impact 4.13-2). Those impacts were determined to be less than significant with implementation of the visual resources policies contained within the General Plan. The following General Plan policies are applicable to the proposed project.

***Policy LU 6.1.12: Compatibility with Adjoining Uses.*** The City shall ensure that the introduction of higher-density mixed-use development along major arterial corridors is compatible with adjacent land uses, particularly residential uses, by requiring such features as:

- Buildings setback from rear or side yard property lines adjoining single-family residential uses;
- Building heights stepped back from sensitive adjoining uses to maintain appropriate transitions in scale and to protect privacy and solar access;
- Landscaped off-street parking areas, loading areas, and service areas screened from adjacent residential areas, to the degree feasible; and
- Lighting shielded and directed downward to minimize impacts on adjacent residential uses.

***Policy ER 7.1.1: Protect Scenic Views.*** The City shall avoid or reduce substantial adverse effects of new development on views from public places to the Sacramento and American Rivers and adjacent greenways, landmarks, and the State Capitol along Capitol Mall.

**Policy ER 7.1.3: Lighting.** The City shall minimize obtrusive light by limiting outdoor lighting that is misdirected, excessive, or unnecessary, and requiring light for development to be directed downward to minimize spill-over onto adjacent properties and reduce vertical glare.

**Policy ER 7.1.4: Reflective Glass.** The City shall prohibit new development from: 1) using reflective glass that exceeds 50 percent of any building surface and on the bottom three floors; 2) using mirrored glass; 3) using black glass that exceeds 25 percent of any surface of a building; 4) using metal building materials that exceed 50 percent of any street-facing surface of a primarily residential building; and 5) using exposed concrete that exceeds 50 percent of any building.

## River District Specific Plan EIR

The River District Specific Plan EIR (City of Sacramento, 2010) evaluated effects of development within the Specific Plan area (see Draft EIR Chapter 4, *Land Use*). RDSP policies that are applicable to the project site include protecting established neighborhoods and promoting the design of complete and well-structured neighborhoods. The EIR stated that the RDSP would work in conjunction with the “River District Design Guidelines, which provide guidance for projects regarding the aesthetic form and functional quality of development.” The EIR found that impacts to aesthetics were found to be less than significant in that development associated with the RDSP’s implementation would not be incompatible with existing and planned land uses. The following RDSP goals and policies are applicable to the proposed project.

**Goal LU3.** Encourage areas to grow as distinct neighborhoods with unique characteristics and atmosphere.

**Policy LU3d:** Design and develop North 16th and North 12th Streets to reflect their important roles as major corridors within the Central City.

**Policy LU3g:** Support the incorporation of unique features such as rail spur alignments into the design of new projects and buildings.

**Policy POS10c:** Provide lighting for paths and walkways that provides safety without glare and intrusion into the natural landscape.

### 3.1.5 Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

#### City of Sacramento Standards of Significance

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to aesthetics under CEQA are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable general plans and previous environmental documents, and professional judgment. Under CEQA, a significant impact related to aesthetics would occur if the project would:

- Create a source of glare that would cause a public hazard or annoyance?
- Create a new source of light that would be cast onto oncoming traffic or residential uses?
- Substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site or its surroundings?

## Department of Housing and Urban Development Evaluation Criteria

For aesthetics and visual resources, neither HUD nor the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations define specific thresholds or standards to determine the level of significance for a project's impacts. According to 40 CFR 1508.27, "significance" as used in NEPA requires consideration of an action's *context* and *intensity*. For context, "the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action" [42 CFR 1508.27(a)]. In determining an effect's *intensity*, federal agencies consider "factors" such as public health, characteristics of the geographic area, controversy, uncertain risks, precedent-setting aspects, cumulative effects, and conformance with applicable federal, state, or local regulations [40 CFR 1508.27(b)].

The online HUD Exchange provides guidance documents for considering context and intensity impacts associated with aesthetics and visual resources (HUD, 2013). Specific factors to consider include the project's compatibility with existing land use and zoning, appropriate scale, coherence, and urban design.

- HUD regulations also provide a listing of federal laws, regulations, and executive orders against which all HUD-assisted projects must be evaluated. These authorities are listed at 24 CFR Sections 58.5 and 58.6. The only listed statute that is relevant to the proposed project with respect to aesthetics and visual resources is the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-542; 16 USC 1271-1287). Within the context of aesthetic and visual resources, proposed projects must be evaluated for potential effects to any scenic features associated with waterways that have been designated as part of the Act.

## Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria

No other agency or jurisdiction has implemented standards or thresholds for aesthetics and visual resources that are applicable to the proposed project.

## Environmental Analysis

### ***AES-1. Would the project create a source of glare that would cause a public hazard or annoyance?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

Under this alternative, existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Reflective light, or glare, is caused by sunlight or artificial light reflecting from finished surfaces such as window glass or other reflective materials. The reflectivity of surface materials, including glass, can vary widely. Buildings constructed of highly reflective materials from which the sun reflects at a low angle commonly cause adverse glare. Existing sources of reflective light at and in

the vicinity of the project site are largely attributable to reflections from vehicles and windows of commercial and industrial buildings. Because of the many street trees and other landscape trees and vegetation in the area, and the overall low building heights, current overall glare levels are low.

Under Alternative 2, some of the new residential buildings would be taller than those that are currently present in the area, and could therefore be sources of glare if appropriate building materials and applicable standards are not met. However, all new construction would be required to comply with all local anti-glare and reflective glass standards as set forth in the City's 2035 General Plan and the River District's Design Guidelines, which includes façade guidance under Private Realm Design Guidelines Part D, Massing and Building Configuration. Compliance with these standards, as reviewed by the Planning and Design Commission, would minimize any potentially adverse effects. Therefore, under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect** with respect to glare. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

***AES-2. Would the project create a new source of light that would be cast onto oncoming traffic or residential uses?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criteria.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

**Construction Effects**

Construction lighting is not expected to be required during work on the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, as work in that area would take place primarily during daylight hours.

Certain elements of the construction of the Dos Rios Light Rail Station, however, would require night work to avoid disruption to existing light rail services and to minimize traffic impacts along North 12th Street. Based on the hours of existing RT operations along the line, any work that could not be accommodated during light rail operations would need to be done between the hours of 12:30 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. In these instances, temporary lighting would be required during certain periods of construction for security, safety, and operational reasons. Construction of the station would occur before construction and occupancy of the new housing in the expansion area east of North 12th Street. No other existing housing is present in the proposed station area, and all existing uses in the area are commercial or industrial in nature. The existing Twin Rivers Housing Complex is more than 400 feet from the proposed station site, and is separated from the site by intervening buildings and trees. As such, no residents would be present in the area of night-time construction and there would therefore be no effects to residents or other light sensitive land uses. Further, all construction lighting would be focused on work areas and appropriately directed to

minimize spillover onto adjoining properties. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect** with respect to construction-related lighting. Under CEQA, there would likewise be **no impact**.

### Operational Effects

Once constructed, the new buildings at both the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and the Expansion Area would be prominent new features. Given the height of the buildings, indoor nighttime lighting of the buildings could affect nighttime views in the vicinity of the project site. However, the project site is located within a developed and urbanized area where nighttime lighting is already part of the existing environment. Vehicle headlights, street lighting at intersections and along streets, parking lot lighting, security lighting, and building lighting as well as various other sources of light from surrounding urban uses characterize current nighttime conditions. Any new lighting associated with the proposed project would be consistent with these existing conditions. Further, all new development would be required to comply with all local lighting standards as set forth in the City's 2035 General Plan and the River District's Design Guidelines, which includes light guidance under both the Public and Private Realm Design. Compliance with these standards, as reviewed by the Planning and Design Commission, would minimize any potentially adverse effects. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect** with respect to operational lighting. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

### ***AES-3. Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site or its surroundings?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criteria.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The proposed project has been designated for the proposed use (housing and a light rail station) under both the City General Plan and the River District Specific Plan. The type of development being considered for the proposed project has been envisioned for many years. The housing and light rail station envisioned for the expansion area east of North 12th Street would complement the new residential facilities at the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex. In both areas, these changes would be consistent with and complimentary to other development that is currently underway in nearby areas of the City of Sacramento. They would also be consistent with the redevelopment of the larger River District area as envisioned in the River District Specific Plan and analyzed under the RDSP EIR. The visual character would change, but those changes would occur within the context of implemented plans for the area, and would also occur in compliance with applicable design guidelines.

Design oversight for the proposed project would be carried out by the City of Sacramento as required by the Planning and Design Commission. All architectural features would be required to be

consistent with all applicable City design standards including the RDSP Design Guidelines. The RDSP Design Guidelines outline specific goals and policies related to the design and functionality of all new development in the area. This includes issues such as building placement, design, setbacks, heights, massing and overhangs, as well as landscape treatments, streetscapes, lighting, signage and the design of public and civic open spaces. Compliance with these requirements would ensure that the proposed project would be developed in a manner that would be consistent with and complimentary to the overall development vision as set forth in the Specific Plan. Therefore, the project would not degrade but would actually improve the existing visual character of the area. Under NEPA, there would be a **beneficial effect**. Under CEQA, the impact would also be **beneficial**.

#### ***AES-4. Other NEPA-related aesthetic and visual resource criteria related to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.***

##### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**.

##### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As part of its environmental review responsibilities under NEPA, HUD is required to consider a project's potential effects on scenic resources associated with Wild and Scenic Rivers. As mentioned previously, the American River lies 700 to 900 feet north of the site. The American River has been identified as a Recreational River Area under the authority of the Federal National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Views from the river to the project site are blocked by intervening industrial and commercial buildings, arterial roadways, and typical urban facilities such as above-ground power lines and street lights. In addition, a substantial levee runs parallel to the river, with many large trees lining the riverbank. Due to the flat nature of the surrounding terrain, the intervening land uses, and the aforementioned levee, the river would not be visible from the project site, nor would the project areas be visible from the river or its adjoining banks. There would therefore be no effect to the scenic and visual characteristics that made the river eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. There would therefore be **no adverse effect** to the resource.

### **Mitigation Measures**

None required.

## References

- City of Sacramento. 2016. City of Sacramento; Urban Design; Central City Urban Design Guidelines; Section 6- River District Design Guidelines. Available online at: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Urban-Design>. Accessed December 1, 2016.
- City of Sacramento. 2015. City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan Update Background Report. Available online at: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Resources/Online-Library/General-Plan>. Accessed April 7, 2016.
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- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 2013. Environmental Assessment Factors Guidance. Available online at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3306/environmental-assessment-factors-guidance/>. Accessed April 7, 2016.

## 3.2 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

### 3.2.1 Introduction

This section assesses the potential air quality and greenhouse gas impacts associated with construction and operation of the proposed project and the no project alternative and identifies feasible mitigation measures where appropriate. Emission estimates are compared to local, State, and federal thresholds.

The analysis included herein was based on project-specific construction and operational features, and data provided in the City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan, City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District Guide to Air Quality Assessment, and traffic information provided by Fehr & Peers.

### 3.2.2 Environmental Setting

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) is the primary local agency with respect to air quality for Sacramento County, in which the proposed project is located. The City of Sacramento is within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB), which also includes all of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba Counties, the western portion of Placer County, and the eastern portion of Solano County.

## Physical Setting

### *Climate and Meteorology*

Air quality is affected by the rate, amount, and location of pollutant emissions and the associated meteorological conditions that influence pollutant movement and dispersal. Atmospheric conditions (e.g., wind speed, wind direction, air temperature) in combination with local surface topography (e.g., mountains, valleys), determine how air pollutant emissions affect local air quality.

The SVAB has a Mediterranean climate, with mild, rainy winter weather from November through March and warm to hot, dry weather from May through September. Sacramento Valley temperatures range from 20 to 115 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and the average annual rainfall is 20 inches. The topographic features that define the SVAB are the Coast Range to the west, the Sierra Nevada to the east, and the Cascade Range to the north. These mountain ranges channel winds through the SVAB, but also inhibit the dispersion of pollutant emissions.

Wind directions in the Sacramento Valley are influenced by the predominant wind flow pattern associated with each season. The predominant wind pattern in the Sacramento Valley for most of the year is the full sea breeze, commonly referred to as Delta breezes. These cool winds originate from the Pacific Ocean and flow through the Carquinez Strait, a sea-level gap in the Coast Range. In the winter (December to February), northerly winds predominate. However, during about half the days from July through September, a phenomenon called the “Schultz Eddy” occurs. This is a large isotropic vertical-axis eddy on the north side of the Carquinez Strait that prevents the Delta breezes from transporting pollutants north and out of the Sacramento



Valley, causes the wind pattern to circle back south and keeps air pollutants in the Sacramento Valley. This phenomenon's effect exacerbates the pollution levels in the area and increases the likelihood of violating State or federal standards.

The vertical and horizontal movement of air is an important atmospheric component involved in the dispersion and subsequent dilution of air pollutants. Without movement, air pollutants can collect and concentrate in a single area, increasing the associated health hazards. For instance, in the winter, the SVAB typically experiences calm atmospheric conditions that result in stagnant air and increased air pollution. As a result, persistent inversions occur frequently in the SVAB, especially during autumn and early winter, and restrict the vertical dispersion of pollutants released near ground level.

## Existing Air Quality

### *Criteria Air Pollutants*

As required by the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) passed in 1970, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has identified six criteria air pollutants that are pervasive in urban environments and for which state and national health-based ambient air quality standards have been established. The USEPA calls these pollutants "criteria air pollutants" because the agency has regulated them by developing specific public health- and welfare-based criteria as the basis for setting permissible levels. Ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter, and lead are the six criteria air pollutants. Particulate matter is measured in two size ranges: PM<sub>10</sub> for particles less than 10 microns in diameter and PM<sub>2.5</sub> for particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) regional air quality monitoring network provides information on ambient concentrations of non-attainment criteria air pollutants. The monitoring stations that include data representative of the proposed project site are located on T Street (monitors ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) approximately 2 miles southwest of the project area and at Goldenland Court (monitors CO) approximately 6 miles north of the project area. **Table 3.2-1** presents a five-year summary of air pollutant (concentration) data collected at these monitoring stations for ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and CO.

While the data gathered at these monitoring stations may not necessarily reflect the specific meteorological environment of the project site nor the proximity of site-specific stationary and street pollutant sources, they do present the nearest available benchmark and provide a reference point to what the pollutants of greatest concern are in the region and the degree to which the area is out of attainment with specific air quality standards.

### **Ozone**

Ozone is a secondary air pollutant produced in the atmosphere through a complex series of photochemical reactions involving reactive organic gases (ROG, also sometimes referred to as volatile organic compounds or VOC by some regulating agencies) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). The main sources of ROG and NO<sub>x</sub>, often referred to as ozone precursors, are combustion processes

**TABLE 3.2-1  
SUMMARY OF AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA (2011–2015)**

Pollutant	Applicable Standard	Number of Days Standards Were Exceeded and Maximum Concentrations Measured <sup>a</sup>				
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Ozone – T Street Station</b>						
Days 1-hour State Std. Exceeded	>0.09 ppm <sup>b</sup>	7	3	0	0	0
Max. 1-hour Conc. (ppm)		<b>0.107</b>	<b>0.102</b>	0.091	0.085	0.092
Days 8-hour National Std. Exceeded	>0.075 ppm <sup>c</sup>	1	4	0	0	1
Days 8-hour State Std. Exceeded	>0.07 ppm <sup>b</sup>	5	9	0	4	4
Max. 8-hour Conc. (ppm)		<b>0.087</b>	<b>0.093</b>	0.068	0.072	<b>0.077</b>
<b>Suspended Particulates (PM10) – T Street Station</b>						
Estimated Days Over 24-hour National Std. <sup>d</sup>	>150 µg/m <sup>3</sup> <sup>c</sup>	0	0	-	0	0
Estimated Days Over 24-hour State Std. <sup>d</sup>	>50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> <sup>b</sup>	0	0	-	-	-
Max. 24-hour Conc. National/State (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )		38.8/42.2	36.2/36.7	53.1/ <b>92.3</b>	105.7/ <b>106.4</b>	57.8/ <b>59.1</b>
State Annual Average (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	>20 µg/m <sup>3</sup> <sup>b</sup>	<b>19.2</b>	17.8	-	-	-
<b>Suspended Particulates (PM2.5) – T Street Station</b>						
Estimated Days Over 24-hour National Std. <sup>d</sup>	>35 µg/m <sup>3</sup> <sup>c</sup>	18.4	0	6.1	0	3.0
Max. 24-hour Conc. National (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )		<b>50.5</b>	27.1	<b>39.2</b>	26.3	<b>36.3</b>
Annual Average (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	>12 µg/m <sup>3</sup> <sup>b</sup>	10.1	8.3	10.0	8.0	9.5
<b>Carbon Monoxide (CO) – Goldenland Court</b>						
Days 8-hour Std. Exceeded	>9 ppm <sup>b</sup>	0	0	-	-	-
Max. 8-hour Conc. (ppm)		1.6	1.55	-	-	-
Days 1-hour Std. Exceeded	>20 ppm <sup>b</sup>	0	0	0	0	0
Max. 1-hour Conc. (ppm)		1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.3

NOTES:

**Bold** values are in excess of applicable standard. "NA" indicates that data is not available.

conc. = concentration; ppm = parts per million; ppb=parts per billion;

µg/m<sup>3</sup> = micrograms per cubic meter

- = No data or insufficient data.

<sup>a</sup> Number of days exceeded is for all days in a given year, except for particulate matter. PM10 and PM2.5 are monitored every six days.

<sup>b</sup> State standard, not to be exceeded.

<sup>c</sup> National standard, not to be exceeded.

<sup>d</sup> Particulate matter sampling schedule of one out of every six days, for a total of approximately 60 samples per year. Estimated days exceeded mathematically estimates how many days concentrations would have been greater than the level of the standard had each day been monitored.

SOURCE: California Air Resources Board, 2016. *Summaries of Air Quality Data, 2011-2015*. [www.arb.ca.gov/adam/cgi-bin/db2www/polltrends/d2w/start](http://www.arb.ca.gov/adam/cgi-bin/db2www/polltrends/d2w/start). Accessed July 1, 2016.; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2016. *AirData Monitor Value Report*. [https://www3.epa.gov/airdata/ad\\_rep\\_mon.html](https://www3.epa.gov/airdata/ad_rep_mon.html). Accessed July 5, 2016.

(including motor vehicle engines) and the evaporation of solvents, paints, and fuels. Ozone is referred to as a regional air pollutant because its precursors are transported and diffused by wind concurrently with ozone production through the photochemical reaction process. Ozone causes eye irritation, airway constriction, and shortness of breath and can aggravate existing respiratory diseases such as asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema.

### **Carbon Monoxide**

CO is an odorless, colorless gas usually formed as the result of the incomplete combustion of fuels. The single largest source of CO is motor vehicle engines; the highest emissions occur during low travel speeds, stop-and-go driving, cold starts, and hard acceleration. Exposure to high concentrations of CO reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood and can cause headaches, nausea, dizziness, and fatigue, impair central nervous system function, and induce angina (chest pain) in persons with serious heart disease. Very high levels of CO can be fatal.

### **Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>)**

PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> consist of particulate matter that is 10 microns or less in diameter and 2.5 microns or less in diameter, respectively.<sup>1</sup> PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> represent fractions of particulate matter that can be inhaled into the air passages and the lungs and can cause adverse health effects. Some sources of particulate matter, such as wood burning in fireplaces, demolition, and construction activities, are more local in nature, while others, such as vehicular traffic, have a more regional effect. Very small particles of certain substances (e.g., sulfates and nitrates) can cause lung damage directly, or can contain adsorbed gases (e.g., chlorides or ammonium) that may be injurious to health. Particulates also can damage materials and reduce visibility.

Large dust particles (i.e., diameter greater than 10 microns) settle out rapidly and are easily filtered by human breathing passages. This large dust is of more concern as a soiling nuisance rather than a health hazard. The remaining fraction, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, are a health concern particularly at levels above the federal and State ambient air quality standards. PM<sub>2.5</sub> (including diesel exhaust particles) is thought to have greater effects on health, because these particles are so small and are able to penetrate to the deepest parts of the lungs. Scientific studies have suggested links between fine particulate matter and numerous health problems including asthma, bronchitis, and acute and chronic respiratory symptoms, such as shortness of breath and painful breathing. Recent studies have shown an association between morbidity and mortality and daily concentrations of particulate matter in the air. Children are more susceptible to the health risks of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> because their immune and respiratory systems are still developing.

Mortality studies since the 1990s have shown a statistically significant direct association between mortality (premature deaths) and daily concentrations of particulate matter in the air. Despite important gaps in scientific knowledge and continued reasons for some skepticism, a comprehensive evaluation of the research findings provides persuasive evidence that exposure to fine particulate air pollution has adverse effects on cardiopulmonary health (Dockery and Pope, 2006).

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<sup>1</sup> A micron is 1/1,000,000th of a meter.

### **Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)**

NO<sub>2</sub> is a reddish brown gas that is a byproduct of combustion processes. Automobiles and industrial operations are the main sources of NO<sub>2</sub>. Aside from its contribution to ozone formation, NO<sub>2</sub> can increase the risk of acute and chronic respiratory disease and reduce visibility. NO<sub>2</sub> may be visible as a coloring component on high pollution days, especially in conjunction with high ozone levels.

### **Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)**

SO<sub>2</sub> is a combustion product of sulfur or sulfur-containing fuels such as coal and diesel. SO<sub>2</sub> is also a precursor to the formation of particulate matter, atmospheric sulfate, and atmospheric sulfuric acid formation that could precipitate downwind as acid rain. The maximum SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations recorded in the project area are well below federal and state standards. Accordingly, the region is in attainment status with both federal and state SO<sub>2</sub> standards.

### **Lead**

Leaded gasoline (phased out in the United States beginning in 1973), lead based paint (on older houses and cars), smelters (metal refineries), and manufacture of lead storage batteries have been the primary sources of lead released into the atmosphere. Lead has a range of adverse neurotoxic health effects, which puts children at special risk. Some lead-containing chemicals cause cancer in animals. Lead levels in the air have decreased substantially since leaded gasoline was eliminated. Ambient lead concentrations in California are only monitored on an as-warranted, site-specific basis.

### ***Non-Criteria Air Pollutants***

#### **Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs)**

Non-criteria air pollutants or TACs are airborne substances that are capable of causing short-term (acute) and/or long-term (chronic or carcinogenic, i.e., cancer causing) adverse human health effects (i.e., injury or illness). TACs include both organic and inorganic chemical substances. They may be emitted from a variety of common sources including gasoline stations, automobiles, diesel engines, dry cleaners, industrial operations, and painting operations. TACs are regulated differently than criteria air pollutants at both federal and state levels. At the federal level these airborne substances are referred to as Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). The state list of TACs identifies 243 substances and the federal list of HAPs identified 189 substances.

The CARB identified diesel particulate matter (DPM) as a toxic air contaminant in 1998, primarily based on evidence demonstrating cancer effects in humans. The exhaust from diesel engines includes hundreds of different gaseous and particulate components, many of which are toxic. Mobile sources such as trucks and buses are among the primary sources of diesel emissions, and concentrations of DPM are higher near heavily traveled highways and rail lines with diesel locomotive operations. The risk from DPM as determined by the CARB declined from 750 in one million in 1990 to 570 in one million in 1995; by 2000, the CARB estimated the average statewide cancer risk from DPM at 540 in one million (CARB, 2009). This calculated cancer risk values from ambient air exposure can be compared against the lifetime probability of being diagnosed with cancer in the United States, from all causes, which is more than 40 percent (based on a sampling of

17 regions nationwide), or greater than 400,000 in one million, according to the National Cancer Institute (NCI, 2012).

Asbestos is also a TAC of concern during demolition of buildings and structures. Asbestos is a fibrous mineral, which is both naturally occurring in ultramafic rock (a rock type commonly found in California) and used as a processed component of building materials. Because asbestos has been proven to cause serious adverse health effects, including asbestosis and lung cancer, it is strictly regulated based on its natural widespread occurrence and its use as a building material.

### **Odorous Emissions**

Odors are generally regarded as an annoyance rather than a health hazard. Manifestations of a person's reaction to odors can range from psychological (e.g., irritation, anger, anxiety) to physiological (e.g., circulatory and respiratory effects, nausea, vomiting, headache). The ability to detect odors varies considerably among the population and overall is quite subjective. People may have different reactions to the same odor. An odor that is offensive to one person may be perfectly acceptable to another (e.g., coffee roaster). An unfamiliar odor is more easily detected and is more likely to cause complaints than a familiar one. Known as odor fatigue, a person can become desensitized to almost any odor and recognition only occurs with an alteration in the intensity. The occurrence and severity of odor impacts depend on the nature, frequency, and intensity of the source; wind speed and direction; and the sensitivity of receptors. The SMAQMD has identified typical odor sources in its *Guide to Air Quality Assessment in Sacramento County* (SMAQMD, 2009). These include wastewater treatment plants, sanitary landfills, composting and green waste facilities, recycling facilities, petroleum refineries, chemical manufacturing plants, painting and coating operations, rendering plants, and food packaging plants.

Odor impacts should be considered for any proposed new odor sources located near existing receptors, as well as any new sensitive receptors located near existing odor sources. Generally, increasing the distance between the receptor and the odor source will mitigate odor impacts.

### **Sensitive Receptors**

Air quality does not affect every individual or group in the population in the same way, and some groups are more sensitive to adverse health effects caused by exposure to air pollutants than others. Population subgroups sensitive to the health effects of air pollutants include the elderly and the young, those with higher rates of respiratory disease such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and with other environmental or occupational health exposures (e.g., indoor air quality) that affect cardiovascular or respiratory diseases. Land uses such as schools, children's day care centers, hospitals, and nursing and convalescent homes are considered to be more sensitive than the general public to poor air quality because the population groups associated with these uses have increased susceptibility to respiratory distress. Parks and playgrounds are considered moderately sensitive to poor air quality because persons engaged in strenuous work or exercise also have increased sensitivity to poor air quality; however, exposure times are generally far shorter in parks and playgrounds than in residential locations and schools, which typically reduce overall exposure to pollutants. Residential areas are considered more sensitive to air quality conditions compared to commercial and industrial areas because people

generally spend longer periods of time at their residences, with associated greater exposure to ambient air quality conditions.<sup>2</sup> Workers are not considered sensitive receptors because all employers must follow regulations set forth by the Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to ensure the health and well-being of their employees.

### **Greenhouse Gases**

“Global warming” and “global climate change” are the terms used to describe the increase in the average temperature of the earth’s near-surface air and oceans since the mid-20th century and its projected continuation. Warming of the climate system is now considered to be unequivocal (IPCC, 2007). Natural processes and human actions have been identified as the causes of this warming. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that variations in natural phenomena such as solar radiation and volcanoes produced most of the warming from pre-industrial times to 1950 and had a small cooling effect afterward. After 1950, however, increasing greenhouse gas concentrations resulting from human activity such as fossil fuel burning and deforestation are believed to be responsible for most of the observed temperature increase. Increases in GHG concentrations in the earth’s atmosphere are thought to be the main cause of human-induced climate change. Certain gases in the atmosphere naturally trap heat by impeding the exit of solar radiation that has hit the earth and is reflected back into space. This is sometimes referred to as the “greenhouse effect” and the gases that cause it are called “greenhouse gases.” Some GHGs occur naturally and are necessary for keeping the earth’s surface inhabitable. However, increases in the concentrations of these gases in the atmosphere during the last 100 years have decreased the amount of solar radiation that is reflected back into space, intensifying the natural greenhouse effect and resulting in the increase of global average temperature.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) are the principal GHGs. When concentrations of these gases exceed natural concentrations in the atmosphere, the greenhouse effect may be intensified. CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O occur naturally, and are also generated through human activity. Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> are largely by-products of fossil fuel combustion, whereas CH<sub>4</sub> results from off-gassing associated with agricultural practices and landfills.<sup>3</sup> Other human-generated GHGs include fluorinated gases such as SFCs, PFCs, and SF<sub>6</sub>, which have much higher heat-absorption potential than CO<sub>2</sub>, and are byproducts of certain industrial processes.

CO<sub>2</sub> is the reference gas for climate change because it is the predominant GHG emitted. The effect that each of the aforementioned gases can have on global warming is a combination of the mass of their emissions and their global warming potential (GWP). GWP indicates, on a pound-for-pound basis, how much a gas is predicted to contribute to global warming relative to how much warming would be predicted to be caused by the same mass of CO<sub>2</sub>. For example, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O are substantially more potent GHGs than CO<sub>2</sub>, with GWPs of 21 and 310 times that of CO<sub>2</sub>, respectively.

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<sup>2</sup> The factors responsible for variation in exposure are also often similar to factors associated with greater susceptibility to air quality health effects. For example, poorer residents may be more likely to live in crowded substandard housing and be more likely to live near industrial or roadway sources of air pollution.

<sup>3</sup> Off-gassing is defined as the release of chemicals under normal conditions of temperature and pressure.

In emissions inventories, GHG emissions are typically reported in terms of pounds or metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e). CO<sub>2</sub>e are calculated as the product of the mass emitted of a given GHG and its specific GWP. While CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O have much higher GWPs than CO<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted in such vastly higher quantities that it accounts for the majority of GHG emissions in CO<sub>2</sub>e, both from residential developments and human activity in general.

### **Potential Effects of Human Activity on GHG Emissions**

Fossil fuel combustion, especially for the generation of electricity and powering of motor vehicles, has led to substantial increases in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (and thus substantial increases in atmospheric concentrations). In 1994, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were found to have increased by nearly 30 percent above pre-industrial (ca. 1860) concentrations.

There is international scientific consensus that human-caused increases in GHGs have contributed and will continue to contribute to global warming. Potential global warming impacts in California may include, but are not limited to, loss in snow pack, sea level rise, more extreme heat days per year, more high ozone days, more large forest fires, and more drought years. Secondary effects are likely to include the displacement of thousands of coastal businesses and residences, impacts on agriculture, changes in disease vectors, and changes in habitat and biodiversity. As the CARB *Climate Change Scoping Plan* noted, the legislature in enacting Assembly Bill (AB) 32 found that global warming would cause detrimental effects to some of the State's largest industries, including agriculture, winemaking, tourism, skiing, commercial and recreational fishing, forestry, and the adequacy of electrical power generation. The *Climate Change Scoping Plan* states as follows: "The impacts of global warming are already being felt in California. The Sierra snowpack, an important source of water supply for the State, has shrunk 10 percent in the last 100 years. It is expected to continue to decrease by as much as 25 percent by 2050. World-wide changes are causing sea levels to rise – about 8 inches of increase has been recorded at the Golden Gate Bridge over the past 100 years – threatening low coastal areas with inundation and serious damage from storms" (CARB, 2008). AB 32 is discussed further below under Regulatory Setting.

### **Impacts of Climate Change**

#### **Ecosystem and Biodiversity Impacts**

Climate change is expected to have effects on diverse types of ecosystems (EPA, 2008a). As temperatures and precipitation change, seasonal shifts in vegetation would occur; this could affect the distribution of associated flora and fauna species. As the range of species shifts, habitat fragmentation could occur, with acute impacts on the distribution of certain sensitive species. The IPCC states that "Twenty percent to 30 percent of species assessed may be at risk of extinction from climate change impacts within this century if global mean temperatures exceed 2 to 3 degrees Celsius (°C), or 3.6 to 5.4°F, relative to pre-industrial levels" (IPCC, 2007). Shifts in existing biomes could also make ecosystems vulnerable to encroachment by invasive species. Wildfires, which are an important control mechanism in many ecosystems, may become more severe and more frequent, making it difficult for native plant species to repeatedly re-germinate. In general terms, climate change is expected to put a number of stressors on ecosystems, with potentially catastrophic effects on biodiversity.

## Human Health Impacts

Climate change may increase the risk of vector-borne infectious diseases, particularly those found in tropical areas and spread by insects such as malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, and encephalitis. Cholera, which is associated with algal blooms, could also increase. While these health impacts would largely affect tropical areas in other parts of the world, effects would also be felt in California. Warming of the atmosphere would be expected to increase smog and particulate pollution, which could adversely affect individuals with heart and respiratory problems, such as asthma. Extreme heat events would also be expected to occur with more frequency and could adversely affect the elderly, children, and the homeless. Finally, the water supply impacts and seasonal temperature variations expected as a result of climate change could affect the viability of existing agricultural operations, making the food supply more vulnerable (EPA 2008b).

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Estimates

### Global Emissions

Worldwide emissions of GHGs in 2004 were approximately 30 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year (United Nations, 2012). This includes both ongoing emissions from industrial and agricultural sources, but excludes emissions from land use changes.

### U.S. Emissions

In 2009, the United States emitted about 6.7 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e, or about 21 tons per year per person. Of the four major sectors nationwide — residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation — transportation accounts for the highest fraction of GHG emissions (approximately 33 percent); these emissions are entirely generated from direct fossil fuel combustion (EPA, 2011).

### State of California Emissions

In California, the transportation sector is the largest emitter of GHGs, followed by electricity generation. Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> are byproducts of fossil fuel combustion. CH<sub>4</sub> (methane), a highly potent GHG, results from off-gassing (the release of chemicals from nonmetallic substances under ambient or greater pressure conditions) and is largely associated with agricultural practices and landfills. N<sub>2</sub>O is also largely attributable to agricultural practices and soil management. CO<sub>2</sub> sinks, or reservoirs, include vegetation and the ocean, which absorb CO<sub>2</sub> through sequestration and dissolution, respectively, two of the most common processes of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration. California produced approximately 452 million gross metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2010. Combustion of fossil fuel in the transportation sector was the single largest source of California's GHG emissions in 2010, accounting for 38 percent of total GHG emissions in the state. This sector was followed by the electric power sector at 21 percent (including both in-state and out-of-state sources) and the industrial sector at 19 percent (CARB, 2013).

### City of Sacramento Emissions

Based on the 2005 GHG inventory for the City of Sacramento, the transportation sector represents the largest source of GHG emissions, accounting for 48.4 percent of the City's annual emissions of 4.16 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Electricity and natural gas combustion for the operation, heating, and cooling of commercial, industrial, and residential buildings accounted for another 42.5 percent of annual CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions. The other CO<sub>2</sub>e emission sectors included in the inventory were waste



(5.8 percent), wastewater treatment (1.4 percent), industrial specific sources (0.7 percent), water related (0.3 percent), and municipal operations (1.9 percent) (City of Sacramento, 2012).

### 3.2.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations

#### **Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District**

The SMAQMD is the regional agency responsible for air quality regulation within the SVAB. The SMAQMD regulates air quality through its planning and review activities and has permit authority over most types of stationary emission sources and can require operators of stationary sources to obtain permits, can impose emission limits, set fuel or material specifications, and establish operational limits to reduce air emissions. The SMAQMD regulates new or modified stationary sources of TACs.

For State air quality planning purposes, Sacramento County is classified as a severe non-attainment area for ozone. The “severe” classification triggers various plan submittal requirements and transportation performance standards. In order to demonstrate its ability to eventually meet the federal ozone standards, the SMAQMD, along with the other air districts in the nonattainment area, maintains the region’s portion of the SIP for ozone. The SVAB’s part of the SIP is a compilation of regulations that govern how the region and State will comply with the FCAA requirements to attain and maintain the federal ozone standard. The compilation of rules that comprises the Sacramento nonattainment area’s portion of the SIP, including revisions to the SIP, is contained in the *Sacramento Regional 8-Hour Ozone Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress Plan (2013 SIP Revisions)*, which addresses attainment of the federal 8-hour ozone standard, as well as the *2009 Triennial Report and Plan Revision*, which addresses attainment of the state ozone standard, are the latest plans issued by the SMAQMD (SMAQMD, 2009a, 2013).

These attainment plans depend heavily on the SMAQMD’s permit authority, which is exercised through its rules and regulations. With respect to the construction phase of the proposed project, the applicable SMAQMD regulations would relate to construction and stationary equipment, particulate matter generation, architectural coatings, and paving materials. Equipment used during Proposed Project construction would be subject to the requirements of SMAQMD Regulation 4 (Prohibitory Rules), Rule 401 (Ringelmann Chart/Opacity), Rule 402 (Nuisance), Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust), Rule 404 (Particulate Matter), Rule 405 (Dust and Condensed Fumes), Rule 442 (Architectural Coatings), and Rule 453 (Cutback and Emulsified Asphalt Paving Materials).

#### **City of Sacramento Climate Action Plan**

In 2012, City of Sacramento adopted a community wide Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP outlines multiple initiatives intended to help the City achieve its overall goals of reducing community-wide emissions by 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, 38 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and 83 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. Included in the CAP are a comprehensive set of strategies, measures and implementing actions to achieve the 2020 GHG reduction target. These GHG reduction measures and actions apply to both existing sources within the City as of the 2005 baseline and projected emissions from new growth and development anticipated in the 2035 General Plan. In addition, the CAP identifies potentially

adverse physical effects related to climate change on the community and includes specific adaptation measures to address and mitigate such effects.

### 3.2.4 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies

#### **2035 General Plan Master EIR**

The Master EIR addressed the potential effects of the 2035 General Plan on ambient air quality and the potential for exposure of people, especially sensitive receptors such as children or the elderly, to unhealthful pollutant concentrations. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.2.

Policies in the 2035 General Plan Environmental Resources element were identified as mitigating potential effects of development that could occur under the 2035 General Plan. For example, Policy ER 6.1.1 calls for the City to work with the CARB and SMAQMD to meet state and federal air quality standards; Policy ER 6.1.2 requires the City to review proposed development projects to ensure that the projects incorporate feasible measures that reduce construction and operational emissions; Policies ER 6.1.4 and ER 6.1.11 both call for coordination of City efforts with SMAQMD; and Policy ER 6.1.15 requires the City to give preference to contractors using reduced-emission equipment.

The Master EIR identified exposure to sources of TACs as a potential effect. Policies in the 2035 General Plan would reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level. The policies include ER 6.1.4, requiring coordination with SMAQMD in evaluating exposure of sensitive receptors to TACs, and imposition of appropriate conditions on projects to protect public health and safety; as well as Policy LU 2.7.5, requiring extensive landscaping and trees along freeways fronting elevation and design elements that provide proper filtering, ventilation, and exhaust of vehicle air emissions from buildings.

The Master EIR found that greenhouse gas emissions that would be generated by development consistent with the 2035 General Plan would contribute to climate change on a cumulative basis. Policies of the General Plan identified in the Master EIR that would reduce construction related GHG emissions include: ER 6.1.2 and ER 6.1.11, requiring coordination with SMAQMD to ensure feasible mitigation measures are incorporated to reduce GHG emissions, and ER 6.1.15, which requires the City to educate the public about efforts they can make to improve air quality and reduce GHG emissions. The 2035 General Plan incorporates the GHG reduction strategy of the 2012 Climate Action Plan (CAP), which demonstrates compliance mechanisms for achieving the City's adopted GHG reduction target of 15 percent below 2005 emissions by 2020. Policy ER 6.1.8 commits the City to assess and monitor performance of GHG emission reduction efforts beyond 2020, and progress toward meeting long-term GHG emission reduction goals. ER 6.1.9 also commits the City to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of new GHG emissions reduction measures in view of the City's longer-term GHG emission reductions goal. The discussion of GHG emissions and climate change in the 2035 General Plan Master EIR are incorporated by reference in this IS/EA, as allowed under CEQA Guidelines Section 15150. The Master EIR identified

numerous policies included in the 2035 General Plan that addressed greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. See Draft Master EIR, Chapter 4.14, and pages 4.14-1 et seq.

## **River District Specific Plan EIR**

The River District Specific Plan EIR evaluated the potential for the buildout of the proposed River District Specific Plan (RDSP) to conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans; to violate an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation; to result in cumulatively considerable net increase of greenhouse gases or any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment; or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The EIR determined that the RDSP would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan.

### 3.2.5 Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

#### **Standards of Significance**

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions under CEQA are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable general plans and previous environmental documents, and professional judgment. The project alternatives would have a significant adverse effect if they would:

- Result in short-term (construction) emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> above 85 pounds per day;
- Result in short-term (construction) emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> above zero pounds per day without implementation of all best management practices and above 80 pounds per day or 14.6 tons per year after implementation of all best management practices;
- Result in short-term (construction) emissions of PM<sub>2.5</sub> above 0 pounds per day without implementation of all best management practices and above 82 pounds per day or 15.0 tons per year after implementation of all best management practices;
- Result in long-term (operational) emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> or ROG above 65 pounds per day;
- Result in long-term (operational) emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> above 0 pounds per day without implementation of all best management practices and above 80 pounds per day or 14.6 tons per year after implementation of all best management practices;
- Result in long-term (operational) emissions of PM<sub>2.5</sub> above 0 pounds per day without implementation of all best management practices and above 82 pounds per day or 15.0 tons per year after implementation of all best management practices;
- Result in CO concentrations that exceed the 1-hour State ambient air quality standard (i.e., 20.0 ppm) or the 8-hour state ambient standard (i.e., 9.0 ppm);
- Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people, as defined by SMAQMD;
- TAC exposures create a lifetime cancer risk exceeding 10 in 1 million for stationary sources, or substantially increase the lifetime cancer risk as a result of increased exposure to TACs from mobile sources;

- For GHG emissions, a project would be considered to have a significant impact if it fails to satisfy the requirements of the City’s Climate Action Plan.

## Conformity Requirements

For projects that receive federal funding, a general conformity determination is required. General conformity is required if a project’s annual construction or operational emissions exceed *de minimis* thresholds (EPA, 2016). This evaluation is limited to emissions of pollutants (or their precursors) for which an area is classified as nonattainment or maintenance status for the federal ambient air quality standards. For ozone precursors (ROG and NO<sub>x</sub>), the *de minimis* thresholds depend on the severity of the nonattainment classification. For other pollutants, the threshold is set at 100 tons per year. The SVAB is designated as severe nonattainment for ozone, moderate nonattainment for PM<sub>10</sub>, and nonattainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The *de minimis thresholds* for these pollutants are 25 tons per year for ozone precursors (ROG and NO<sub>x</sub>), and 100 tons per year for CO and PM<sub>10</sub>.

The SVAB is currently designated as severe non-attainment for the federal 8-hour ozone standard and moderate maintenance area for the federal PM<sub>10</sub> and CO standards. **Table 3.2-2** shows the applicable general conformity thresholds that apply to the project in the SMAQMD.

**TABLE 3.2-2  
 GENERAL CONFORMITY DE MINIMIS THRESHOLDS FOR PROJECTS IN THE  
 SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Pollutant	SMAQMD (tpy)
NO <sub>x</sub>	25
ROG	25
PM <sub>10</sub>	100
CO	100

SOURCE: U.S. EPA, 2016. General Conformity De Minimis Emission Levels. Accessed at: <https://www.epa.gov/general-conformity/de-minimis-emission-levels>. Accessed on: July 5, 2016.

## Federal Reporting GHG Thresholds

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued Draft Guidance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change Impacts in December 2014 (CEQ, 2014). This guidance indicates that NEPA analyses should consider climate change issues that arise in relation to the consideration of the GHG emissions effects *of* a proposed action and alternative actions, as well as the relationship of climate change effects *to* a proposed action or alternatives, including the relationship to proposed design, environmental impacts, and mitigation and adaptation measures. Further, it identifies the FCAA reporting requirement of 25,000 MT or more of CO<sub>2e</sub> as an indication that GHG emissions could be considered a potential adverse impact of a federal action, but specifies that the reporting requirement should not necessarily be used as a threshold. The project’s GHG emissions have been calculated and compared to the federal reporting threshold for the purposes of assessing impacts under NEPA.

## Environmental Analysis

### ***AQ-1. Would the project produce construction emissions of NO<sub>x</sub>, ROG, PM<sub>10</sub> or PM<sub>2.5</sub> that would exceed the SMAQMD's construction significance thresholds?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Construction-related emissions arise from a variety of activities, including: 1) grading, excavation, road building, and other earth moving activities; 2) travel by construction equipment and employee vehicles, especially on unpaved surfaces; 3) exhaust from construction equipment; 4) architectural coatings; and 5) asphalt paving.

Construction-related fugitive dust emissions would vary from day to day, depending on the level and type of activity, silt content of the soil, and the weather. In the absence of mitigation, construction activities may result in significant quantities of dust, and as a result, local visibility and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations may be adversely affected on a temporary and intermittent basis. In addition, fugitive dust generated by construction would include not only PM<sub>10</sub>, but also larger particles, which would fall out of the atmosphere within several hundred feet of the site and could result in nuisance-type impacts.

For purposes of modeling construction emissions, it was assumed that project development would begin with construction of the Dos Rios light rail transit station in 2017 on the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area. Construction would then commence in 2018 on the multi-family housing apartment structures in the Expansion Area. On the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, demolition of the existing structures and construction of the replacement structures would occur in phases, beginning in 2019 and ending in 2025.

Construction emissions were estimated for the proposed project using the methods contained in SMAQMD's Guide to Air Quality Assessment in Sacramento County (SMAQMD 2009b, 2016). The CalEEMod model<sup>4</sup> was used to quantify construction NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from off-road equipment, haul trucks associated with demolition and soils export, on-road worker vehicle emissions, and vendor delivery trips. Predicted unmitigated construction emissions for the worst-

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<sup>4</sup> The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to provide a uniform platform to quantify potential criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with both construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. The model was developed for the California Air Pollution Officers Association (CAPCOA) in collaboration with the California Air Districts. Default data (e.g., emission factors, trip lengths, meteorology, source inventory, etc.) have been provided by the various California Air Districts to account for local requirements and conditions.

case day for each of the construction years are presented in **Table 3.2-3** and compared to the SMAQMD significance thresholds.

**TABLE 3.2-3  
 UNMITIGATED MAXIMUM DAILY CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (POUNDS PER DAY)<sup>1,2</sup>**

Category	NO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>
Maximum Daily – 2017	51	3	3
Maximum Daily – 2018	70	10	7
Maximum Daily – 2019	62	20	12
Maximum Daily – 2020	30	4	2
Maximum Daily – 2021	24	2	1
Maximum Daily – 2022	14	1	1
Maximum Daily – 2023	12	3	1
Maximum Daily – 2024	13	3	1
Maximum Daily – 2025	6	<1	1
Construction Significance Threshold <sup>3</sup>	85	0	0
Exceed Construction Threshold?	No	Yes	Yes

NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Project construction emissions estimates were made using CalEEMod version 2013.2.2. See Appendix A for model outputs and more detailed assumptions
- <sup>2</sup> Values in **bold** are in excess of the applicable SMAQMD significance threshold.
- <sup>3</sup> SMAQMD has established a zero emissions threshold for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> when project do not implement their Best Available Practices (BMP).

SOURCE: ESA, 2016.

As shown in Table 3.2-3, maximum daily construction NO<sub>x</sub> emissions would not exceed the SMAQMD significance thresholds for each construction year. However, according to the SMAQMD CEQA guidance, project-related construction emissions that exceed zero pounds per day of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> would result in a significant impact, unless all feasible Best Available Control Technologies/Best Management Practices (BACT/BMPs) are implemented (SMAQMD, 2009). As shown in Table 3.2-3, construction of the proposed project would result in the generation of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions that would exceed the SMAQMD significance thresholds for each construction year. For these reasons, project construction would result in an **adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **significant**. However, application of **Mitigation Measure 3.2-1** would require the implementation of SMAQMD’s Basic Construction Emission Control Practices, which serve as SMAQMD’s recommended BACT/BMPs. As shown in **Table 3.2-4**, implementation of the SMAQMD’s Basic Construction Emission Control Practices would reduce construction emissions to below the mitigation SMAQMD significance threshold for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, thereby reducing this impact to **no adverse effect** under NEPA and **less than significant with mitigation** under CEQA.

**TABLE 3.2-4  
 MITIGATED MAXIMUM DAILY CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (POUNDS PER DAY)<sup>1,2</sup>**

Category	NO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>
Maximum Daily – 2017	51	3	3
Maximum Daily – 2018	70	5	4
Maximum Daily – 2019	62	9	6
Maximum Daily – 2020	30	3	2
Maximum Daily – 2021	24	2	1
Maximum Daily – 2022	14	1	1
Maximum Daily – 2023	12	1	1
Maximum Daily – 2024	13	1	1
Maximum Daily – 2025	6	<1	1
Construction Significance Threshold	85	80	82
Exceed Construction Threshold?	No	No	No

NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Project construction emissions estimates were made using CalEEMod version 2013.2.2. See Appendix AX for model outputs and more detailed assumptions
- <sup>2</sup> Values in **bold** are in excess of the applicable SMAQMD significance threshold.

SOURCE: ESA, 2016.

**AQ-2. Would the project produce operational emissions of NO<sub>x</sub>, ROG, PM<sub>10</sub> or PM<sub>2.5</sub> that would exceed the SMAQMD’s long-term (operational) significance thresholds?**

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Over the long-term, the proposed project would increase operational emissions primarily by generating motor vehicle trips. Compared to mobile sources, onsite area sources would result in lesser quantities of criteria pollutant emissions.<sup>5</sup> Operational emissions in the year 2025 were calculated using CalEEMod. The key inputs to CalEEMod included the proposed project land uses and the traffic data provided in the project’s transportation analysis. The estimates shown below in **Table 3.2-5** are based on average daily traffic (ADT) trips generated by the proposed

<sup>5</sup> Area sources include water and space heaters that are powered by natural gas, and landscape maintenance equipment that is typically powered by gasoline.

project, which would include up to 486 residential units, 522 parking spaces and a new Light Rail Station on North 12th Street. Modeling assumptions and output files are included in Appendix A.

**TABLE 3.2-5  
 UNMITIGATED MAXIMUM DAILY PROJECT OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS (POUNDS PER DAY)**

Sources	Pollutant Emissions			
	ROG	NO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>
Area Sources	8.5	0.3	0.1	0.1
Energy Sources	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.1
Mobile Sources	3.1	4.8	7.3	2.0
Total Proposed Project	11.7	5.9	7.5	2.2
SMAQMD Thresholds of Significance <sup>1</sup>	65	65	82	80
Exceed Operational Threshold?	No	No	No	No

NOTES: Unmitigated operational emissions were estimated using CalEEMod2013. Detailed CalEEMod results can be found in Appendix A.

<sup>1</sup> SMAQMD has established a zero emissions threshold for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> when projects do not implement BMPs during operation. However, since the proposed project would include BMPs to minimize onsite operational emissions already recommend by the SMAQMD, project-related emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> are compared to the SMAQMD's mitigated significance threshold of 80 and 82 pounds per day, respectively.

SOURCE: ESA, 2016.

Since the proposed project would replace the day-to-day operations of the existing Twin Rivers development, the criteria pollutant emissions currently being generated by the existing development were subtracted from the estimated emissions that would be generated by the proposed project after full build-out to assess the total net increase in criteria pollutant emissions, which can be found in Table 3.2-5.

As shown in Table 3.2-5, maximum daily operational emissions of ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> would not exceed the SMAQMD significance thresholds after the full build-out of the proposed project. However, operation of the proposed project would exceed the SMAQMD's zero pounds per day unmitigated threshold for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. According to the SMAQMD CEQA guidance, project-related operational emissions that exceed zero pounds per day of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> would result in a significant impact, unless all feasible BACT/BMPs are implemented (SMAQMD, 2009).

The proposed project would already include BMP measures as part of its final design that would include those recommended by SMAQMD to reduce operational PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions. These BMPs include high-efficiency water fixtures and toilets, high-efficiency glazing, insulation and sealing, all appliances would be Energy-Star rated and each unit would have a programmable thermostat attached to its energy-star, central HVAC system. All of these features would be part of the overarching goal for the project to attain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, which combines energy-efficiency measures similar to those described above with New Urbanist principles such as neighborhood connectivity, smart locations, neighborhood design, and access to jobs, quality schools, quality services, and retail. With implementation of these design features in the proposed project's final design, SMAQMD's



mitigated PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> thresholds would apply. As shown in Table 3.2-5, the operational emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> generated under the proposed project would not exceed the SMAQMD's significance threshold for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> after all feasible BMPs are applied. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

**AQ-3. Would the project produce CO concentrations that exceed the 1-hour State ambient air quality standard (i.e., 20.0 ppm) or the 8-hour State ambient standard (i.e., 9.0 ppm)?**

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Traffic during project operation would primarily be generated by residential trips. These traffic volumes would contribute to the existing and future intersection volumes in the vicinity of the project site. A transportation impact study was completed for the proposed project to evaluate the long-term effects of intersections in the vicinity of the proposed project site (see Section 3.12 of this IS/EA, Transportation and Circulation). The proposed project could potentially contribute traffic volumes to area intersections that would increase delays and idling.

Intersections that are categorized as a level of service (LOS) E or F would result in increased delays and idling times. These intersections have the potential to create CO hotspots, which is an exceedance of the 1- or 8- hour state CO standard. A CO hotspot can result in the exposure of nearby sensitive receptors to unhealthy CO concentrations. The SMAQMD's CEQA Guide to Air Quality Assessment in Sacramento County provides screening criteria to assess whether project-related vehicle trips would result in the generation of CO emissions that exceed or contribute to an exceedance to the California Air Quality Standard for CO (SMAQMD, 2009).

The SMAQMD's recommended screening criteria are divided into a two tiers, as follows:

**First Tier**

The proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact to air quality for local CO if:

- Traffic generated by the proposed project would not result in deterioration of intersection LOS to E or F; and
- The project would not contribute additional traffic to an intersection that already operates at LOS of E or F.

If the first tier of screening criteria is not met, then the second tier of screening criteria must be applied.

### Second Tier

If all of the following criteria are met, the proposed project would result in a less than-significant impact to air quality for local CO.

- The project would not result in an affected intersection experiencing more than 31,600 vehicles per hour;
- The project would not contribute traffic to a tunnel, parking garage, bridge underpass, urban street canyon, or below-grade roadway; or other locations where horizontal or vertical mixing of air would be substantially limited; and
- The mix of vehicle types at the intersection would not be anticipated to be substantially different from the county average (as identified by the EMFAC<sup>6</sup> or CalEEMod models).

The operation of the proposed project would result in increases in vehicle trips along roadways in the vicinity of the proposed project site. Based on the traffic study conducted for the project, the proposed development would generate approximately 243 AM and 275 PM peak hour trips, and result in a total of 2,888 daily trips, of which 1,764 would be added by the proposed project over existing conditions.

According to SMAQMD's first tier, a project would result in a less than significant impact if both First Tier categories described above are met. As described in the transportation impact study, traffic generated by the proposed project during the PM peak hour cumulative plus project conditions would result in LOS deterioration of Richards Boulevard/I-5 SB Ramps, Richards Boulevard/I-5 NB Ramps, Vine Street/Street W, North B Street/16th Street, Richards Boulevard/Street W and Richards Boulevard/ North 16th Street to LOS E or F.

Since the proposed project would not meet the first tier screening criteria, the project was compared to SMAQMD's second tier screening criteria. According to SMAQMD's second tier, a project would result in a less than significant impact if all three categories described above are met. As determined in the transportation impact study, under cumulative plus project peak hour conditions, none of the intersections affected by the proposed project would exceed the SMAQMD AM or PM peak hour threshold of 31,600 vehicles per hour. The project would not result in the contribution of traffic to any tunnel, parking garage, bridge underpass, urban street canyon, or below-grade roadways. Lastly, the mix of vehicle types at the effected intersections is not anticipated to be substantially different from the county average. Therefore, the proposed project would meet all of the SMAQMD's CO hotspot second tier screening criteria and, therefore, would not cause or contribute to violations of either the federal or California CO ambient air quality standards. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

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<sup>6</sup> The EMFAC model is a computer model that can estimate emission rates for on-road mobile sources ("motor vehicles") for calendar years from 2000 to 2050 operating in California. Pollutant emissions for hydrocarbons (HC), CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, lead, CO<sub>2</sub>, and sulfur oxides are output from the model. Emissions are calculated for 51 different vehicle classes composed of passenger cars, various types of trucks and buses, motorcycles, and motor homes.

***AQ-4. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As discussed above in impact discussions AQ-1 through AQ-3, construction- and operational-related emissions would not exceed the SMAQMD's thresholds after implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.2-1**, which would require the applicant to apply the SMAQMD's Basic Construction Emission Control Practices. In addition, toxic air contaminant (TAC) emissions generated during the construction and operation of the proposed project would not be significant, as discussed in impact discussion AQ-6 below. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

***AQ-5. Would the project create objectionable odors?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The proposed project would not include uses that have been identified by SMAQMD as potential sources of objectionable odors. Diesel equipment used during construction can produce odorous exhaust, but equipment use in any one area of the project site would be temporary and potential odors would not affect a substantial number of people. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

***AQ-6. Would the project create TAC exposures risk of 10 in 1 million for stationary sources, or substantially increase the risk of exposure to TACs from mobile sources?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged.

Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

## **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

### **Construction**

Project construction would result in short-term emissions of diesel particulate matter (DPM), which is a TAC. Off-road heavy-duty diesel equipment would emit DPM during site preparation (e.g., excavation, grading), paving, installation of utilities, materials transport and handling, building construction, and other construction activities. SMAQMD has not adopted a methodology for analyzing such impacts and has not recommended that health risk assessments be completed for construction-related emissions of TACs. Due to the phasing of the construction process, including demolition, site preparation, grading, building construction, paving and architectural coatings at different times, the relatively short-term construction period in any one location, and the varying distances to sensitive receptors as construction proceeds, the proposed project would not result in significant construction-related health risks. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA for construction emissions. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

### **Operations**

Operation of the proposed project would not include any new stationary source of TACs. In addition, there are no existing or planned nearby sources of TACs that represent a health concern to future project residents. According to SMAQMD guidance, since the proposed project would locate new residential uses more than 500 feet from the nearest high traffic volume roadway (defined as a freeway or urban roadway with greater than 100,000 vehicles per day), the proposed project would meet the CARB guidance distance and no further roadway-related air quality evaluations are required. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA for operational emissions. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

## ***AQ-7. Would the project fail to satisfy the requirements of the City's Climate Action Plan?***

### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

## **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The City has developed a Climate Action Plan Consistency Review Checklist for use in determining the consistency of proposed projects with the CAP. The checklist includes six criteria that a project must be evaluated against. Projects that are consistent with each of the six criteria

are considered consistent with Sacramento's CAP and would not have a significant GHG impact. The following discussion evaluates the proposed project for each of these six criteria.

1. *Is the proposed project consistent with the land use and urban form designation, allowable floor area ratio (FAR) and/or density standards in the City's 2035 General Plan?*

The proposed project would construct a total of 376 new and replacement residential units replacing the existing 218 housing units on the currently occupied 21-acre Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and 110 new units on the currently vacant 3.2-acre Expansion Area across North 12th Street. Therefore, residential development on both the currently occupied area and the vacant area would fall within the allowable density range for Suburban Corridor, and would collectively meet the density requirements (486 units/ 24.2 acres = 20 units/acre).

2. *Would the proposed project include traffic-calming measures?*

Arterial roadways (i.e., North 12th Street, North 16th Street, Richards Boulevard) would not be modified as part of the proposed project. Internal roadways within the redeveloped Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, however, would contain appropriate traffic-calming measures to alter driver behavior and enhance safety for pedestrians and other non-motorized street users within the residential complex. These measures would likely include curb extensions (also known as "bulb-outs"), speed bumps, signaled pedestrian crossings, traffic circles, and other appropriate features.

3. *Would the proposed project incorporate pedestrian facilities and connections to public transportation consistent with the City's Pedestrian Master Plan?*

Part of the proposed project design involves realignment of existing streets within the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex area to facilitate mobility, accessibility, access, development, and continuity with the projected buildout of the RDSP.

The level of pedestrian improvements necessary to determine the project's consistency with the City's Pedestrian Master Plan and thus CAP consistency is measured according to the "Basic, Upgrade, or Premium" categories defined in Appendix A to the Pedestrian Master Plan (Sacramento, 2006). The differences between these three categories are based on several criteria, including project location, surrounding land uses, and proximity to transit. The "Pedestrian Smart Growth Scorecard" (from Appendix A of the Pedestrian Master Plan) was completed for the project, resulting in a score of 3.28. According to the City's Pedestrian Master Plan, A high rating (between 3 and 4) would indicate a development is likely to be pedestrian oriented. Since the proposed project rating is calculated to be 3.28, it is likely that the proposed project would meet this standard and would be consistent with the Pedestrian Master Plan (see Appendix A of this document). Based on a comparison of the project's pedestrian features with the criteria of the Pedestrian Master Plan, the proposed project would qualify as offering a Premium level of pedestrian amenities.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> "Premium" improvements include all of the basic and upgraded level improvements, plus additional elements that make the pedestrian setting an active urban place such as extra-wide sidewalks, special lighting, signage, and seating.

Based on this evaluation, the proposed project's pedestrian amenities would meet the City of Sacramento's Consistency Checklist for pedestrian facilities.

**4. *Would the proposed project incorporate bicycle facilities consistent with the City's Bikeway Master Plan, and meet or exceed minimum standards for bicycle facilities in the Zoning Code and CALGreen?***

Several bicycle pathways and lanes are present in the project vicinity. The American River Bike Trial, as noted in Chapter 2 (Project Alternatives), is just north of the project site along the American River and is accessible from the intersection of Richards Boulevard and North 12th Street. There are also Class II bike lanes provided along both sides of Richards Boulevard north of the project site. In addition to the existing bike path nearby, the proposed project would add a bike lane in both directions along the new "Street W", which serves as the main roadway within the complex. The City is currently in the design phase for the North 12th Street Complete Street project, which would add a designated bicycle trackway within the existing North 12th Street right-of-way from Richards Boulevard southwards to H Street. Therefore, since the project site is accessible by existing and planned on-street bikeways, the proposed project would be consistent with the Bikeway Master Plan and would meet the City of Sacramento's Consistency Checklist for bicycle facilities (Sacramento, 2011).

**5. *For residential projects of 10 or more units, commercial projects greater than 25,000 square feet, or industrial projects greater than 100,000 square feet, would the project include on-site renewable energy systems (e.g., photovoltaic systems) that would generate at least a minimum of 15 percent of the project's total energy demand on-site? (CAP Actions: 3.4.1 and 3.4.2)***

The proposed project would not generate 15 percent of its energy demand on-site. However, the proposed project would be designed in compliance with the 2016 Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, effective January 1, 2017, or the latest standards in effect at the time of project design review. At a minimum, the proposed residential dwelling units would be built to 2016 standards, which would use about 28 percent less energy for lighting, heating, cooling, ventilation, and water heating than those built to the 2013 standards (CEC 2016). In addition, residential unit designs would include multiple energy efficiency and water conservation features, including, high-efficiency water fixtures and toilets; high-efficiency glazing, insulation, and sealing; and Energy-Star rated appliances, including central HVAC system.

**6. *Would the proposed project (if constructed on or after January 1, 2014) comply with minimum CALGreen Tier 1 water efficiency standards? (CAP Action: 5.1.1)***

The proposed project would comply with the following CALGreen Tier 1 water efficiency measures that were assumed in the Climate Action Plan Technical Appendix (page E-29):

- ***Residential Buildings/Space:*** 20 percent improvement on indoor water efficiency (compared to 2008 Plumbing Code baseline; per CALGreen Mandatory Measures), and kitchen faucets shall have a maximum flow rate no greater than 1.5 gallons per minute; and outdoor potable water use reduction to a quantity that does not exceed 65 percent of the reference evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>) times the landscape area plus two voluntary outdoor water efficiency and conservation measures as listed in the CALGreen Residential Voluntary Measures.

The proposed project would comply with the above-referenced CALGreen Tier 1 Water Efficiency Measures as a condition of approval, and would therefore be consistent with CAP Action 5.1.1.

Based on this review, the proposed project would meet each applicable CAP Consistency Review Checklist item. Therefore, the proposed project would be consistent with the City's CAP. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

### ***AQ-8. Would construction-related and operational emissions exceed the General Conformity Thresholds?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As discussed in impact discussions AQ-1 and AQ-2, construction and operational emissions were calculated using CalEEMod. The key inputs to CalEEMod included the proposed project land uses and the traffic data provided in the project's traffic analysis.

To determine whether a Federal General Conformity Determination analysis would be required, annual emissions from the proposed project activities were calculated for ozone precursors ROG and NO<sub>x</sub>, as well as PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and CO, and compared to the *de minimis* thresholds (calculations are in Appendix A).

The unmitigated emissions of ozone precursors, PM<sub>10</sub>, and CO during onsite construction are summarized in **Table 3.2-6**. Construction equipment emissions were calculated for each year that construction would occur. As shown in Table 3.2-6, construction emissions are estimated to be below the General Conformity *de minimis* thresholds. Consequently, Alternative 2 would not be subject to General Conformity requirements for construction-related emissions. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA.

The unmitigated emissions of ozone precursors, PM<sub>10</sub>, and CO during onsite operation are summarized in **Table 3.2-7**. As shown in Table 3.2-7, these operational emissions are estimated to be below the General Conformity *de minimis* thresholds. As proposed, Alternative 2 would be exempt from General Conformity requirements for operations-related emissions. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA.

**TABLE 3.2-6  
UNMITIGATED ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION POLLUTANT EMISSIONS (TONS PER YEAR)<sup>1,2</sup>**

Construction Year	ROG	NO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CO
2017	0.6	6.6	0.4	4.9
2018	0.5	4.3	0.2	3.6
2019	1.0	2.8	0.3	2.6
2020	0.8	2.1	0.2	2.2
2021	0.9	1.1	0.1	1.4
2022	0.2	1.8	0.2	2.4
2023	0.6	0.8	0.1	1.0
2024	0.2	0.8	0.1	1.1
2025	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.5
General Conformity <i>de minimis</i> Thresholds	25	25	100	100
Exceed Construction Threshold?	No	No	No	No

NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Project construction emissions estimates were made using CalEEMod version 2013.2.2. See Appendix A for model outputs and more detailed assumptions  
<sup>2</sup> Values in bold are in excess of the applicable *de minimis* significance threshold.

SOURCE: ESA, 2016.

**TABLE 3.2-7  
UNMITIGATED ANNUAL PROJECT OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS (TONS PER YEAR)**

Sources	Pollutant Emissions			
	ROG	NO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CO
Area Sources	1.52	0.03	0.02	2.76
Energy Sources	0.01	0.16	0.01	0.07
Mobile Sources	0.98	1.03	1.41	5.46
Total Proposed Project	2.51	1.22	1.44	10.32
General Conformity <i>de minimis</i> Thresholds	25	25	100	100
Exceed Operational Threshold?	No	No	No	No

NOTES: Unmitigated operational emissions were estimated using CalEEMod2013. Detailed CalEEMod results can be found in Appendix A.

SOURCE: ESA, 2016.

**AQ-9. Would the proposed project generate GHG emissions that would exceed the Federal GHG Reporting Threshold?**

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**.



## Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project

Direct GHG emissions under Alternative 2 would be generated onsite by the use of off-road equipment such as loaders and excavators. For the purpose of comparison to the Federal reporting threshold of 25,000 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e, direct and indirect emissions were combined and are presented for each construction year as shown in **Table 3.2-8**. As indicated in the table, combined direct and indirect GHG emissions would be below the Federal reporting threshold during the construction and operation of the proposed project. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA.

**TABLE 3.2-8  
 GHG EMISSIONS BY YEAR (MT CO<sub>2</sub>E)**

Category	Construction									Operation
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025
Federal Reporting Threshold	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Project GHG Emissions	535	432	357	316	207	349	148	177	79	1,874

## Mitigation Measures

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-1:** City approval of any grading or improvement plans shall include the following SMAQMD Basic Construction Emission Control Practices:

- All exposed surfaces shall be watered two times daily. Exposed surfaces include, but are not limited to soil piles, graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads.
- Cover or maintain at least two feet of free board space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Any haul trucks that would be traveling along freeways or major roadways shall be covered.
- Use wet power vacuum street sweepers to remove any visible trackout mud or dirt onto adjacent public roads at least once a day. Use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.
- Limit vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour.
- All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots shall be paved as soon as possible. In addition, building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.
- Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes (as required by the state airborne toxics control measure [Title 13, Section 2485 of the California Code of Regulations]). Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site.

- Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determine to be running in proper condition before it is operated.

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## 3.3 Biological Resources

### 3.3.1 Introduction

This section describes the biological resources found in the project area and the potential impacts of project implementation on those resources. Biological resources include special-status plant and wildlife species and their habitats, as well as wetlands and other waters that receive protection under various federal and state regulations.

### 3.3.2 Environmental Setting

In conformance with City of Sacramento General Plan Policy ER 2.1.10, a habitat assessment was conducted on the project site by a qualified professional biologist. The assessment evaluated the suitability of the project site to support sensitive plant and animal species, sensitive habitats, wetlands, nesting birds, and trees regulated by the City of Sacramento Tree Ordinance (Sacramento City Code 12.56). An arborist report that provided detailed analysis concerning the site's tree resources was also prepared (Tree Associates, 2017a).

### Vegetation Communities/Land Cover Types

Wildlife habitats are generally described in terms of vegetation types along with landform, level of disturbance, and other unique environmental characteristics. Vegetation types are assemblages of plant species that occur together in the same area and are repeated across landscapes, and are defined by species composition and relative abundance. Habitat types on the proposed project site are dominated by non-native ornamental and weedy plants, and overall are highly managed landscapes. These habitats are considered “semi-natural stands” and do not conform to traditional vegetation classification systems such as those defined in Mayer and Laudenslayer (1988) or Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf, and Evens (2009). Nevertheless, habitats on the project site are described below.

#### **Urban/Developed**

The existing 21-acre Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex is comprised entirely of Urban/Developed habitat. This habitat type consists of buildings, roadways, and other built infrastructure. Vegetation in the area consists of managed landscaping, which includes lawns, ornamental shrubs, shade trees and hedges. Wildlife species observed or expected to occur in this type of habitat include common species such as house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*), and black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*).

#### **Ruderal Grassland**

The 3.2-acre Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex Expansion Area parcel is comprised of ruderal grassland. This habitat type is typical of areas associated with high levels of regular ground disturbance, which would include grading, vehicle use, and/or intensive vegetation

maintenance. Due to the disturbance regime, these areas remain sparsely vegetated and are dominated by assemblages of introduced weedy species including wild oats (*Avena* sp.), foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum* spp. *leporinum*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), and rigpgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*). Forb species include yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), lamb's quarters (*Chenopodium album*), and telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*). Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is the dominant tree species within this portion of the project site. Eleven elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus nigra* subsp. *caerulea*) with stems greater than 1-inch diameter are located along the western edge of the Expansion Area parcel.

The Lower American River and American River Parkway support riparian woodland vegetation and riverine aquatic habitats approximately 700 to 900 feet north of the proposed project site. A flood control levee and commercial urban development separate habitat along the American River from the proposed project site.

## Sensitive Plant and Wildlife Species

The biological resources investigation conducted for this IS/EA included identification of sensitive species and habitats known to be present or with potential to occur in the project area. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was queried to determine if any special status plant or wildlife species have been recorded within five miles of the project site. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was also contacted to determine whether federally listed threatened or endangered species under its jurisdiction would be likely to occur in the project area. The USFWS response letter is attached to this IS/EA as Appendix A. The combined results of the CNDDDB and USFWS queries were compiled on a map, which is also included in Appendix A. **Table 3.3-1** presents a complete list of sensitive species with potential to occur in the area. The list also includes a brief evaluation of the likelihood of occurrence of those species within the project area itself based upon the presence or absence of suitable habitat.

As can be seen in the table, a number of special status species are known to have occurred in the project vicinity. Nearly all of these species are not expected to occur on the project site itself because the site lacks suitable habitat, is outside the range of the species, or the species has been extirpated from the area.

The results of this analysis indicated that one federally listed species has the potential to occur in the project area and be affected by implementing the project: the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), which is federally listed as threatened. This potential is based on the presence of 11 elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus nigra* subsp. *caerulea*) located along the western edge of the Expansion Area parcel. During the habitat assessment survey, the locations of each of the shrubs were recorded. The size class of the stems and whether or not beetle exit holes were present were also recorded. None of the shrubs are located in riparian habitat. Three shrubs had one or more stems with a diameter between 1 and 3 inches, one shrub had two stems with a diameter between 3 and 5 inches, and seven shrubs had stems smaller than 1 inch diameter. No exit holes were found in any of the stems greater than 1 inch diameter, which would generally indicate that beetles are not present. Details of the assessment can be found in the Biological Assessment (BA) that was prepared for the project and submitted to USFWS for review and concurrence. The BA and all correspondence with USFWS can be found in Appendix A of this IS/EA.

**TABLE 3.3-1  
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status: Federal/State/Other	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Project Site <sup>1</sup>
<b>Invertebrates</b>				
<i>Andrena subapasta</i>	None: an andrenid bee	--/--/--	Collects pollen primarily from <i>Arenaria californica</i> but also <i>Orthocarpus erianthus</i> & <i>Lasthenia</i> sp.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. Host plants are not present on the site, and the species is not known to occur within five miles of the project site.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	Vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT/--/--	Vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands in open grassland habitat.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. Vernal pools are not present on the site.
<i>Branchinecta mesovallensis</i>	Midvalley fairy shrimp	--/--/--	Vernal pools in the Central Valley.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. Vernal pools are not present on the site.
<i>Cicindela hirticollis abrupta</i>	Sacramento Valley tiger beetle	--/--/--	Sandy floodplain habitat in the Sacramento valley. Requires fine to medium sand, terraced floodplains or low sandy water edge flats.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site.
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	valley elderberry longhorn beetle	FT/--/--	Occurs only in the Central Valley of California, in association with blue elderberry ( <i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>caerulea</i> ). Prefers to lay eggs in elderberries 2-8 inches in diameter; some preference shown for "stressed" elderberries.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Elderberry shrubs with stems measuring at least one inch in diameter occur within the development footprint in the project area. No exit holes were found in any of the stems greater than one inch diameter.
<i>Dumontia oregonensis</i>	Hairy water flea	--/--/--	Vernal pools. In California, known only from Mather Field.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. Vernal pools are not present on the site.
<i>Hydrochara rickseckeri</i>	Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle	--/--/--	Natural history of this aquatic species is not well known. Regionally, it is known to occur in Mather Field Regional Park.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. There are no suitable aquatic habitats on the site.
<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	FE/--/--	Vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands in open grassland habitat.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. Vernal pools are not present on the site.
<i>Linderiella occidentalis</i>	California linderiella	--/--/--	Seasonal pools in unplowed grasslands with old alluvial soils underlain by hardpan or in sandstone depressions. Water in the pools has very low alkalinity, conductivity, and total dissolved solids.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. Vernal pools are not present on the site.
<b>Reptiles</b>				
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	Western pond turtle	--/CSC/--	Streams, rivers, ponds, marshes and other aquatic habitats. Requires secure basking area where they can easily escape to water. Upland nesting sites can be as much as 300 feet from aquatic habitat, but are usually closer.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. There are no suitable aquatic habitats on the site.
<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	giant garter snake	FT/ST/--	Prefers freshwater marsh and low gradient streams. Has adapted to drainage canals & and irrigation ditches. This is the most aquatic of the garter snakes in California.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site.

**TABLE 3.3-1 (CONTINUED)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status: Federal/State/Other	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Project Site <sup>1</sup>
<b>Amphibians</b>				
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	California tiger salamander	FT/ST/--	Grassland, oak savanna, and edges of mixed woodland and lower elevation coniferous forest. Requires temporary breeding ponds to breed. Spends most time underground in animal burrows, especially those of California ground squirrels, valley pocket gophers, and moles. Requires both suitable upland terrestrial habitat with mammal burrows for refuge and temporary breeding ponds in order to survive and reproduce.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site.
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	FT/CSC/--	Found mainly near ponds in humid forests, woodlands, grasslands, coastal scrub, and streamsides with plant cover. Most common in lowlands or foothills. Frequently found in woods adjacent to streams. Breeding habitat is in permanent or ephemeral water sources; lakes, ponds, reservoirs, slow streams, marshes, bogs, and swamps. Ephemeral wetland habitats require animal burrows or other moist refuges for estivation when the wetlands are dry.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site.
<i>Spea hammondi</i>	Western spadefoot	--/CSC/--	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site.
<b>Fish</b>				
<i>Archoplites interruptus</i>	Sacramento perch	--/CSC/--	Historically found in the sloughs, slow-moving rivers, and lakes of the central valley. Prefers warm water. Aquatic vegetation is essential for young. Tolerates wide range of Physio-chemical water conditions.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. There are no fish-supporting aquatic habitats on the site.
<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	Delta smelt	FT/SE/-	Occurs in Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta most of the year. Spawns in tidally influenced freshwater wetlands and seasonally submerged uplands along the Sacramento River, downstream from its confluence with the American River.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. There are no fish-supporting aquatic habitats on the site.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	northern California DPS steelhead	FT/--/--	Requires cold, freshwater streams with suitable gravel for spawning; rears seasonally inundated floodplains, rivers, tributaries, and Delta.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. There are no fish-supporting aquatic habitats on the site.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Central Valley DPS steelhead	FT/--/--	Requires cold, freshwater streams with suitable gravel for spawning; rears seasonally inundated floodplains, rivers, tributaries, and Delta.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. There are no fish-supporting aquatic habitats on the site.
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon ESU	FT/ST/--	Requires cold, freshwater streams with suitable gravel for spawning; rears seasonally inundated floodplains, rivers, tributaries, and Delta.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. There are no fish-supporting aquatic habitats on the site.

**TABLE 3.3-1 (CONTINUED)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status: Federal/State/Other	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Project Site <sup>1</sup>
<b>Fish (cont.)</b>				
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon ESU	FE/SE/--	Requires cold, freshwater streams with suitable gravel for spawning; rears seasonally inundated floodplains, rivers, tributaries, and Delta.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. There are no fish-supporting aquatic habitats on the site.
<i>Pogonichthys macrolepidotus</i>	Sacramento spittail	--/CSC/--	Spawning and juvenile rearing from winter to early summer in shallow weedy areas inundated during seasonal flooding in the lower reaches and flood bypasses of the Sacramento River including the Yolo Bypass.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. There are no fish-supporting aquatic habitats on the site.
<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i>	Longfin smelt	FC/ST/--	Euryhaline, nektonic & anadromous. Found in open waters of estuaries, mostly in middle or bottom of water column. Prefer salinities of 15-30 parts per thousand, but can be found in completely freshwater to almost pure seawater.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. There are no fish-supporting aquatic habitats on the site.
<b>Birds</b>				
<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	Cooper's hawk	--/WL/--	Woodland, chiefly of open, interrupted or marginal type. Nest sites mainly in riparian growths of deciduous trees, as in canyon bottoms on river flood-plains; also, live oaks.	<b>Low.</b> The site does not support relatively dense stands of mature trees typically used for nesting. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Tricolored blackbird	--/CSC/--	Highly colonial species, most numerous in central valley & vicinity. Largely endemic to California. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, & foraging area with insect prey within a few km of the colony.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle	--/FP/--	Rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, & desert. Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range; also, large trees in open areas.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. Species not known to occur within five miles of the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great egret	--/--/--	Colonial nester in large trees. Rookery sites located near marshes, tide-flats, irrigated pastures, and margins of rivers And lakes.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great blue heron	--/--/--	Colonial nester in tall trees, cliffsides, and sequestered spots on marshes. Rookery sites in close proximity to foraging areas: marshes, lake margins, tide-flats, rivers and streams, wet meadows.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	--/CSC/--	Forages in open plains, grasslands, and prairies; typically nests in abandoned small mammal burrows.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. Species not known to occur within five miles of the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.



**TABLE 3.3-1 (CONTINUED)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status: Federal/State/Other	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Project Site <sup>1</sup>
<b>Birds (cont.)</b>				
<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Ferruginous hawk	--/WL/--	Open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills and fringes of pinyon and Juniper habitats. Eats mostly lagomorphs, ground squirrels, and mice. Population trends may follow lagomorph population cycles.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. Species not known to occur within five miles of the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	--/ST/--	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, and agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, or alfalfa or grain fields supporting rodent populations.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. Species not known to occur within five miles of the project site, specifically along the Sacramento and American Rivers. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT/SE/--	Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems. Nests in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, w/ lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Egretta thula</i>	Snowy egret	--/--/--	Colonial nester, with nest sites situated in protected beds of dense tules. Rookery sites situated close to foraging areas: marshes, tidal-flats, streams, wet meadows, and borders of lakes.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	white-tailed kite	--/FP/--	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin	--/WL/--	Nest in forested openings, edges, and along rivers. May also nest in towns and cities (using crow nests in conifers planted in residential areas, schoolyards, parks, and cemeteries). During migration and winter, this species can be seen using open forest, grassland, and coastal areas.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song sparrow ("Modesto" population)	--/CSC/--	Prefers open habitat, including marsh edges, overgrown fields, backyards, desert washes, and forest edges. Commonly visit bird feeders and build nests in residential areas.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned night heron	--/--/--	Colonial nester, usually in trees, occasionally in tule patches. Rookery sites located adjacent to foraging areas: lake margins, mud-bordered bays, marshy spots.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Double-crested cormorant	--/WL/--	Colonial nester on coastal cliffs, offshore islands, & along lake margins in the interior of The state. Nests along coast on sequestered islets, usually on ground with sloping surface, or in tall trees along lake margins.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.

**TABLE 3.3-1 (CONTINUED)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status: Federal/State/Other	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Project Site <sup>1</sup>
<b>Birds (cont.)</b>				
<i>Progne subis</i>	purple martin	--/CSC/--	Inhabits woodlands, low elevation coniferous forest of Douglas-fir ( <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> ), ponderosa pine ( <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> ), and Monterey pine ( <i>Pinus radiata</i> ). Nests primarily in old woodpecker cavities, also in human-made structures. Nest often located in tall, isolated tree/snag.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank swallow	--/ST/--	Colonial nester; nests primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert. Requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near streams, rivers, lakes, ocean to dig nesting hole.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Least Bell's vireo	FE/SE/--	Inhabits dense, low, scrub habitat, generally early successional stages in riparian areas, brushy fields, young second-growth forest or woodland, scrub oak, coastal chaparral, and mesquite brushlands, often near water in arid regions. Species is a summer resident of southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Yellow-headed blackbird	--/CSC/--	Nests in freshwater emergent wetlands with dense vegetation & deep water. Often along Borders of lakes or ponds. Nests only where large insects such as <i>Odonata</i> are abundant, nesting timed with maximum emergence of aquatic insects.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<b>Mammals</b>				
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	hoary bat	--/--/--	Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable denning or foraging habitat for this species within the project site.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	--/CSC/--	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with Friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils & open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable denning or foraging habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<b>Plants</b>				
<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>ferrisiae</i>	Ferris' milk-vetch	--/--/1B.1	Meadows, valley and foothill grassland, subalkaline flats on overflow land in the central valley; usually seen in dry, adobe soil. 5-75m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Carex comosa</i>	Bristly sedge	--/--/2B.1	Marshes and swamps. Lake margins, wet places; site below sea level is on a Delta island. -5-1005m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.

**TABLE 3.3-1 (CONTINUED)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status: Federal/State/Other	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Project Site <sup>1</sup>
<b>Plants (cont.)</b>				
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> spp. <i>rudis</i>	Perry's rough tarplant	--/--/4.2	Alkaline, vernal mesic, seeps, sometimes roadsides. Valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Cuscuta obtusiflora</i> var. <i>glandulosa</i>	Peruvian dodder	--/--/2B.2	Marshes and swamps (freshwater). 15-280 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Downingia pusilla</i>	Dwarf downingia	--/--/2B.2	Valley and foothill grassland (mesic sites), vernal pools. Vernal lake and pool margins with a variety of associates in several types of vernal pools. 1-445 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Fritillaria agrestis</i>	Stinkbells	--/--/4.2	Cismontane woodland, chaparral, valley and foothill grassland. Sometimes on serpentine; mostly found in nonnative grassland or in grassy openings in clay soil. 10-1555 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Gratiola heterosepala</i>	Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop	FE/--/1B.2	Marshes and swamps (freshwater), vernal pools. Clay soils; usually in vernal pools, sometimes on lake margins. 10-2375 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Hesperexax caulescens</i>	Hogwallow starfish	--/--/1.B2	Valley and foothill grassland (mesic, clay), vernal pools. 0-505 meters.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i>	Wooly rose-mallow	--/--/1B.2	Marshes and swamps (freshwater). Moist, freshwater-soaked river banks & low peat islands in sloughs; can also occur on riprap and levees. In California, known from the Delta watershed. 0-120 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Juglans hindsii</i>	Northern California black walnut	--/--/1B.1	Riparian forest, riparian woodland. Few extant native stands remain; widely naturalized. Deep alluvial soil associated with a creek or stream. 0-440 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Juncus leiospermus</i> var. <i>ahartii</i>	Ahart's dwarf rush	--/--/1B.2	Vernal pools, valley and foothill grassland. Restricted to the edges of vernal pools. 30-229 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Legenere limosa</i>	Legenere	--/--/1B.1	Vernal pools. In beds of vernal pools. 1-880 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Lepidium latipes</i> var. <i>heckardii</i>	Heckard's pepper-grass	--/--/1B.2	Valley and foothill grassland. Grassland, and sometimes vernal pool edges. Alkaline soils. 2-200 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.

**TABLE 3.3-1 (CONTINUED)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status: Federal/State/Other	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Project Site <sup>1</sup>
<b>Plants (cont.)</b>				
<i>Lilaeopsis masonii</i>	Mason's lilaeopsis	--/--/1B.1	Freshwater and brackish marshes, riparian scrub. Tidal zones, in muddy or silty soil formed through river deposition or river bank erosion. 0-10 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Orcuttia tenuis</i>	Slender Orcutt grass	FT/CE/1B.1	Vernal pools. Often in gravelly pools. 35-1760 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Orcuttia viscida</i>	Sacramento Orcutt grass	FE/CE/1B.1	Vernal pools. 30-100 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Sagittaria sandfordii</i>	Sandford's arrowhead	--/--/1B.2	Marshes and swamps. In standing or slow-moving freshwater ponds, marshes, and ditches. 0-650 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Symphotrichum lentum</i>	Suisun Marsh aster	--/--/1B.2	Marshes and swamps (brackish and freshwater). most often seen along sloughs with <i>Phragmites</i> , <i>Scirpus</i> , blackberry, <i>Typha</i> , etc. 0-3 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Trifolium hydrophilum</i>	Saline clover	--/--/1B.2	Marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Mesic, alkaline sites. 0-300 m.	<b>Unlikely.</b> No suitable habitat for this species within the project site. This species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
<b>Sensitive Vegetation Communities</b>				
Elderberry savanna	--	--	Open to moderately closed stands characterized by <i>Sambucus Mexicana</i> . Understory typically dominated by grasses. Occurs in association with remnant riparian forest vegetation.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Habitat not present within or directly adjacent to the project site.
Great Valley Cottonwood Riparian Forest	--	--	A dense, broadleaved, winter deciduous riparian forest dominated by Fremont cottonwood ( <i>Populus fremontii</i> ) and Goodding's black willow ( <i>Salix gooddingii</i> ). The understory is usually dense, with abundant vegetative reproduction of canopy dominants and California wild grape is the most conspicuous vine. Habitat experiences frequent flooding.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Habitat not present within or directly adjacent to the project site.
Great Valley Valley Oak Riparian Forest	--	--	Medium to tall (rarely to 100 feet) broadleaved, winter deciduous, closed-canopy riparian forest dominated by Valley oak ( <i>Quercus lobata</i> ). Understories include scattered Oregon ash, Northern California black walnut, and western sycamore as well as young valley oaks. Vines are relatively scattered throughout the shady understory but quickly become conspicuous occupying gaps where light is available.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Habitat not present within or directly adjacent to the project site.

**TABLE 3.3-1 (CONTINUED)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status: Federal/State/Other	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Project Site <sup>1</sup>
<b>Sensitive Vegetation Communities (cont.)</b>				
Northern Claypan Vernal Pool	--	--	Similar to Northern Hardpan Vernal Pools, but with less topographical relief, and usually lower overall cover. Pools range in size from the small (a few square meters) to quite large (covering several hectares).	<b>Unlikely.</b> Habitat not present within or directly adjacent to the project site.
Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool	--	--	Community is dominated by annual grasses and herbs that grow in and out of the water. Germination and growth begin with winter rains, often continuing even when inundated. These pools gradually evaporate during spring, leaving concentric bands of vegetation that colorfully encircle the drying pools.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Habitat not present within or directly adjacent to the project site.
Northern Volcanic Mudflow Vernal Pool	--	--	Pools occur on Tertiary volcanic mudflows called lahars. Pools form after winter rains in settings of impeded water over rock-bound depressions. The pools are small, forming in irregular depressions in gently sloping surfaces. Habitat is seasonally flooded and seasonally saturated.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Habitat not present within or directly adjacent to the project site.

## NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> The "Potential for Occurrence" category is defined as follows:

- **Unlikely:** The project site and/or surrounding area do not support suitable habitat for a particular species, or the project site is outside of the species known range.
- **Low Potential:** The project site and/or immediate area only provide limited amounts and low quality habitat for a particular species. In addition, the known range for a particular species may be outside of the immediate project site.
- **Medium Potential:** The project site and/or immediate area provide suitable habitat for a particular species.
- **High Potential:** The project site and/or immediate area provide ideal habitat conditions for a particular species and/or known populations occur in immediate area and/or within the project site.

## ABBREVIATION KEY:

## Federal: (USFWS)

FE = Listed as Endangered by the Federal Government  
 FT = Listed as Threatened by the Federal Government  
 FC = Candidate for listing by the Federal Government

## State: (CDFW)

SE = Listed as Endangered by the State of California  
 ST = Listed as Threatened by the State of California  
 SR = Listed as Rare by the State of California (plants only)  
 FP = Species fully protected by CDFW  
 CSC = California Species of Special Concern  
 WL = Species on the CDFW Watch List

## CNPS: (California Native Plant Society)

Rank 1A = Plants presumed extinct in California  
 Rank 1B = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere  
 Rank 2 = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere  
 Rank 3 = Need more information  
 Rank 4 = Limited distribution – a watch list  
 0.1 = Seriously endangered in California  
 0.2 = Fairly endangered in California  
 0.3 = Not very endangered in California  
 -- = No Listing

SOURCES: CDFW, 2016, CNPS, 2016; USFWS, 2016a.

Based on examination of the shrubs, it is apparent that many of the elderberry shrubs onsite have been cut back multiple times. Some of the shrubs have large stumps with smaller stems shooting out of the stump. It appears that the various landowners on the Expansion Area property have routinely cut all vegetation on their properties, including elderberry shrubs, to increase visibility in the area due to safety concerns, primarily from homeless individuals camping and loitering in the area.

## Critical Habitat/Habitat Conservation Plans

Critical habitat is defined in Section 3(5)A of the federal Endangered Species Act as the specific portions of the geographic area occupied by the species in which physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species are found and that may require special management considerations or protection. Specific areas outside of the geographic area occupied by the species may also be included in critical habitat designations upon a determination that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. Critical habitat has been designated for valley elderberry longhorn beetle. However, the project area is not located within the designated area. The closest critical habitat for the species is located along the American River, approximately 0.5 miles northeast of the project area, along the north side of the American River floodplain.

No Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or local, regional, or state conservation plans are in effect for the project site.

## Wetlands and Jurisdictional Waters

The project site was surveyed for the presence of wetlands and other federal and state jurisdictional waters. There are no potentially jurisdictional wetlands or other waters of the U.S. or waters of the State on the site.

## Nesting Bird Habitat

During site visits on August 11, 2014 and January 25, 2016, project biologists conducted focused searches for active nests and inactive nest structures. No active bird nests were observed within or adjacent to the proposed project site; however, trees on the project site have the potential to support nesting birds, including raptors. Four special-status bird species occurrences are recorded within 0.25 miles of the project site, including Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsonii*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), and song sparrow "Modesto population" (*Melospiza melodia*) (CNDDDB, 2016). These occurrences are all associated with the American River floodplain and the adjoining riparian areas, which are separated from the project site by flood control levees and urban development.

## City Trees and Private Protected Trees

The Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex is landscaped with turf and ornamental trees and shrubs. A tree inventory conducted in 2017 logged 130 trees of 26 species (Tree Associates, 2017a). Nearly half of the trees (48 percent) were Modesto ash and London plane. Coast redwood (12 percent of total) and crepe myrtle (8 percent of total) were the next most common species. No

other individual species represented more than 4 percent of the total population. Ninety-six trees or 74 percent of the population was in fair-good or good health. Only seven percent (9 trees) were in poor-fair or poor health.

On the Expansion Area property east of North 12th Street, tree of heaven is the dominant tree species. These trees generally occur in noncontiguous multiple-stem groupings around the perimeter of the site.

### 3.3.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations

#### **Federal Regulations**

##### ***Federal Endangered Species Act***

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973, (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) provides a means to conserve the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend. It also provides a program for the conservation of such endangered and threatened species. Section 7 of the Act requires each federal agency, in consultation with and with the assistance of the USFWS, to ensure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency do not jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species, unless the agency has been granted an exemption for the proposed action. In situations where listed species have the potential to be impacted, or where USFWS-designated critical habitat for a listed species is present, formal consultation with the USFWS is usually carried out via the preparation of a Biological Opinion (BO) by the USFWS, wherein the USFWS discloses likely impacts to listed species or their habitats, and prescribes mitigation to offset those impacts.

##### ***Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands)***

Executive Order 11990 requires that federal agencies implement the following procedures for any federal action that involves wetlands: 1) provide an opportunity for early public involvement; 2) consider alternatives that would avoid wetlands, and if avoidance is not possible, measures to minimize harm to wetlands must be included in the action; and 3) prepare a “Wetlands Only Practicable Alternative Finding” for actions that require an EIS.

##### ***Section 404 of the Clean Water Act***

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has jurisdiction over wetlands and other waters of the United States, through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Hydrophytic vegetation, wetland hydrology and hydric soils all must be present to qualify a site as a jurisdictional wetland as defined in Section 404. The USACE requires that: 1) impacts to wetlands be avoided; 2) unavoidable impacts be minimized to the maximum extent practicable; and 3) when unavoidable, impacts be mitigated to achieve no-net-loss of wetland functions and values.

### ***Migratory Bird Treaty Act***

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC, Section 703 Supp. I 1989) establishes a federal prohibition, unless permitted by regulations, to "pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of this Convention . . . for the protection of migratory birds . . . or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird."

## **State Regulations**

### ***California Endangered Species Act***

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish and Game Code, Section 2050, et seq.) declares that it is the policy of the state to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance any endangered species or any threatened species and its habitat. It requires state lead agencies to adopt reasonable and prudent alternatives or modifications to a project when CDFW finds that the project would jeopardize the continued existence of such species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat essential to the continued existence of such species.

### ***California Fully Protected Species***

The Fish and Game Code provides protections from take for a variety of species. Certain species are considered fully protected. Fully protected species or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed at any time, except as provided in Section 2081.7 of the Fish and Game Code. No provision of the Fish and Game Code or any other law shall be construed to authorize the issuance of permits or licenses to take any fully protected species, and no permits or licenses heretofore issued shall have any force or effect for that purpose. However, the department may authorize the taking of those species for necessary scientific research, including efforts to recover fully protected, threatened, or endangered species. Lists of the fully protected species are provided in Sections 3511 (birds), 4700 (mammals), 5050 (amphibians and reptiles), and 5515 (fishes) of the Fish and Game Code.

### ***California Species of Special Concern***

California Species of Special Concern (CSC) status applies to animals not listed under the FESA or CESA, but which nonetheless are declining at a rate that could result in listing, or historically occurred in low numbers and known threats to their persistence currently exist. CSC species share one or more of the following criteria:

- Occur in small, isolated populations or in fragmented habitat, and are threatened by further isolation and population reduction;
- Show marked population declines. Species that show a marked population decline, yet are still abundant, do not meet the CSC definition, whereas marked population decline in uncommon or rare species is an inclusion criterion;



- Depend on a habitat that has shown substantial historical or recent declines in size. This criterion infers the population viability of a species based on trends in the habitats upon which it specializes. Species that specialize in these habitats generally meet the criteria for Threatened or Endangered status or CSC status;
- Occur only in or adjacent to an area where habitat is being converted to land uses incompatible with the animal's survival;
- Have few California records, or which historically occurred here but for which there are no recent records; and
- Occur largely on public lands, but where current management practices are inconsistent with the animal's persistence.

The CSC designation is intended to result in special consideration for these species by CDFW, land managers, and others, and is intended to focus attention on the species to help avert the need for listing under federal and State endangered species laws and recovery efforts that might ultimately be required. The CSC designation does not provide specific legal protection, but signifies that these species are recognized as vulnerable by CDFW.

### ***California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Inventory***

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a statewide resource conservation organization that has developed an inventory of California's special-status plant species. This inventory is a summary of information on the distribution, rarity, and endangerment of California's vascular plants. This rare plant inventory consists of four lists. CNPS presumes that List 1A plant species are extinct in California because they have not been seen in the wild for many years. CNPS considers List 1B plants as rare, threatened, or endangered throughout their range. List 2 plant species are considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common in other states. Plant species for which CNPS requires additional information in order to properly evaluate their status are included on List 3. List 4 plant species are those of limited distribution in California whose susceptibility to threat is considered low at the current time. Plant species on lists 1A, 1B, and 2 meet CDFW criteria for endangered, threatened, or rare listing.

The CNPS listing is a guideline for lead agencies to assist in identification of plant species that are rare in California. The goal is to establish awareness of native plants and to take action to avoid or reduce impacts to plants on the list.

### ***California Native Plant Protection Act***

The California Native Plant Protection Act, (Fish and Game Code 1900-1913) requires all state agencies to utilize their authority to carry out programs to conserve endangered and rare native plants.

## Local Regulations

### ***City of Sacramento Tree Ordinance***

Sacramento City Code 12.56 was amended and adopted by the Sacramento City Council on August 4, 2016. The new tree ordinance amends section 2.62.030 and 8.04.100 and deletes chapter 12.60 and 12.64 of the Sacramento City Code, related to trees.

The City of Sacramento Tree Ordinance (City Code 12.56) specifies that a permit is required to perform regulated work on “City Trees” or “Private Protected Trees” (which includes trees formerly referred to as “Heritage Trees”).

City trees are characterized as trees partially or completely located in a City park, on City-owned property, or on a public right-of-way, including any street, road, sidewalk, park strip, mow strip or alley. Private protected trees are defined as trees designated to have special historical value, special environmental value, or significant community benefit, and that are located on private property.

Private protected trees are:

- All native trees at 12-inch diameter standard height (DSH). Native trees include Coast, Interior, Valley and Blue Oaks, CA Sycamore and Buckeye.
- All trees at 32-inch DSH with an existing single-family or duplex dwelling.
- All trees at 24-inch DSH on undeveloped land or any other type of property such as commercial, industrial, and apartments.

“Regulated work” means planting a city tree or any act that could adversely impact the health of a city tree or private protected tree such as:

- Removing a city tree or private protected tree;
- Pruning the branches or roots from a city tree or private protected tree;
- Affixing any signs, lights, or hardware to a city tree;
- Grading, clearing, excavating, adding fill soil, trenching, boring, compacting, or paving within the tree protection zone of a city tree or private protected tree;
- Placing or storing construction equipment or construction material within the tree protection zone of a city tree or private protected tree;
- Application of any harmful substance within the tree protection zone of a city tree or private protected tree; or
- Topping a city tree or private protected tree.

Regulated work does not include routine maintenance.

Sacramento City Code 12.56.040 identifies the requirements for removal of City Trees for public projects.

- A. Whenever feasible, the city shall modify the design of public projects to avoid the removal or damage to city trees.
- B. If the city proposes to remove city trees that have a DSH of four inches or more as part of a public project that otherwise requires city council approval, the city project manager shall provide written justification to the director<sup>1</sup> of the need to remove city trees for the public project. The director shall review the written justification and if the director agrees with the written justification the director shall make a recommendation to the city council to approve the request to remove the city trees. The request for approval from city council may take place at any stage of the public project but the city shall obtain council approval prior to removing the city trees. City trees proposed to be removed as part of a public project that either does not require city council approval or has a DSH less than four inches shall be removed as provided in section 12.56.030.C.
- C. The director shall provide written notice of the proposal to remove city trees as part of a public project by posting a notice of the time, date, and location of the city council meeting during which the city council is to decide whether or not to remove city trees in a conspicuous place on or in proximity to the trees at least 15 days prior to the city council meeting.

As specified in Sacramento City Code 12.56.050 (Tree Permits), no person shall perform regulated work without a tree permit. Applications for a tree permit shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Director upon forms provided by the city. The application shall include a statement detailing the nature and necessity for the proposed regulated work, the location of the proposed work, and signature of the applicant. The application shall be accompanied by an application fee in an amount established by resolution of the city council.

The Director may require that the application be accompanied by:

- 1. An arborist report;
- 2. A site map indicating existing and proposed elevations, property lines, streets, easements, driveways, buildings and structures, building and structure setbacks, parking areas, existing and proposed land uses, and locations of all trees with identification numbers;
- 3. A landscape or tree planting plan;
- 4. A tree protection plan;
- 5. Proof of compliance with any applicable California Contractors State License Board licensing requirements;
- 6. Authorization of the property owner;

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<sup>1</sup> "Director" means the following. For city trees located in city parks, the director of the department of parks or the director's designee. For all other city trees, the director of the department of public works or the director's designee.

7. A tree replacement plan if the applicant proposes to remove a city tree or private protected tree; and
8. Any other information the Director determines to be necessary.

In general, the intent of the Tree Ordinance is to maintain and protect City and Private Protected Trees to the maximum extent feasible. When qualifying trees must be removed, they are to be replaced at an approved ratio based on the requirements of the ordinance. If the required amount of tree replacements is not feasible, payment of in-lieu fees may be substituted.

### 3.3.4 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR

#### **2035 General Plan Master EIR**

The 2035 General Plan Master EIR (City of Sacramento, 2014) described existing conditions with respect to biological resources in the City of Sacramento, and the potential changes to those conditions that could result from development consistent with the 2035 General Plan. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.3, *Biological Resources*.

The Master EIR identified potential impacts to special-status plant and animal species, riparian habitats, wetlands, sensitive natural communities, and tree resources (Impacts 4.3-1 through 4.3-12) and concluded that adopted General Plan policies would reduce the potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. The following General Plan policies are applicable to the proposed project:

***Policy ER 2.1.10: Habitat Assessments and Impact Compensation.*** The City shall consider the potential impact on sensitive plants and wildlife for each project requiring discretionary approval. If site conditions are such that potential habitat for sensitive plant and/or wildlife species may be present, the City shall require habitat assessments, prepared by a qualified biologist, for sensitive plant and wildlife species. If the habitat assessment determines that suitable habitat for sensitive plant and/or wildlife species is present, then either: 1) protocol-level surveys shall be conducted (where survey protocol has been established by a resource agency), or, in the absence of established survey protocol, a focused survey shall be conducted consistent with industry-recognized best practices; or 2) suitable habitat and presence of the species shall be assumed to occur within all potential habitat locations identified on the project site. Survey Reports shall be prepared and submitted to the City and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (depending on the species) for further consultation and development of avoidance and/or mitigation measures consistent with state and federal law.

The Master EIR evaluated impacts to biological resources throughout the City. Some areas of the City, such as the river corridors, are rich in biological resources, whereas highly urbanized areas like the project site are not. As discussed in the Environmental Setting discussion of this section, the sensitive biological resources that are present in other portions of the City, such as sensitive riparian habitats, are not present on the project site. This is due to the highly urbanized nature of the site and the surrounding area. As such, adopted policies in the 2035 General Plan directed towards protection of specific types of biological resources (such as sensitive riparian habitats) are not applicable to the proposed project.

## River District Specific Plan EIR

The River District Specific Plan EIR (City of Sacramento, 2010) evaluated effects of development within the Specific Plan area. See EIR Chapter 5.2, *Biological Resources*. The EIR identified potential impacts to special-status plant and animal species, riparian habitats, wetlands, sensitive natural communities, and tree resources (Impacts 5.2-1 through 5.2-5), and concluded that adopted mitigation measures and General Plan policies would reduce the potential impacts to less-than-significant levels.

As with the 2035 General Plan Master EIR, the RDSP EIR assessed impacts over a very large area (the 748-acre Specific Plan area). Most of the RDSP area is highly urbanized, and sensitive biological resources are largely absent from those areas. There are, however, pockets within the plan area where sensitive resources are present. As discussed in the Environmental Setting discussion of this section, the sensitive biological resources that are present in other portions of the RDSP area, such as sensitive habitat areas, for example, are not present on the project site. This is due to the highly urbanized nature of the site and the surrounding area. As such, the mitigations and General Plan policies related to sensitive species and habitats that are referred to in the EIR are not directly applicable to the proposed project.

### 3.3.5 Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

#### City of Sacramento Standards of Significance

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to biological resources under CEQA are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, and thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable general plans and previous environmental documents, including the 2035 General Plan Master EIR (City of Sacramento, 2014). The project alternatives would have a significant adverse effect if they would:

- 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;
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- 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, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance;
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan; or
- Create a potential health hazard, or use, production or disposal of materials that would pose a hazard to plant or animal populations in the area affected.

For the purposes of this document, “special-status” has been defined to include species that are:

- Listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (or formally proposed for, or candidates for, listing);
- Listed as endangered or threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (or proposed for listing);
- Designated as endangered or rare, pursuant to California Fish and Game Code (Fish and Game Code) (Section 1901);
- Designated as fully protected, pursuant to Fish and Game Code (Section 3511, 4700, or 5050);
- Designated as species of concern by USFWS, or as species of special concern to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW);
- Plants or animals that meet the definition of rare or endangered under CEQA; and
- Nesting birds as defined under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

## Department of Housing and Urban Development Evaluation Criteria

The online HUD Exchange provides guidance documents for considering context and intensity impacts associated with biological resources (HUD, 2013). Specific factors to consider include the project’s impacts to unique natural features, water resources, and vegetation and wildlife.

HUD regulations provide a listing of federal laws, regulations, and executive orders against which all HUD-assisted projects must be evaluated. These authorities are listed at 24 CFR Sections 58.5 and 58.6. Those authorities that are relevant to the proposed project have been listed previously in the *Applicable Policies and Regulations* section.

## Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria

There are no other criteria that would be applicable to the proposed project.

## Environmental Analysis

***BIO-1. Would the project 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?***

### Alternative 1 – No Project

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criteria.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**  
**Special Status Species**

As discussed in the Environmental Setting discussion of this section, only one sensitive species was found to be likely to occur on the project site; the valley elderberry longhorn beetle. The general habitat assessment found that the Expansion Area site contains four elderberry shrubs with stems greater than 1-inch diameter which could serve as habitat for the beetle. Seven additional shrubs are located on the property that possess stems less than 1-inch in diameter. All of the shrubs would be removed as part of project construction.

Based on the presence of these shrubs, the City, acting in its role as the Responsible Entity for the project as specified in 24 CFR 58.5, prepared a Biological Assessment (BA) for the project area that considered the likelihood of occurrence for the beetle, and the potential effects that could occur from implementation of the proposed project. The BA was forwarded to USFWS on September 6, 2016 for its review, together with a request that USFWS concur with the BA’s finding that with implementation of applicable conservation measures, the project would be unlikely to adversely affect the beetle. The USFWS issued a Biological Opinion (BO) on December 28, 2016, in which it found that with implementation of specified conservation measures, the proposed project and its cumulative effects would not be likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the beetle, and there would be no adverse effect. The BA, the BO, and the full record of correspondence associated with the City’s USFWS consultation effort is included with is this IS/EA as Appendix A.

The USFWS’s finding is contingent upon implementation of specified conservation measures, as outlined in the BO. Accordingly, these measures have been included here as mitigation for potential effects to the valley elderberry longhorn beetle. The principal mechanism for mitigation will be compensatory in nature, whereby the City will purchase beetle conservation credits from a USFWS-approved conservation bank with a service area that covers the proposed project. The City will compensate for the four plants with stems greater than 1-inch in diameter that will be removed as part of the project. The compensation will include an increase in credits due to the fact that the plants will not be transplanted based on their poor condition and the low likelihood that transplantation efforts would be successful. Based on the direction contained in the BO, the purchase of credits would occur based on the following formula:

**TABLE 3.3-2**  
**VALLEY ELDERBERRY LONGHORN BEETLE MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS**

Riparian	Elderberry Stem Size	Exit Holes	Number of Stems	Seedling Ratio	Number of Replacement Elderberries	Associated Native Ratio	Number of Associated Seedlings
No	>1" and <3"	No	4	1:1	4	1:1	4
No	>3" and <5"	No	2	2:1	4	1:1	4
<b>Total Stems Affected</b>			<b>6</b>				
<b>Total Replacement Plantings (x3)*</b>					<b>24</b>		<b>24</b>
<b>Conservation Credits Proposed for Plantings (total replacement plantings / 10)</b>						<b>4.8</b>	

\* Proposed increase in plantings due to the elderberry plants not being transplanted  
 SOURCE: USFWS. 2016b.

Specific conditions associated with the compensatory mitigation are presented below as Mitigation Measure 3.3-1 in the listing of mitigation measures at the end of this section. With implementation of these measures, there would be **no adverse effect** to special-status species under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

### **Nesting Birds**

As discussed in the Environmental Setting discussion of this section, there are trees present within the project site that could support nesting birds. Development of the project would require removal of the majority of the trees in the project site, including those with potential to support nesting birds.

Nesting birds and raptors are protected under Section 3513 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Vegetation removal could result in the loss of potential nest sites. Additionally, human disturbances and noise from construction activities have the potential to cause nest abandonment and death of young or loss of reproductive success at active nests located near project activities

Disturbance of active nest sites which results in nest abandonment, loss of young, or reduced health and vigor of eggs and/or nestlings (resulting in reduced survival rates), or the direct removal of vegetation that supports nesting birds which result in killing of nestlings or fledgling bird species would be considered an **potentially adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, this is considered a **potentially significant** impact. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.3-2, below, would reduce this impact to **no adverse effect** under NEPA, and **less than significant with mitigation** under CEQA.

### ***BIO-2. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criteria.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As discussed in the Environmental Setting discussion of this section, there are no sensitive natural communities, habitats, or riparian areas on the project site. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.



***BIO-3. Would the project 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, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criteria.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As discussed in the Environmental Setting discussion of this section, there are no waters of the U.S., waters of the State, or wetlands on the project site. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA and **no impact** under CEQA.

***BIO-4. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criteria.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As discussed in the Environmental Setting discussion of this section, the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex is landscaped with turf and ornamental trees and shrubs, including magnolia, cypress, and London plane. A tree inventory conducted in 2011 logged 130 trees of various species within the Complex. Approximately 100 of these trees would be removed as part of the project's development.

Per the requirements of the City's Tree Ordinance, any qualifying private protected tree removed as part of the project's implementation would have to be replaced based on the tree replacement ratios contained in the ordinance. As part of the project's final design, and prior to project implementation, a Tree Planting Plan would be required, within which the project applicant would demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the ordinance. Any required tree plantings that could not be accommodated on the site would be substituted for by in-lieu fees, as provided in the ordinance. The proposed project's required compliance with the City Tree Ordinance, which would include City review and approval of the required tree replacement plan

prior to project implementation, would ensure that there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA, and the impact would be **less than significant** under CEQA.

***BIO-5. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criteria.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As discussed in the Environmental Setting discussion of this section, there is no Critical Habitat designated on the project site, nor are there any Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or local, regional, or state conservation plans in effect for the site. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **no impact**.

***BIO-6. Would the project create a potential health hazard, or use, production or disposal of materials that would pose a hazard to plant or animal populations in the area affected?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criteria.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Development of the proposed project would result in increases in population. Increases in population could also result in increases in the use of potentially hazardous materials, such as fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides used in lawn care. During irrigation or storm events these types of pollutants could be washed into street drains and eventually end up in detention basins, drainage swales, and natural waterways. Increased vehicle trips would result in increased air emissions, such as ozone precursors and particulate matter. Increases in air, water, and soil pollutants as a result of the increase in population could expose plant and wildlife populations to hazardous materials. State and federal laws require detailed planning to ensure that hazardous materials are properly handled, used, stored, and disposed of, and, in the event that such materials are accidentally released, to prevent or to mitigate injury to health or the environment.

As noted in Section 3.9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, residual contamination from previous land uses has been detected on the Expansion Area parcel east of North 12th Street. Construction in this area could result in disturbance of contaminated soils and/or contact with contaminated groundwater. While no sensitive species are likely to occur on the site, plant and animals that are present on the site could be exposed on a temporary basis during the time the contaminants are exposed.

As discussed in Section 3.9, exposed soil and groundwater contaminants are highly regulated by both the federal and State governments, which would require and enforce the proper handling of the exposed contamination. In addition, General Plan Policy PHS 3.1.2 requires preparation of a Hazardous Materials Contamination Management Plan prior to development of contaminated parcels. Implementation of the Plan would manage such sites to prevent adverse environmental risks. This policy, as well as federal, State, and local regulations would require that project construction and operation on the site be carried out in such a manner as to not result in releases that would present environmental risks. For these reasons, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

## Mitigation Measures

**Mitigation Measure 3.3-1:** Prior to the issuance of any grading or building permit for the proposed project, the City or its designated cooperator shall purchase compensatory mitigation credits as specified in the project's Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated December 28, 2016. Credits shall be purchased at the ratios prescribed therein. In addition, the following conditions shall apply, as prescribed in the Biological Opinion:

1. The City or its designated cooperator will include full implementation and adherence to the conservation measure as a condition of any permit or contract issued for the proposed project;
2. The City or its designated cooperator will provide a completed bill of sale and payment receipt to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service upon purchase of the beetle conservation credits;
3. In order to monitor whether the amount or extent of incidental take anticipated from implementation of the proposed project is approached or exceeded, the City will adhere to the following reporting requirements. Should this anticipated amount or extent of incidental take be exceeded, the City must immediately reinstate formal consultation, as per 50 CFR 402.16.
  - a. For those components of the action that will result in habitat degradation or modification whereby incidental take in the form of harm is anticipated, the City will provide a precise accounting of the elderberry plants impacted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after completion of construction. This report will also include any information about changes in project implementation that result in habitat disturbance not described in the *Description of the Action* presented in the project Biological Opinion dated December 28, 2016 and not analyzed therein.

**Mitigation Measure 3.3-2:** The City or its designated cooperator shall require construction contractors to conduct tree removal activities outside of the migratory bird and raptor breeding season (defined here as February 1 through August 31), where feasible. For any construction activities that occur between February 1 and August 31, the City or its designated cooperator shall

conduct preconstruction surveys in suitable nesting habitat within 500 feet of the construction area for migratory birds and raptor species. In addition, all trees slated for removal during the nesting season shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist no more than 48 hours before removal to ensure that no nesting birds are occupying the tree.

If active nests are found during the survey, the construction contractor shall implement mitigation measures to ensure that the species will not be adversely affected, which will include establishing a no-work buffer zone, around the active nest. Avoidance measures will include:

1. Maintaining a 500-foot buffer around each active raptor nest. No construction activities shall be permitted within this buffer. For other migratory birds, a 250-foot no-work buffer zone shall be established, around the active nest. The no-work buffer may vary depending on species and site specific conditions. No project-related activity shall occur within the no-work buffer until a qualified wildlife biologist confirms that the nest is no longer active, or unless otherwise permitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
2. If an appropriate no-disturbance buffer is infeasible, a qualified biologist shall be present during construction activities for the entire duration of activities within the buffer to monitor the behavior of the potentially affected nesting bird. The biologist shall have the authority to stop-work within the buffer area if the bird(s) exhibit distress and/or abnormal nesting behavior (swooping/stooping, excessive vocalization [distress calls], agitation, failure to remain on nest, failure to deliver prey items for an extended time period, failure to maintain nest, etc.) which may cause reproductive failure (nest abandonment and loss of eggs or young). Work shall not resume in the buffer area until bird's behavior has normalized. Completion of the nesting cycle shall be determined by a qualified biologist.

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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2016b. Formal Consultation on the Proposed Twin Rivers Transit Oriented Development Project. Sacramento County, California. Reference Code: 08ESMF00-2016-F-2198-1. December 28, 2016.

## 3.4 Cultural and Paleontological Resources

### 3.4.1 Introduction

This section discusses the potential for the proposed project to adversely affect cultural and paleontological resources. Cultural resources include built-environment architectural resources, prehistoric and historic-period archaeological resources, Native American cultural resources, and human remains. Paleontological resources include fossilized remains of vertebrate and invertebrate organisms, fossil tracks, and plant fossils. The cultural resources investigation documented in this section was conducted to meet the requirements of CEQA, NEPA, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

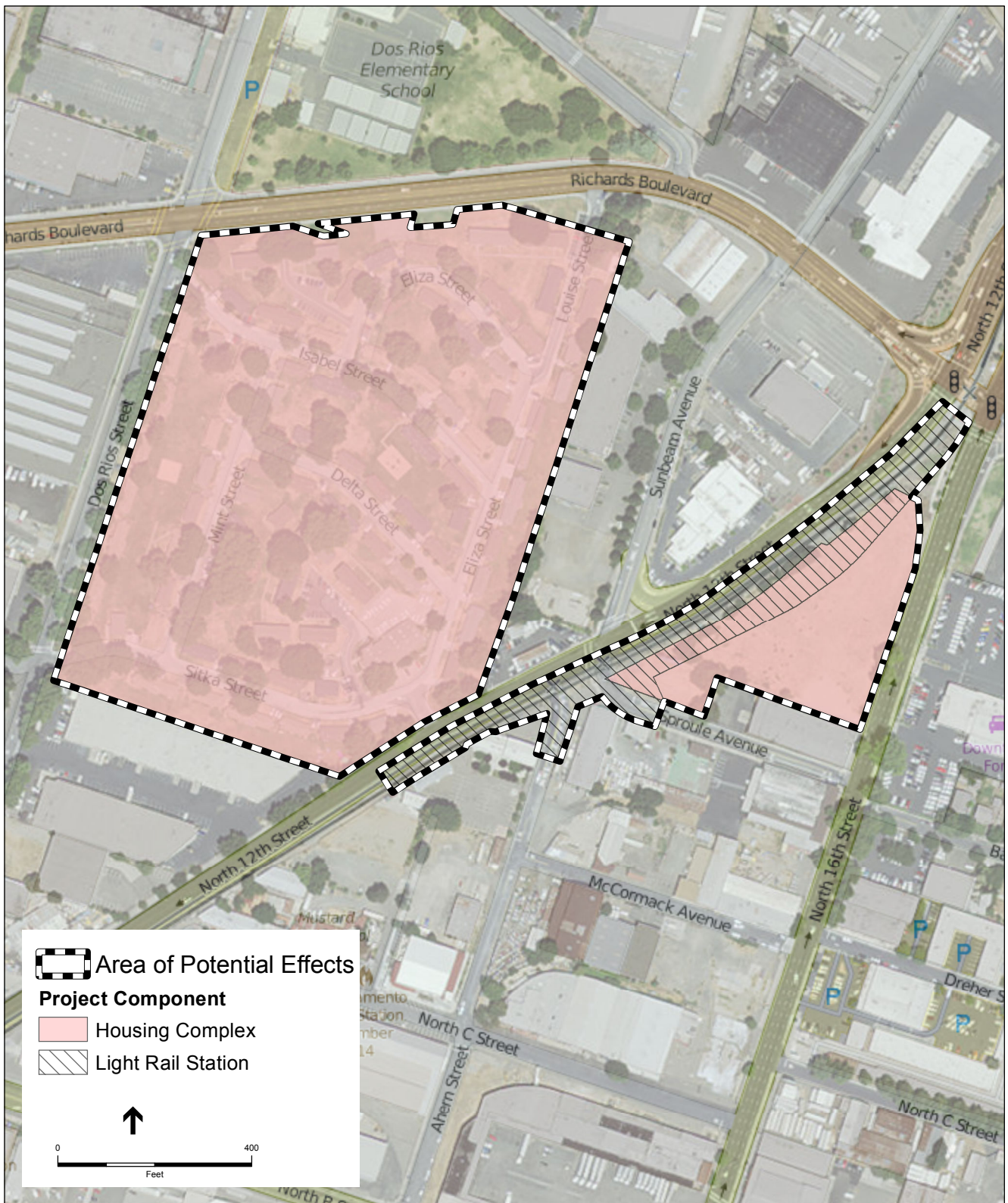
### 3.4.2 Environmental Setting

#### Study Methodology

ESA completed a Cultural Resources Survey and Inventory Report (CRSIR) for the proposed project in February 2017 (Grady and Hoffman, 2017). The CRSIR is currently in review by the California State Office of Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). All significance evaluations (i.e., whether resources qualify as historic properties, for Section 106 purposes) and anticipated findings of effects for the proposed project provided in the CRSIR are provisional until receiving SHPO concurrence. The Final IS/EA will document the results of consultation with the SHPO.

The CRSIR documents the cultural resources investigation conducted for the proposed project. The effort consisted of the following: 1) background and archival research; 2) a records search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS); 3) research at the Sacramento Room at the Main Branch of the Sacramento Library and various online archives; 4) an intensive pedestrian survey of the project site by both an archaeologist and an architectural historian; 5) an archaeological subsurface survey using mechanical trenching; and 6) correspondence with relevant Native American representatives. ESA staff conducted additional research by reviewing files provided by SHRA. The background research, including the records search, focused on the portion of the 0.5-mile-radius search area south of the American River and north of the Union Pacific railroad tracks and associated levees to the south of the project site, an area referred to as the *customized search radius*.

The term Area of Potential Effects (APE) is used in this section as a unit of analysis for potential impacts to cultural resources and paleontological resources. The APE is the area within which the proposed project has potential to result in direct or indirect impacts to cultural resources and paleontological resources. **Figure 3.4-1** shows the APE for the proposed project. Due to the defined nature of the project and its minimal potential for indirect effects, the APE for archaeological and architectural resources is the same. The APE includes both the horizontal and vertical maximum extents of potential direct and indirect impacts from project implementation, and encompasses the entire physical proposed project footprint and associated staging and access areas. In all, the APE encompasses approximately 26.78 acres, which includes both the existing Twin Rivers Community



SOURCE: Bing, 2016; ESRI, 2016; ESA, 2016

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project. 140202

**Figure 3.4-1**  
Cultural Resources Area of Potential Effects

Housing Complex (Twin Rivers Complex), the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area east of North 12th Street, and project elements associated with development of the proposed Dos Rios Light Rail Station (Dos Rios Station). The APE extends vertically to the maximum depth of proposed construction, though exact depths have yet to be determined. However, based on similar projects in the region, estimated ground disturbance would most likely not exceed 10 feet below grade. This analysis uses those estimates to define the vertical extent of the APE. The proposed project site and APE are congruent in the horizontal extent, while the APE specifically encompasses a vertical dimension (i.e., depth of ground disturbance); the terms are used interchangeably in this section except when reference to a vertical dimension is made, where APE is used.

## Physical and Cultural Setting

The APE is in the former floodplain of the American and Sacramento Rivers, with the American River lying approximately 1,000 feet north of the site and the Sacramento River lying approximately 1.2 miles to the west. The APE is virtually flat, with elevations ranging from 24 to 26 feet above mean sea level (USGS, 1980). The underlying geology of the APE consists of deep Holocene and historic-period/modern alluvium (stream channel deposits) (California Division of Mines and Geology, 1971; Meyer and Rosenthal, 2008: Fig. 47). Soils in the APE consist of Columbia series sandy loam (alluvium) mixed with historic-period and modern fill (USDA, 2016).

Prior to construction of the nearby levees, the APE would have consisted of a non-tidal marshland, flanked by broad gallery forests (Meyer and Rosenthal, 2008:34). The proposed project is within the lands occupied and used by the Nisenan, or Southern Maidu. Nisenan settlement locations depended primarily on elevation, exposure, and proximity to water and other resources. Permanent villages usually were located on low rises along major watercourses. Permanent non-native settlement in the Sacramento Valley began in the 1830s when Spanish and Mexican governors issued large land grants to individuals, often in return for military or other services rendered to the government.

Ethnographic accounts documented several Native American villages in the vicinity of the project site, the closest being the Nisenan villages of *Sek*, *Yama'nepu*, *Mo'mol*, *Sa'cum*, and *Puju'ne*. In interviews done from the mid- to late-1920s, Thomas Charles, a Nisenan, indicated that the Nisenan village *Sek* was located along the north side of the American River at the then “new highway bridge” (Kroeber, 1929:255-256); this refers to the current State Road 160 and corresponds to a location approximately 0.25 to 0.5 mile north-northeast of the project site. *Yama'nepu* was described by Charles as being located on the north bank of the American River 0.5 mile east of its confluence with the Sacramento River, corresponding to a location approximately 1.0 mile northwest of the project site. Also described by Charles, among others, was the large village of *Puju'ne* as being located along the north bank of the American River at its confluence with the Sacramento River, approximately 1.25 miles west-northwest of project site (Tatsch, 2006:64; Kroeber, 1929:256; Kroeber, 1925 [1976]; Heizer and Hester, 1970). Ethnographic accounts also describe the village *Mo'mol* along the south side of the American River (across from *Puju'ne*) just east of its confluence with the Sacramento River—this would



place the village 0.5 to 1 mile west of the project site. Finally, archaeological site CA-SAC-38, approximately 0.9 mile south-southwest of the project site at present-day Cesar Chavez Park, is thought to correspond to the ethnographically documented Nisenan village *Sa'cum* (Kroeber, 1925 [1976]; Wilson and Towne, 1978; Heizer, 1978; Casilear and Bainbridge, 1850; Farris and Tremaine, 2008).

Swiss immigrant John Augustus Sutter, Jr., upon receiving a land grant from Mexican Governor Juan Alvarado, first settled the Sacramento area in 1839. As with other California Native American groups, the Gold Rush of 1849 had a devastating effect on the Valley Nisenan. The new town was centered on the embarcadero, or Front Street, and continued inland to the east along J Street (Warner, 1969; Brienes et al., 1981:46-47). Downtown Sacramento developed rapidly after 1850. The blocks fronting on J Street were heavily developed, owing to the street's use as the main road leading east out of the city, with slightly less development on the parallel streets of I and K. By 1851, J Street was substantially occupied from Front Street eastward beyond 10th Street with stores, saloons, hotels, grocery stores, stables, and other concerns vying for the business of visitors and residents.

The proposed project lies north of the downtown business district in the River District Specific Plan (RDSP) area, which is roughly bound by Interstate 5 to the west, the American River to the north, and the railroad tracks to the east and south. As previously noted, prior to the rerouting of the American River in 1868 and the construction of the existing levee north of the project site, much of the project site and environs were swampland that were subject to seasonal flooding. Also, the construction of bridges in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that facilitated access to the area was key to its later development. Initial development of the area focused on industrial uses including the PG&E substation on Jibboom Street, trucking companies, produce distribution, and cannery related businesses. Transient housing also began to spring up in the form of auto camps, with parcels being rented out and tenants constructing whatever makeshift dwellings they could. Currently the RDSP area is a mix of light-industrial uses/building, retail, limited residential, and government buildings.

## Archaeological Resources

The records search conducted at the North Central Information Center of the CHRIS indicated that 18 previously recorded resources are located in the customized search radius, one of which, a historic-period archaeological resource (P-34-001378—Dos Rios Trash Deposit), is located in the APE, within the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex.

A pedestrian field survey and an Extended Phase 1 (XP1) subsurface investigation was conducted within the APE. The XP1 consisted of mechanical excavation of 13 trenches throughout the APE, including ten trenches on the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and three on the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area east of North 12th Street. No archaeological resources were identified in the APE during the pedestrian field survey or XP1 subsurface survey, including any associated with previously recorded historic-period archaeological resource P-34-001378 or the ethnographic village *Sek*. No traditional cultural properties, for Section 106

purposes, were identified during either the research portion of the CRSIR or through SHRA's contact with tribes during consultation.

### ***P-34-001378***

Historic-period archaeological resource P-34-001378 was originally recorded at the current location of the Twin Rivers Complex community center, though this original recordation was done from surface artifacts excavated from a trench, after the trench had been backfilled. The originally recorded material consisted of late-19th/early-20th century refuse (glass fragments, ceramic fragments, ferrous metal fragments, and non-ferrous metal fragments) excavated from 2 to 3 feet of sediment, including fill (Lewiston, 1998; PAR Environmental Services, 1998).

The archaeological subsurface survey conducted in February 2017 for the proposed project included excavation of three trenches in vicinity of the recorded location of P-34-001378. No archaeological material associated with the resource was identified during the subsurface survey. As such, P-34-001378 appears to represent an archaeological isolate of historic-period refuse. Therefore, ESA concluded in the CRSIR that the resource does not appear eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), or local register of historical resources.

## **Architectural Resources**

Two historic-period architectural resources (the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and 401 North 12th Street—Loaves and Fishes) were identified during the CRSIR. These two resources were evaluated for significance in the CRSIR, which concluded that they did not qualify as historical resources for CEQA purposes or as historic properties under Section 106. A brief description of each is provided below as well as a brief summary of the eligibility finding from the CRSIR.

### ***Twin Rivers Housing Project***

The Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex is a multi-family residential complex that was originally built in 1948 and consisted of 52 one-bedroom units, 78 two-bedroom units, 30 three-bedroom units, and 8 four-bedroom duplexes. It currently consists of 92 residential buildings, with 83 single-story buildings and nine two-story buildings. Also on the site are a community building, three playgrounds (i.e., tot lots), a basketball court, and surface parking. Landscaping includes grass between buildings, small bushes around the buildings, and mature trees. There are nine floor plans that are repeated throughout the complex. Seven of the residential buildings are fourplex townhouses, 15 are single-story fourplexes, 60 are single-story duplexes, and 10 are single family. While the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex is an early example of a public housing project in Sacramento, it is not the first to be built in the area and alterations/additions to the site and buildings have substantially reduced the integrity of the resource. Research conducted for this project did not reveal that the property is specifically associated with specific events or persons that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. ESA recommended in the CRSIR that the housing complex does not

appear to be eligible for the National Register, California Register, or City of Sacramento Historical Resources Register.

### **401 North 12th Street**

Loaves & Fishes (a.k.a. the Cervantes Building) is at the corner of North 12th Street and Ahern Street. Loaves & Fishes is a non-profit organization that currently occupies several buildings along the east side of North 12th Street north of North C Street, including the 401 North 12th Street building. The organization was founded in 1983 with the mission of feeding and sheltering the homeless (Loaves & Fishes, 2016). This building houses a portion of the organization's services. Earlier occupants of the building included Sunland Refining Corp (1934), Standley & Henry Auto Repair (1937), Standley & Michl Auto Repairs (1938), Nuccio Michl – owner of the Tamale Factory (1940), Cut Rate Wrecking Co. (1941), Faller LA Auto Repair (1947), National Van Lines (1952), National Transfer & Storage/National Van Lines (1956), Furniture City – warehouse (1963-64), and Cirsco Clutch & Brake (1968). The building appears to be generally representative of the growth of light industrial businesses in Sacramento's River District area in the mid-20th century, but research conducted for this project did not reveal that the property at 401 North 12th Street is associated with specific events or persons that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The building at 401 North 12th Street also does not possess distinctive architectural characteristics, features, or construction methods that distinguish it from other commercial buildings of the time period typical of the region. Research conducted for this project did not reveal the involvement of builders/designers that are considered master craftsmen. ESA recommended in the CRSIR that the property does not appear to be eligible for the National Register, California Register, or City of Sacramento Historical Resources Register.

## **Paleontological Resources**

Per the City's 2035 General Plan Master EIR (Section 4.5, Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources), the City of Sacramento is not highly sensitive for paleontological resources due to the absence of fossil-bearing soils and rock formations. Proposed project ground-disturbing activities would all occur in Holocene alluvium, which is not considered sensitive for paleontological resources.

## **Tribal Cultural Resources**

Tribal cultural resources are: 1) sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are listed, or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register, or local register of historical resources, as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) 5020.1(k); or 2) a resource determined by the lead CEQA agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC 5024.1(c). For a cultural landscape to be considered a tribal cultural resource, it must be geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape (PRC 21074[b]). Also, an historical resource, as defined in PRC 21084.1, unique archaeological resource, as defined in PRC 21083.2(g), or nonunique archaeological resource, as defined in PRC 21083.2(h), may also be a tribal cultural resource.

SHRA acted on behalf of the City for purposes of Section 106 and AB 52 consultation. In January 2016 the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted to conduct a search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) and a list of Native American representatives who may have interest in the project. The NAHC reply indicated that the SLF has no record of any cultural resources in the APE, and also included a contact list of Native American representatives. In June 2016, SHRA sent letters with project information to Native American contacts provided by the NAHC to solicit comments and concerns regarding potential project impacts to cultural resources and invite the contacts to consultation for purposes of Section 106 and California Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52). In July 2016, SHRA made follow-up phone calls to the same contacts. From these initial outreach efforts, SHRA received replies from the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (Shingle Springs) and Wilton Rancheria (Wilton), both of whom asked for additional information on the project and copies of the records search and draft CRSIR conducted for the project. In preparation of the Extended Phase 1 (XPI) subsurface investigation, SHRA contacted Shingle Springs and Wilton to inform them of the proposed fieldwork and request if they had any concerns. Both tribes showed concern regarding cultural resources in the APE. On February 6, 2017, representatives from SHRA, ESA, Shingle Springs, and Wilton met on-site to discuss the XPI and the tribes' concerns. Both tribes stated that the Native American village *Sek*, recorded in ethnographic accounts, was present in the APE and vicinity and that the project has potential to impact the resource. All parties agreed that monitors from both tribes would participate in the XPI fieldwork, and Shingle Springs provided SHRA with background research regarding *Sek*. However, upon review by SHRA and ESA, the background research provided describes *Sek* as being located on the north bank of the American River, across the river from and outside the APE. Both tribes provided a monitor during the XPI fieldwork. Documentation of the project correspondence with the NAHC and other Native American representatives is included in **Appendix E** of this IS/EA.

### 3.4.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations

#### **Federal Regulations**

Federal regulations for cultural resources are primarily governed by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, which applies to actions taken by federal agencies. The goal of the Section 106 review process is to offer a measure of protection to sites that are listed or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The criteria for determining National Register-eligibility are found in 36 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 60. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on Historic Properties and affords the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. The Council's implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties," are found in 36 CFR Part 800. The National Register criteria (36 CFR 60.4) are used to evaluate resources when complying with Section 106 of the NHPA. Those criteria state that eligible resources comprise districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and any of the following:

1. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
2. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
3. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
4. Have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important to history or prehistory.

Eligible properties must meet at least one of the criteria and exhibit integrity. Historical integrity is measured by the degree to which the resource retains its historical attributes and conveys its historical character, the degree to which the original fabric has been retained, and the reversibility of changes to the property.

Certain types of properties are usually excluded from consideration for listing in the National Register, but can be considered if they meet special requirements in addition to meeting Criteria A to D. The following seven Criteria Considerations deal with properties usually excluded from listing in the National Register: Religious properties, moved properties, birthplaces and graves, cemeteries, reconstructed properties, commemorative properties, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Archaeological site evaluation assesses the potential of each site to meet one or more of the criteria for National Register-eligibility based upon visual surface and subsurface evidence (if available) at each site location, information gathered during the literature and records searches, and the researcher's knowledge of and familiarity with the historic or prehistoric context associated with each site.

## **State Regulations**

Under CEQA, public agencies must consider the impacts of their actions on *historical resources*, *unique archaeological resources*, and *tribal cultural resources*. Pursuant to PRC 21084.1, 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." PRC 21083.2 requires agencies to determine whether proposed projects would have effects on unique archaeological resources, while PRC 21080.3.1, 21084.2, and 21084.3 require that a project's impacts on tribal cultural resources be considered as part of the overall analysis of project impacts.

## **Historical Resources**

Historical resource is a term with a defined statutory meaning (refer to PRC 21084.1 and CEQA Guidelines 15064.5[a] and [b]). The term applies to any resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register. The California Register includes California resources listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register, as well as certain California State Historic Landmarks (CHLs) and California Point of Historical Interest (PHIs).

Properties of local significance that have been designated under a local preservation ordinance (local landmarks or landmark districts) or that have been identified in a local historical resources inventory may be eligible for listing in the California Register and are presumed to be historical resources for purposes of CEQA unless a preponderance of evidence indicates otherwise (PRC 5024.1 and California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 4850). Unless a resource listed in a survey has been demolished, lost substantial integrity, or there is a preponderance of evidence indicating that it is otherwise not eligible for listing, a lead agency should consider the resource to be potentially eligible for the California Register.

In addition to assessing whether historical resources potentially impacted by a project are listed or have been identified in a survey process, lead agencies have a responsibility to evaluate them against the California Register criteria prior to making a finding as to a proposed project's impacts to historical resources (PRC 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines 15064.5[a][3]). In general, an historical resource, under this approach, is defined as any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that:

1. Is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political or cultural annals of California; and
2. Meets any of the following criteria:
  - a. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
  - b. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
  - c. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
  - d. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

For historic structures, CEQA Guidelines 15064.5(b)(3) indicate that a project that follows the Secretary of the Interior's Standards (SOIS) for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings, or the SOI Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, shall mitigate impacts to a level of less than significant. Potential eligibility also rests upon the integrity of the resource. Integrity is defined as the retention of the resource's physical identity that existed during its period of significance. Integrity is determined through considering the setting, design, workmanship, materials, location, feeling, and association of the resource.

Archaeological resources can qualify as "historical resources" (CEQA Guidelines 15064.5[c][1]). In addition, PRC 5024 requires consultation with the Office of Historic Preservation when a project may impact historical resources located on state-owned land.

### ***Unique Archaeological Resources***

CEQA also requires lead agencies to consider whether projects will impact unique archaeological resources. PRC 21083.2(g) states that “unique archaeological resource means an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

1. Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information;
2. Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or
3. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person”

Treatment options under PRC 21083.2 include activities that preserve such resources in place and in an undisturbed state. Other acceptable methods of mitigation under PRC 21083.2 include excavation and curation, or study in place without excavation and curation (if the study finds that the artifacts would not meet one or more of the criteria for defining a unique archaeological resource).

Advice on procedures to identify cultural resources, evaluate their importance, and estimate potential effects is given in several agency publications such as the series produced by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR). The technical advice series produced by OPR strongly recommends that Native American concerns and the concerns of other interested persons and corporate entities, including, but not limited to, museums, historical commissions, associations, and societies, be solicited as part of the process of cultural resources inventory. In addition, California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods regardless of their antiquity and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains.

### ***Paleontological Resources***

CEQA affords protection to paleontological resources, as the CEQA Guidelines indicate that a project would have a significant environmental impact if it would disturb or destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Although CEQA does not specifically define a unique paleontological resource or site, the definition of a unique archaeological resource (PRC 21083.2) can be applied to a unique paleontological resource or site and a paleontological resource could be considered a historical resource if it has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history under PRC 15064.5 (a)(3)(D).

### ***Tribal Cultural Resources***

Effective for projects for which a notice of preparation or notice of negative declaration/mitigated negative declaration was filed on or after July 1, 2015, CEQA requires that a project’s impacts on tribal cultural resources be considered as part of the overall analysis of project impacts

(PRC 21080.3.1, 21084.2, and 21084.3). The significance of a tribal cultural resource is assessed by evaluating its eligibility for listing on the California Register or a local register of historical resources. Additionally, a lead agency can independently determine a resource to be a tribal cultural resource. Because California Native American tribes are considered experts with respect to tribal cultural resources, the analysis of whether project impacts may result in a substantial adverse change to the significance of a tribal cultural resource is heavily dependent on consultation efforts conducted between the lead agency and relevant California Native American tribes during the CEQA process.

### ***California Public Resources Code 5097.5***

PRC 5097.5 provides protection for cultural and paleontological resources, where PRC 5097.5(a) states, in part, that:

No person shall knowingly and willfully excavate upon, or remove, destroy, injure, or deface, any historic or prehistoric ruins, burial grounds, archaeological or vertebrate paleontological site, including fossilized footprints, inscriptions made by human agency, rock art, or any other archaeological, paleontological or historical feature, situated on public lands, except with the express permission of the public agency having jurisdiction over the lands.

### ***California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5, 7051, and 7054***

Section 7050.5(b) of the California Health and Safety code specifies protocol when human remains are discovered. The code states:

In the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county in which the human remains are discovered has determined, in accordance with Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 27460) of Part 3 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code, that the remains are not subject to the provisions of Section 27492 of the Government Code or any other related provisions of law concerning investigation of the circumstances, manner and cause of death, and the recommendations concerning treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible for the excavation, or to his or her authorized representative, in the manner provided in PRC 5097.98.

### ***California Public Resources Code Section 15064.5 (e)***

CEQA Guidelines 15064.5(e) requires that excavation activities be stopped whenever human remains are uncovered and that the county coroner be called in to assess the remains. If the county coroner determines that the remains are those of Native Americans, the NAHC must be contacted within 24 hours. At that time, the lead agency must consult with the appropriate Native Americans, if any, as timely identified by the NAHC. CEQA Guidelines 15064.5 directs the lead agency (or project proponent), under certain circumstances, to develop an agreement with the Native Americans for the treatment and disposition of the remains.



### 3.4.4 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR

#### **2035 General Plan Master EIR**

The Master EIR evaluated the potential effects of development under the 2035 General Plan on prehistoric and historic-period resources. A number of General Plan policies were adopted as mitigation for impacts to cultural resources. Policies that are applicable to the project are listed below. Notwithstanding application of these policies, the Master EIR found implementation of the 2035 General Plan would have a significant and unavoidable effect on historic resources and archaeological resources.

***Policy HCR 2.1.1: Identification.*** The City shall identify historic and cultural resources including individual properties, districts, and sites (e.g., archaeological sites) to ensure adequate protection of these resources.

***Policy HCR 2.1.2: Applicable Laws and Regulations.*** The City shall ensure compliance with City, State, and Federal historic preservation laws, regulations, and codes to protect and assist in the preservation of historic and archaeological resources, including the use of the California Historical Building Code as applicable. Unless listed in the Sacramento, California, or National registers, the City shall require discretionary projects involving resources 50 years and older to evaluate their eligibility for inclusion on the California or Sacramento registers for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

***Policy HCR 2.1.3: Consultation.*** The City shall consult with appropriate organizations and individuals (e.g., [CHRIS] Information Centers, the [NAHC], the CA [OPR] “Tribal Consultation Guidelines,” etc.) and shall establish a public outreach policy to minimize potential impacts to historic and cultural resources.

***Policy HCR 2.1.10: Early Project Consultation.*** The City shall minimize potential impacts to historic and cultural resources by consulting with property owners, land developers, and the building industry early in the development review process.

***Policy HCR 2.1.11: Compatibility with Historic Context.*** The City shall review proposed new development, alterations, and rehabilitation/remodels for compatibility with the surrounding historic context. The City shall pay special attention to the scale, massing, and relationship of proposed new development to surrounding historic resources.

***Policy HCR 2.1.16: Archaeological & Cultural Resources.*** The City shall develop or ensure compliance with protocols that protect or mitigate impacts to archaeological and cultural resources including prehistoric resources.

#### **River District Specific Plan EIR**

The River District Specific Plan EIR evaluated the potential for the buildout of the River District Specific Plan (RDSP) to affect cultural resources. A number of mitigation measures were adopted to address potentially significant effects. Measures that are applicable to the project are listed below. Notwithstanding application of the mitigations, impacts to cultural resources were found

to be significant and unavoidable, but only for a discrete portion of the RDSP planning area (demolition of the former State Printing Plant) that is not a part of the proposed project site.

**Mitigation Measure 5.3-2:**

- a) Prior to any excavation, grading or other construction on the project site, and in consultation with Native American Tribes and the City's Preservation Director: a qualified archaeologist will prepare a testing plan for testing areas proposed for excavation or any other ground-disturbing activities as part of future projects, which plan shall be approved by the City's Preservation Director. Testing in accordance with that plan will then ensue by the qualified archaeologist, who will prepare a report on findings, and an evaluation of those findings, from those tests and present that report to the City's Preservation Director. Should any findings be considered as potentially significant, further archaeological investigations shall ensue, by the qualified archaeologist, and the archaeologist shall prepare reports on those investigations and evaluations relative to eligibility of the findings to the Sacramento, California or National Registers of Historic & Cultural Resources/ Places and submit that report to the City's Preservation Director and SHPO with recommendations for treatment, disposition, or reburials of significant findings, as appropriate. Also, at the conclusion of the pre-construction testing, evaluation and reports and recommendations, a decision will be made by the City's Preservation Director as to whether on-site monitoring during any project-related excavation or ground-disturbing activities by a qualified archaeologist will be required.
- b) Discoveries during construction: For those projects where no on-site archaeological monitoring was required, in the event that any prehistoric subsurface archaeological features or deposits, including locally darkened soil ("midden"), that could conceal cultural deposits, animal bone, obsidian and/or mortars are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities, all work within 50 meters of the resources shall be halted, and a qualified archaeologist will be consulted to assess the significance of the find. Archaeological test excavations shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist to aid in determining the nature and integrity of the find. If the find is determined to be significant by the qualified archaeologist, representatives of the City and the qualified archaeologist shall coordinate to determine the appropriate course of action. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis and professional museum curation. In addition, a report shall be prepared by the qualified archaeologist according to current professional standards.
- c) If a Native American site is discovered, the evaluation process shall include consultation with the appropriate Native American representatives.
- d) If Native American archaeological, ethnographic, or spiritual resources are involved, all identification and treatment shall be conducted by qualified archaeologists, who are certified by the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA) and/or meet the federal standards as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 61), and Native American representatives, who are approved by the local Native American community as scholars of the cultural traditions.
- e) In the event that no such Native American is available, persons who represent tribal governments and/or organizations in the locale in which resources could be affected shall be consulted. If historic archaeological sites are involved, all identified

treatment is to be carried out by qualified historical archaeologists, who shall meet either Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), or 36 CFR 61 requirements.

- f) If a human bone or bone of unknown origin is found during construction, all work shall stop in the vicinity of the find, and the County Coroner, and City's Preservation Director, shall be contacted immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who shall notify the person most likely believed to be a descendant. The most likely descendant shall work with the contractor to develop a program for re-interment of the human remains and any associated artifacts. No additional work is to take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until the identified appropriate actions have taken place. Work can continue on other parts of the project site while the unique archaeological resource mitigation takes place.

### 3.4.5 Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

#### **City of Sacramento Standards of Significance**

For purposes of CEQA, cultural resources impacts may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the proposed project would result in one or more of the following:

- Have the potential to affect historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended, or cause a substantial change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5; or
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource; or,
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries; or,
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in PRC 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
  - Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC 5020.1(k), or
  - A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC 5024.1(c). In applying the criteria set forth in PRC 5024.1(c), the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

#### **HUD Evaluation Criteria**

24 CFR 50.4 provides a listing of applicable environmental requirements, guidelines, and statutory obligations with which HUD or its applicants must comply. For cultural resources, these requirements include compliance with the NHPA and the Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural properties (Advisory Council on Historic Properties), as codified in 36 CFR 800, which are the regulations that govern the Section 106 consultation process.

## Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria

There are no other criteria that would be applicable to the proposed project.

## Environmental Analysis

### ***CR-1. Would the project have the potential to affect historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended, or cause a substantial change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

Under this alternative, existing activities in or around the project site would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Through a records search, background research, pedestrian field survey, archaeological subsurface survey, and Native American consultation, three cultural resources were identified in the project area. The resources consist of one archaeological isolate (P-34-001378) and two architectural resources (Twin Rivers Housing Project and 401 North 12th Street [Loaves and Fishes]). All three resources were evaluated as not eligible for listing in the National Register and as not qualifying as historical resources, as defined in CEQA Guidelines 15064.5. Additionally, P-34-001378 does not qualify as a unique archaeological resource, as defined in CEQA Guidelines 15064.5. The California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with this determination on April 6, 2017 (see Appendix F of this IS/EA for the letter of concurrence from SHPO). Therefore, the proposed project is not anticipated to adversely affect an historic property, as defined by the NHPA, or impact any historical resources or archaeological resources, as defined in CEQA Guidelines 15064.5. However, if any previously unrecorded archaeological resource were identified during project implementation, particularly ground-disturbing construction activities, and were found to qualify as an historic property, as defined by the NHPA, or as an historical resource or unique archaeological resource, per CEQA Guidelines 15064.5, any impacts to the resource resulting from the proposed project could be **potentially significant**. Any such potential significant impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level by implementing **Mitigation Measure 5.3-2** from the River District Specific Plan EIR. Implementation of the measure would reduce this impact to **less than significant with mitigation** under CEQA and **no adverse effect** under NEPA.

### ***CR-2. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

Under this alternative, existing activities in or around the project site would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The analysis of impacts related to paleontological resources is a requirement of CEQA; there is no comparable federal requirement. As such, the analysis for this topic relates to CEQA only.

The City of Sacramento is not highly sensitive for paleontological resources due to the absence of fossil-bearing soils and rock formations. Proposed project ground-disturbing activities would all occur in Holocene alluvium, which is not considered sensitive for paleontological resources. Therefore, with respect to this criterion, there would be **no impact** under CEQA.

### ***CR-3. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

Under this alternative, existing activities in or around the project site would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Through a records search, background research, pedestrian field survey, archaeological subsurface survey, and Native American consultation, no human remains are known to exist in the project area. Therefore, the proposed project is not anticipated to impact any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. However, if any human remains were encountered during proposed project construction, any impacts to them resulting from the proposed project could be **potentially significant**. Any such potential significant impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level by implementing **Mitigation Measure 5.3-2** from the River District Specific Plan EIR. Implementation of the measure would reduce this impact to **less than significant with mitigation** under CEQA and **no adverse effect** under NEPA.

### ***CR-4. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, as defined in PRC Section 21074?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

Under this alternative, existing activities in or around the project site would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Through a records search, background research, pedestrian field survey, archaeological subsurface survey, and Native American consultation, no tribal cultural resources, as defined in PRC 21074, were identified in the project area. Though Shingle Springs and Wilton showed concern that the Native American village *Sek*, recorded in ethnographic accounts, was present in

the project area and vicinity and that the proposed project has potential to impact the resource, ethnographic accounts clearly describe the village as being on the north bank of the American River, across the river from and outside the project area. Additionally, no evidence of the village was encountered during the archaeological subsurface survey. Therefore, the proposed project is not anticipated to impact tribal cultural resources, as defined in PRC 21074.

However, the archaeological sensitivity of the project site for buried deposits is high and several documented Native American villages are known to have been present in proximity to the project site. If any previously unrecorded archaeological resource that qualifies as a tribal cultural resource, as defined in PRC 21074, were encountered during proposed project implementation, any impacts to the resource resulting from the proposed project could be **potentially significant**. Any such potential significant impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level by implementing **Mitigation Measure 5.3-2** from the River District Specific Plan EIR. Implementation of the measure would reduce this impact to **less than significant with mitigation** under CEQA and **no adverse effect** under NEPA.

## Mitigation Measures

No additional mitigation measures are necessary beyond **Mitigation Measure 5.3-2** from the River District Specific Plan EIR.

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## 3.5 Environmental Justice

### 3.5.1 Introduction

The purpose of the Environmental Justice analysis, as defined in Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*,<sup>1</sup> is to consider whether project-related significant impacts are disproportionately borne by minorities or low-income populations. Pursuant to this executive order, federal agencies must consider health and environmental effects on minorities and low-income populations living near a proposed project. Environmental Justice is a NEPA-only requirement. There is no CEQA equivalent. This section addresses Executive Order 12898 by first determining whether there are Environmental Justice communities (defined as predominantly minority or predominantly low-income per federal guidelines) within the project study area and, if so, whether effects of the proposed project would affect these communities disproportionately. Related issues associated with this analysis can be found in Section 3.9, Land Use, Population, Housing, and Socioeconomics.

To assist the reader in understanding the following analysis, the following terms are defined below:

**Disproportionate Effect:** A disproportionate effect is defined as an effect that is predominantly borne, more severe, or of a greater magnitude in areas with environmental justice populations than in other areas.

**Low-Income Status or Person:** A person whose median household income is at or below the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guidelines (or “poverty level”).

**Minority Status or Person:** A person who identifies as one of the following demographic groups when responding to the U.S. Census: American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, or Hispanic or Latino.

### 3.5.2 Environmental Setting

For the affected study area, the demographic characteristics were identified based on data gathered from the 2010 Census. The demographic characteristics reviewed include:

1. Total population,
2. Percent of population of minority status in the affected study area,
3. Percent of population of low-income status in the affected study area,
4. Percent of population of minority status in the City of Sacramento, and
5. Percent of population of low-income status in the City of Sacramento.

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order 12989 was signed by President Bill Clinton on February 11, 1994.



The following criteria were used to determine if the affected area is an Environmental Justice community:<sup>2</sup>

1. At least one-half of the population is of minority status,
2. At least one-quarter the population is of low-income status,
3. The percentage of the population that is of minority status is at least 10 percentage points higher than for the City of Sacramento, and
4. The percentage of the population that is of low-income status is at least 10 percentage points higher than for the City of Sacramento.

Meeting any of the criteria listed above would qualify the community as an Environmental Justice community.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) EJSCREEN Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool was used to compile the U.S. Census data used for this analysis. The mapping and screening tool provides a nationally consistent dataset and approach for synthesizing the environmental and demographic factors that are the basis of environmental justice analyses.

## Population and Income Characteristics

General demographic information in the project area was obtained from U.S. Census data for the year 2010. The Census block groups directly within the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and within the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area were used as the study area for demographic characteristics. **Figure 3.5-1** shows the boundaries of the block groups.

### ***Race and Ethnicity***

Ethnic population data for the Census blocks within the study area are presented in **Table 3.5-1**. Based on the race and ethnicity data, the Census blocks would all be considered minority Environmental Justice communities.<sup>3</sup> Each of these blocks contains minority persons making up more than 50 percent of the population of these areas.<sup>4</sup> The percentage of minority persons in all but one of the blocks (Block 1046) is also more than 10 percentage points higher than the minority population of the larger City of Sacramento.

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- <sup>2</sup> These criteria are based on guidance from relevant documents issued by federal agencies. These include:
- Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*. February 11, 1994, 59 Federal Register 7630.
  - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Interim Final Guidance for Incorporating Environmental Justice Concerns in EPA's NEPA Compliance Analysis, Office of Federal Activities*. September 30, 1997.
  - Federal Highway Administration, *Interim Guidance: Addressing Environmental Justice in the Environmental Assessment (EA)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*. March 2, 1999.
- <sup>3</sup> Note that Block 2008, the bulk of which is comprised of the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area parcels, is currently vacant and contains no residences, and thus has zero population.
- <sup>4</sup> The 50 percent threshold is based upon guidance provided in the Council on Environmental Quality's "Environmental Justice: Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act. December 10, 1997.



SOURCE: ESRI, 2012; City of Sacramento, 2016;  
 U.S. Census Bureau, 2013; ESA, 2016

SHRA Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 3.9-2**  
 Census Tract Boundaries

**TABLE ERROR! NO TEXT OF SPECIFIED STYLE IN DOCUMENT.5-1**  
**RACE/ETHNICITY STATUS OF CENSUS BLOCK GROUPS IN THE PROJECT STUDY AREA**

Census Tract	Block	Total Population	White Only	Black Only	American Indian or Alaskan Native Only	Asian Only	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Only	Other Race Only	Percent Minority	City of Sacramento Percent Minority	EJ Minority Community?
53.01	1042	45	10	30	1	0	0	0	77.7	55.0	Yes
53.01	1043	69	12	45	1	1	0	4	82.6	55.0	Yes
53.01	1044	113	3	71	1	3	0	17	97.3	55.0	Yes
53.01	1045	85	16	39	9	7	0	5	81.1	55.0	Yes
53.01	1046	72	28	25	1	0	3	0	61.1	55.0	Yes
53.01	1047	37	10	12	0	5	0	5	72.9	55.0	Yes
53.01	1050	140	20	63	1	6	1	21	85.7	55.0	Yes
53.01	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	55.0	NA

NOTE: NA = Not Applicable

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. Race: 2010. Table P1. Accessed June 29, 2016.

### **Income and Employment Status**

Income data at the census block level is not available within Census Tract 53.01. As the blocks that make up the project study area comprise the bulk of the population of Tract 53.01, this tract-level information will be used for this evaluation. Census data for the tract from 2010 determined that 68.7 percent of the population lived below the poverty level, compared with 22.3 percent who lived below the poverty level in the City of Sacramento. Further, as shown below in **Table 3.5-2**, mean household income within Census Tract 53.01 was only 29 percent of mean household income in the County of Sacramento, and only 35 percent that of mean household income for the City of Sacramento. In addition, rates of unemployment in Tract 53.01 are more than three times that recorded in the City and the County.

**TABLE 3.5-2  
INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT (2010 CENSUS DATA)**

	Mean Household Income <sup>1</sup>	Percent Unemployed <sup>2</sup>
<b>County of Sacramento</b>	\$56,439	10.2
<b>City of Sacramento</b>	\$46,731	11.4
<b>Census Tract 53.01</b>	\$16,364	38.5

SOURCES:

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. Financial Characteristics: 2010. Table S2503. Accessed June 28, 2016.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. Employment Status: 2010. Table S2301. Accessed June 28, 2016.

Based on this information, all of Tract 53.01 would be considered a low-income<sup>5</sup> community. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines for the year 2010 defined the poverty threshold as annual income of less than \$10,830 for an adult individual under the age of 65 and annual income of less than \$22,050 for a family of four persons.<sup>6</sup> The percentage of persons living below the poverty threshold in the area is substantially more than 25 percent, and the percentage is also more than 10 percentage points higher than for the City of Sacramento.

As determined by the above analysis, all of the project study area would be considered an Environmental Justice community, as determined by race/ethnicity and income.

### 3.5.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations

#### **Executive Order 12898**

Executive Order 12898 calls on federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of federal programs, policies, and activities on

<sup>5</sup> The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Order to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (April 15, 1997) defines a “low-income” as “a person whose median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.” See Federal Register: April 15, 1997, Volume 62, Number 72, Pages 18377-18381.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *2010 HHS Poverty Guidelines*. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/2010-hhs-poverty-guidelines>. Accessed June 29, 2016.

minority populations and low-income populations. In 1997, the Council on Environmental Quality issued guidance to assist federal agencies in implementing the Executive Order.

The Executive Order defines key terms and provides guidance for identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse impacts to low income and minority populations. If disproportionately high and adverse impacts would result from the proposed action (i.e., proposed project), mitigation measures or alternatives must be developed to avoid or reduce the impacts, unless the agency finds that such measures are not feasible. Impacts and benefits of transportation projects result from the physical placement of such facilities, and also from their ability or inability to improve or impede access to neighborhoods or portions of a region.

### **U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development**

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) posted an update to its original 1995 Environmental Justice Strategy. This strategy is a plan to address environmental justice concerns and increase access to environmental benefits through HUD policies, programs, and activities, including through NEPA compliance for HUD-sponsored projects.

### **U.S. Department of Transportation Guidance**

In 1997, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued an order to establish procedures for use in complying with Executive Order 12898 for its operating administrations, including the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Since FTA could provide funding for the proposed Dos Rios Light Rail Station, the DOT guidance is also used to assess the impact of the project alternatives.

## 3.5.4 Standards of Significance and Applicable Authorities

### **City of Sacramento Standards of Significance**

An evaluation of Environmental Justice is not required by CEQA, and the City of Sacramento has not established thresholds to guide such an evaluation. Therefore, the following analysis is provided only for compliance with NEPA-implementing regulations from HUD and other federal agencies. No CEQA findings are made.

### **Department of Housing and Urban Development Evaluation Criteria**

Federal guidelines do not provide a specific threshold at which a disproportionate effect to an environmental justice community would occur. Rather, Council on Environmental Quality Guidance (1997) instructs that a NEPA evaluation should clearly state whether, “in light of all of the facts and circumstances, a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impact on minority populations, low-income populations, or Indian tribe is likely to result from the proposed action and any alternatives.” A disproportionate effect is defined as an effect that is predominantly borne, more severe, or of a greater magnitude in areas with environmental justice populations than in other areas.

## Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria

There are no other criteria that would be applicable to the proposed project.

### 3.5.5 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR

As noted above, Environmental Justice analyses are not a requirement of CEQA. Therefore, neither the 2035 General Plan Master EIR or the River District Specific Plan EIR evaluated the topic.

## Environmental Analysis

### ***EJ-1. Would the project have a disproportionate effect on environmental justice populations?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be no **adverse effect**.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As noted above, for a project to have an adverse effect relative to Environmental Justice, a minority and/or a low-income population must be disproportionately affected by a federal action. Based on the demographic data for the project area, the residents of the area meet the definition of an Environmental Justice community. To assess the potential effect or impact of this project to this community, each environmental resource area assessed in this IS/EA has been reviewed to determine if this community would be disproportionately affected by implementation of Alternative 2. The analysis contained in each of those topical evaluations is hereby incorporated by reference and summarized here.

**Aesthetics and Visual Resources.** As described in Section 3.1 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to aesthetics and visual quality, and a number of beneficial effects would be realized within the surrounding community as a result of implementation of Alternative 2. Therefore, the overall effect would be beneficial to Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

**Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** As described in Section 3.2 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, and any potential effects would be mitigated to levels that would not be adverse. Based on the IS/EA's analysis of this topic, implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in an adverse air quality or greenhouse gas emissions effect and therefore would not disproportionately affect Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

**Biological Resources.** As described in Section 3.3 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to biological resources, and any potential effects would be mitigated to levels that would not be adverse. Based on the IS/EA's analysis of this topic, implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in an adverse effect to biological resources and therefore would not disproportionately affect Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

**Cultural and Paleontological Resources.** As described in Section 3.4 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to cultural and paleontological resources, and any potential effects would be mitigated to levels that would not be adverse. Based on the IS/EA's analysis of this topic, implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in an adverse effect to cultural and paleontological resources and therefore would not disproportionately affect Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

**Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources.** As described in Section 3.6 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to geology, soils, or mineral resources. Based on the IS/EA's analysis of this topic, implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in an adverse effect to these resources and therefore would not disproportionately affect Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials.** As described in Section 3.7 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to hazards and hazardous materials, and any potential effects would be mitigated to levels that would not be adverse. Based on the IS/EA's analysis of this topic, implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in an adverse effect and therefore would not disproportionately affect Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

**Hydrology and Water Resources.** As described in Section 3.8 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to hydrology and water quality. Based on the IS/EA's analysis of this topic, implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in an adverse effect to these resources and therefore would not disproportionately affect Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

**Land Use, Population and Housing, and Socioeconomics.** As described in Section 3.9 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to land use, population, housing, or socioeconomics, and a number of beneficial effects would be realized within the surrounding community as a result of implementation of Alternative 2. Therefore, the overall effect would be beneficial to Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

**Noise and Vibration.** As described in Section 3.10 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to noise and vibration, and any potential effects would be mitigated to levels that would not be adverse. Based on the IS/EA's analysis of these topics, implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in an adverse effect and therefore would not disproportionately affect Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

**Public Services and Recreation.** As described in Section 3.11 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to public services and recreation, and a number of beneficial effects would be realized within the surrounding community as a result of implementation of Alternative 2. Therefore, the overall effect would be beneficial to Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

**Transportation and Traffic.** As described in Section 3.12 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to transportation and traffic, and any potential effects would be mitigated to levels that would not be adverse. In addition, a number of beneficial effects would be realized within the surrounding community as a result of implementation of Alternative 2. Therefore, the overall effect would be beneficial to Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

**Utilities.** As described in Section 3.13 of this IS/EA, construction of the project elements would not create any adverse effects with respect to utilities. Based on the IS/EA's analysis of this topic, implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in an adverse effect to these resources and therefore would not disproportionately affect Environmental Justice communities in the project area.

### **Determination of Disproportionate Effects**

The purpose of the preceding impact assessment summary of this IS/EA was to disclose the adverse environmental effects of the proposed project. As shown in in Tables 3.9-1 and 3.9-2, the project area is considered an Environmental Justice Community as defined in Executive Order 12898 and applicable regulations and guidance.

In every instance that the proposed project was found to have adverse effects on Environmental Justice communities, feasible mitigation measures were identified that would reduce the adverse effects. The effects that would be borne by the Environmental Justice communities in the project area include construction air emissions, greenhouse gas emissions, effects to special status species, effects to cultural resources, hazardous materials impacts, noise and vibration impacts during project construction and operation, and traffic-related impacts. With implementation of prescribed mitigation measures and compliance with standard regulatory and legal requirements, these adverse effects to Environmental Justice populations within the project area would be reduced to levels considered less than significant. Since the implementation of Alternative 2 would not create an adverse effect, after mitigation, Environmental Justice communities in the project area would not be disproportionately affected.

### **Mitigation Measures**

None required.



## References

**Note:** Any references cited for specific technical analyses supporting this evaluation of Environmental Justice are listed in the corresponding topical sections in Chapter 3 of this IS/EA, incorporated herein by reference.

Council on Environmental Quality. 1997. Environmental Justice: Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act. December 10, 1997.

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. February 11, 1994. 59 Federal Register 7630.

Federal Highway Administration, Interim Guidance: Addressing Environmental Justice in the Environmental Assessment (EA)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). March 2, 1999.

U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months: 2010-2014 ACS 5-Year Estimates. Table S1701. Accessed June 29, 2016.

U.S. Department of Transportation. 1997. Order to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. Federal Register April 15, 1997, Volume 62, Number 72, Pages 18377-18381.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2016 Poverty Guidelines. Available at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/2010-hhs-poverty-guidelines>. Accessed June 29, 2016.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Interim Final Guidance for Incorporating Environmental Justice Concerns in EPA's NEPA Compliance Analysis, Office of Federal Activities. September 30, 1997.

## 3.6 Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources

### 3.6.1 Introduction

This section evaluates the potential for construction and operation of the proposed project to result in adverse impacts associated with geologic and soil constraints, such as settlement and slope instability, seismic hazards, and the loss of mineral resources.

### 3.6.2 Environmental Setting

#### Geology, Soils, and Geologic Hazards

The proposed project site is located within the Sacramento Valley and lies centrally in the Great Valley geomorphic province of California (City of Sacramento, 2015). The Sacramento Valley forms the northern third of the Great Valley, which fills a northwest-trending structural depression bounded on the west by the Great Valley Fault Zone and the northern Coast Range, and to the east by the northern Sierra Nevada and the Foothills Fault Zone. Most of the surface of the Great Valley is covered with Holocene and Pleistocene-age alluvium, primarily composed of sediments from the Sierra Nevada and the Coast Ranges, which were carried by water and deposited on the valley floor. Siltstone, claystone, and sandstone are the primary types of sedimentary deposits. Older Tertiary deposits underlie the Quaternary alluvium.

At the project site, the underlying soils are primarily the Columbia-Urban Fill Complex, composed of sandy to clayey loam (NRCS, 2016). This soil unit is considered to have a low potential for expansive soils, also referred to as shrink-swell or linear extensibility. This developed urban environment has been largely reworked and local soil conditions may vary.

Because the project area and much of the city is flat, slope stability, landslide, and erosion hazards do not present substantial hazards to people and property. Site-specific effects of erosion are generally limited to construction activities, when stormwater runoff can carry sediment or other pollutants into local waterways.

#### Faults, Seismicity, and Seismic Hazards

According to Chapter 7 of the Background Report to the City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan (City of Sacramento, 2015), there are no known active faults within the City of Sacramento and the Sacramento region. The greatest seismic risk to the City comes from earthquakes along Northern California's major faults, which are the San Andreas, Calaveras, and Hayward faults, located 40 or more miles to the west. Ground shaking on any of these faults could cause seismic shaking within the City. The California Geological Survey (CGS) Ground Motion Interpolator estimates a peak ground acceleration (PGA)<sup>1</sup> of 0.194g with a 10 percent chance of occurrence

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<sup>1</sup> PGA is expressed as a percentage of the horizontal acceleration due to gravity (g). PGA varies from place to place and is dependent on the distance from the epicenter and the character of the underlying geology (e.g., hard bedrock, soft sediments, or artificial fills).

within the next 50 years (CGS, 2008). For comparison purposes, the maximum PGA value recorded during the Loma Prieta earthquake in the vicinity of the epicenter, near Santa Cruz, was 0.64 g. Sacramento's risk of damage from seismic ground-shaking is relatively low. Future development, rehabilitation, reuse, or possible change of use of a structure would be required to comply with all design standards for the given location as promulgated in the California Building Code (CBC), described further below.

Based on the locally high water table and the types of soil in the area, the project site is susceptible to liquefaction hazards, typically induced by a seismic event (City of Sacramento, 2015). For purposes of engineering design and construction, geotechnical studies are required by the CBC to determine site-specific design and engineering requirements to protect against this hazard.

## **Mineral Resources**

The project area is not located within a designated mineral resource recovery zone (City of Sacramento, 2015). The project area is located within an area that has been designated as Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ)-1 by the California Department of Conservation (California Department of Conservation, 1999). MRZ-1 zones are areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence.

### **3.6.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations**

#### **California Building Code**

The California Building Code (CBC), which is codified in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 2, was promulgated to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare by establishing minimum standards related to structural strength, means of egress to facilities (entering and exiting), and general stability of buildings. The purpose of the CBC is to regulate and control the design, construction, quality of materials, use/occupancy, location, and maintenance of all buildings and structures within its jurisdiction. Title 24 is administered by the California Building Standards Commission, which, by law, is responsible for coordinating all building standards. Under State law, all building standards must be centralized in Title 24 or they are not enforceable. The provisions of the CBC apply to the construction, alteration, movement, replacement, location, and demolition of every building or structure or any appurtenances connected or attached to such buildings or structures throughout California.

The 2016 edition of the CBC is based on the 2015 International Building Code (IBC) published by the International Code Council, which replaced the Uniform Building Code. The code is updated triennially, and the 2016 edition of the CBC was published by the California Building Standards Commission on July 1, 2016 and takes effect starting January 1, 2017. The 2016 CBC contains California amendments based on the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Minimum Design Standard ASCE/SEI 7-16, *Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures*,

provides requirements for general structural design and includes means for determining earthquake loads<sup>2</sup> as well as other loads (such as wind loads) for inclusion into building codes. Seismic design provisions of the building code generally prescribe minimum lateral forces applied statically to the structure, combined with the gravity forces of the dead and live loads of the structure, which the structure then must be designed to withstand. The prescribed lateral forces are generally smaller than the actual peak forces that would be associated with a major earthquake. Consequently structures should be able to: (1) resist minor earthquakes without damage, (2) resist moderate earthquakes without structural damage but with some nonstructural damage, and (3) resist major earthquakes without collapse, but with some structural as well as nonstructural damage. Conformance to the current building code recommendations does not constitute any kind of guarantee that significant structural damage would not occur in the event of a maximum magnitude earthquake. However, it is reasonable to expect that a structure designed in-accordance with the seismic requirements of the CBC should not collapse in a major earthquake.

The earthquake design requirements take into account the occupancy category of the structure, site class, soil classifications, and various seismic coefficients, all of which are used to determine a seismic design category (SDC) for a project. The SDC is a classification system that combines the occupancy categories with the level of expected ground motions at the site; SDC ranges from A (very small seismic vulnerability) to E/F (very high seismic vulnerability and near a major fault). Seismic design specifications are determined according to the SDC in accordance with Chapter 16 of the CBC. Chapter 18 of the CBC covers the requirements of geotechnical investigations (Section 1803), excavation, grading, and fills (Section 1804), load-bearing of soils (1806), as well as foundations (Section 1808), shallow foundations (Section 1809), and deep foundations (Section 1810). For Seismic Design Categories D, E, and F, Chapter 18 requires analysis of slope instability, liquefaction, and surface rupture attributable to faulting or lateral spreading, plus an evaluation of lateral pressures on basement and retaining walls, liquefaction and soil strength loss, and lateral movement or reduction in foundation soil-bearing capacity. It also addresses measures to be considered in structural design, which may include ground stabilization, selecting appropriate foundation type and depths, selecting appropriate structural systems to accommodate anticipated displacements, or any combination of these measures. The potential for liquefaction and soil strength loss must be evaluated for site-specific peak ground acceleration magnitudes and source characteristics consistent with the design earthquake ground motions.

The design of the proposed action is required to comply with CBC requirements, which would make the proposed action consistent with the CBC.

## **NPDES Construction General Permit**

Construction associated with the proposed project would disturb more than one acre of land surface, potentially affecting the quality of stormwater discharges into waters of the U.S. The proposed project would therefore be subject to the *NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities* (Order 2009-0009-

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<sup>2</sup> A load is the overall force to which a structure is subjected in supporting a weight or mass, or in resisting externally applied forces. Excess load or overloading may cause structural failure.

DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002, Construction General Permit; as amended by Orders 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-006-DWQ). The Construction General Permit regulates discharges of pollutants in stormwater associated with construction activity to waters of the U.S. from construction sites that disturb one or more acres of land surface, or that are part of a common plan of development or sale that disturbs more than one acre of land surface. The permit regulates stormwater discharges associated with construction or demolition activities, such as clearing and excavation; construction of buildings; and linear underground projects (LUP), including installation of water pipelines and other utility lines.

The Construction General Permit requires that construction sites be assigned a Risk Level of 1 (low), 2 (medium), or 3 (high), based both on the sediment transport risk at the site and the receiving waters risk during periods of soil exposure (e.g., grading and site stabilization). The sediment risk level reflects the relative amount of sediment that could potentially be discharged to receiving water bodies and is based on the nature of the construction activities and the location of the site relative to receiving water bodies. The receiving waters risk level reflects the risk to the receiving waters from the sediment discharge. The Construction General Permit contains requirements for Risk Levels 1, 2 and 3, and the LUP Type 1, 2, and 3 categories. If a project does not meet any one or more of the aforementioned conditions under the Type 1 LUP category, depending on its location within a sensitive watershed area or floodplain, the level of receiving water risk could be considered low, medium, or high. Depending on the Risk Level, the construction projects could be subject to the following Construction General Permit requirements:

- Effluent standards
- Good site management “housekeeping”
- Non-stormwater management
- Erosion and sediment controls
- Run-on and runoff controls
- Inspection, maintenance, and repair
- Monitoring and reporting requirements

The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that includes specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to prevent pollutants from contacting stormwater and keep all products of erosion from moving offsite into receiving waters. The SWPPP BMPs are intended to protect surface water quality by preventing the off-site migration of eroded soil and construction-related pollutants from the construction area. Routine inspection of all BMPs is required under the provisions of the Construction General Permit. In addition, the SWPPP is required to contain a visual monitoring program, a chemical monitoring program for non-visible pollutants, and a sediment monitoring plan if the site discharges directly to a water body listed on the Section 303(d) list for sediment.

The SWPPP must be prepared before construction begins. The SWPPP must contain a site map(s) that delineates the construction work area, existing and proposed buildings, parcel boundaries, roadways, stormwater collection and discharge points, general topography both before and after construction, and drainage patterns across the project area. The SWPPP must list BMPs and the placement of those BMPs that the applicant would use to protect stormwater runoff. Examples of typical construction BMPs include scheduling or limiting certain activities to dry periods, installing sediment barriers such as silt fence and fiber rolls, and maintaining equipment and vehicles used for construction. Non-stormwater management measures include installing specific discharge controls

during certain activities, such as paving operations and vehicle and equipment washing and fueling. The Construction General Permit also sets post-construction standards (i.e., implementation of BMPs to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges from the site following construction).

### **Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control (City Code Section 15.88)**

This section regulates land disturbances, soil storage, pollution, and erosion and sedimentation resulting from construction activities within the City. Grading approval must be received from the Department of Utilities before construction. All projects are required to prepare erosion and sediment control plans which apply during and post construction. The plans include erosion control measures such as straw mulch, sediment controls such as fiber rolls, inlet protection, and housekeeping practices such as concrete management and spill prevention.

#### ***City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan***

The City of Sacramento adopted its 2035 General Plan on March 3, 2015. The General Plan includes redevelopment of the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and the construction of the proposed Dos Rios LRT Station in its long range plans. A summary of General Plan policies that are relevant to the proposed project is provided later in this section.

#### ***River District Specific Plan***

The River District Specific Plan (RDSP) was adopted in 2011 and established planning and design standards for the redevelopment of approximately 773 acres of land (City of Sacramento, 2011). The RDSP area includes the entirety of the proposed project area under consideration in this IS/EA. The RDSP tiered its analysis on geology, soils, and mineral resources from the City's General Plan. No site-specific analysis for these issues was undertaken in the RDSP Program EIR, and no new policies were adopted for these issues under the Specific Plan.

### 3.6.4 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR

#### **2035 General Plan Master EIR**

Chapter 4.5 of the Master EIR evaluated the potential effects related to seismic hazards, underlying soil characteristics, slope stability, erosion, existing mineral resources and paleontological resources in the City. Implementation of identified policies in the 2035 General Plan reduced all effects to a less-than-significant level. Geology and Soils goals and policies applicable to the project area include the following:

***Policy EC 1.1.1: Review Standards.*** The City shall regularly review and enforce all seismic and geologic safety standards and require the use of best management practices (BMPs) in site design and building construction methods.

***Policy EC 1.1.2: Geotechnical Investigations.*** The City shall require geotechnical investigations to determine the potential for ground rupture, ground-shaking, and liquefaction

due to seismic events, as well as expansive soils and subsidence problems on sites where these hazards are potentially present.

## **River District Specific Plan EIR**

The RDSP tiered its analysis on each of these issues from the City's General Plan. No site-specific analysis for these issues was undertaken in the RDSP Program EIR, and no new policies were adopted for these issues under the Specific Plan.

### 3.6.5 Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

#### **City of Sacramento Standards of Significance**

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to geology and soils under CEQA are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable general plans and previous environmental documents, and professional judgment. The project alternatives would have a significant adverse effect if they would:

- Allow a project to be built that will introduce geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on such a site without protection against those hazards? These hazards include those associated with seismicity and faulting, liquefaction, landslides, soil erosion, and unstable or expansive soils.
- Result in the loss of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state, or 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?

#### **Department of Housing and Urban Development Evaluation Criteria**

The online HUD Exchange provides guidance documents for considering context and intensity impacts associated with geology and soils (HUD, 2013). Specific factors to consider include slope, erosion, and soil suitability. These factors generally mirror those listed in the City standards of significance listed above. The HUD exchange provides no guidance concerning mineral resources.

#### **Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria**

There are no other criteria that would be applicable to the proposed project.

### **Environmental Analysis**

***GEO-1. Would the project be built in a manner that would introduce geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on such a site without protection against those hazards?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its

existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Construction activities would involve building demolition and excavating, filling, moving, grading, and temporarily stockpiling soils onsite, which would expose site soils to erosion from wind and surface water runoff. The City has adopted standard measures to control erosion and sediment during construction and all projects in the City are required to comply with the City's Standard Construction Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control. The proposed project would comply with the City's standards set forth in the "Administrative and Technical Procedures Manual for Grading and Erosion and Sediment Control." In addition, the project would also comply with the City's grading ordinance (Chapter 15.88 of Sacramento City Code), which specifies construction standards to minimize erosion and runoff.

Within the City of Sacramento and the Sacramento region, there are no known active faults. However, the structures under Alternative 2 could be subjected to seismic shaking and seismically-induced liquefaction from earthquakes occurring along Northern California's major faults. Future development, rehabilitation, reuse, or possible change of use of all project structures would be required to comply with all design standards in the CBC, described above in Applicable Policies and Regulations. The structural elements of the proposed project would undergo appropriate design-level geotechnical evaluations prior to final design and construction. Implementing the regulatory requirements in the CBC and County and City ordinances and ensuring that all buildings and structures constructed in compliance with the law is the responsibility of the project engineers and City building officials. The project's geotechnical engineer,<sup>3</sup> as a registered professional with the State of California, is required to comply with the CBC and local codes while applying standard engineering practice and the appropriate standard of care for the particular region in California, which, in the case of the proposed project, is the City of Sacramento. The California Professional Engineers Act (Building and Professions Code Sections 6700-6799), and the Codes of Professional Conduct, as administered by the California Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, provides the basis for regulating and enforcing engineering practice in California. The local Building Officials are typically with the local jurisdiction and are responsible for ensuring CBC and local code compliance prior to approval of the building permit, and also through subsequent inspections throughout the construction process.

While it is likely that the structural elements of the proposed project would be subjected to seismic shaking at least once during their operational life, there is a low potential for the groundshaking associated with an earthquake to cause injury, loss of life, or substantial property damage. Completion of a comprehensive design-level geotechnical investigation, adherence to

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<sup>3</sup> A geotechnical engineer (GE) specializes in structural behavior of soil and rocks. GEs conduct soil investigations, determine soil and rock characteristics, provide input to structural engineers, and provide recommendations to address problematic soils.



the current CBC and local ordinances regulating construction, and the application of proven seismic design criteria that are standard engineering practice would ensure that structures are designed to withstand seismic events without sustaining substantial damage or collapsing.

Based on each of the considerations outlined above, and compliance with existing codes and regulations, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

***GEO-2. Would the project result in the loss of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state, or 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?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The project area is located within an area that has been designated as Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) 1 by the California Department of Conservation (California Department of Conservation, 1999). MRZ-1 zones are areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence. Even if important minerals were present in the area, it would be infeasible to extract them due to the location and size of the project site and the developed nature of the surrounding area. Therefore, under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Mitigation Measures**

None required.

## References

- California Department of Conservation. 1999. Mineral Land Classification: Portland Cement Concrete-Grade Aggregate and Kaolin Clay Resources in Sacramento County, California. Open File Report 99-09.
- City of Sacramento 2014. City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report.
- City of Sacramento. 2015. *Background Report to the 2035 Sacramento General Plan, Chapter 7, Public Health and Safety*, adopted March 3.
- Housing and Urban Development, Department of (HUD). 2016. HUD Exchange. Available at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/>. Accessed December 27, 2016.
- Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), 2016, Columbia-Urban Fill Complex, Survey Area Date: September 28, 2016.

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## 3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

### 3.7.1 Introduction

This section discusses known hazardous materials in the vicinity of the project area. The section also discusses potential for explosive materials hazards in the project area as prescribed in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.

Materials and waste may be considered hazardous if they are poisonous (toxic); can be ignited by open flame (ignitable), corrode other materials (corrosive); or react violently, explode, or generate vapors when mixed with water (reactive). The term “hazardous material” is defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 25501(p) as any material that, because of quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment. “Hazardous substances” are further defined in applicable HUD regulations (24 CFR 51 Subpart C) as “petroleum products (petrochemicals) and chemicals that can produce blast overpressure or thermal radiation levels in excess of standards set forth in 24 CFR 51.203.”

In some cases, past industrial or commercial uses on a site can result in spills or leaks of hazardous materials and petroleum products to the environment, thus resulting in soil and groundwater contamination. Federal and State laws require that soils having concentrations of contaminants such as lead, gasoline, or industrial solvents that are higher than certain acceptable levels must be handled and disposed as hazardous waste during excavation, transportation, and disposal. The California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 66261.20-24 contains technical descriptions of characteristics that would cause soil to be classified as a hazardous waste. The use of hazardous materials and disposal of hazardous wastes are subject to numerous laws and regulations at all levels of government, as outlined later in this section.

### 3.7.2 Environmental Setting

#### Existing Environment

The project site is comprised of two areas totaling approximately 24.2 acres that are separated from one another by North 12th Street. The larger parcel (21 acres) west of 12th Street contains the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, which was built in the early 1940s. That portion of the project area that lies east of North 12th Street is comprised of six separate parcels, all of which are undeveloped and vacant.

The project site and the surrounding vicinity was undeveloped and primarily used for agricultural land uses between the late 1800s through the 1930s. Beginning in the 1930s, the surrounding vicinity was used primarily for commercial and industrial land uses. Several historical gasoline service stations and/or historical or currently active automobile repair shops are within the surrounding vicinity. Additionally, several other kinds of industrial businesses that are commonly associated with hazardous materials (e.g., metal fabrication, battery retailer and printing) are located within the surrounding vicinity (Nichols Consulting, 2013).

## Hazardous Materials Database Records Search

Records searches were conducted using the Department of Toxic Substances Control’s (DTSC) EnviroStor and the Regional Water Resources Control Board’s (RWRCB) GeoTracker online databases that identify sites currently or formerly undergoing investigation and cleanup under the jurisdiction of the DTSC or RWQCB or a local agency that provides the investigative and cleanup reports to the EnviroStor or GeoTracker websites.

The EnviroStor database also includes facilities that are authorized to treat, store, dispose, or transfer hazardous materials or waste; such sites handle hazardous materials or waste as part of their permitted operation, but their listing does not necessarily mean that any leaks, spills, or releases have occurred. The EnviroStor website also includes the following site types: Federal Superfund sites (National Priority List; state response, including military facilities and State Superfund; voluntary cleanup; and school sites that are being evaluated by DTSC for possible hazardous materials contamination. The EnviroStor database also contains current and historical information relating to permitted and corrective action facilities. The GeoTracker database contains regulatory data about leaking underground storage tanks, Department of Defense facilities, spills, leaks, investigations, cleanups, and landfill sites. The Geotracker database contains similar information for the sites under their jurisdiction that are more water quality focused. In addition, the GeoTracker database provides information about public drinking water wells.

Data obtained from the EnviroStor and Geotracker databases indicate there are three active sites undergoing investigation and cleanup for contaminants within 0.25 mile of the project site, as listed below in **Table 3.7-1**. Sites that use hazardous materials but have no records of releases, and sites that have been cleaned up and received closure from the regulatory agency are not listed because they are unlikely to affect the project site.

**TABLE 3.7-1  
 REGULATORY SITES LISTED WITHIN 0.25 MILE OF THE PROJECT**

Site Name/ Address	Regulatory List	Site Summary
SIMS Metal 130 North 12th Street	Cleanup Program Site	Potential for soil contamination. Potential contaminants of concern include copper, lead, polychlorinated biphenyls, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, and waste oil.
Union Pacific Railroad – North A Street Site 1324 North A Street	Cleanup Program Site	Potential for groundwater contamination. Potential contaminants of concern includes diesel, lead, other chlorinated hydrocarbons, and waste oil.
North 12th Street Social Service Site 1221 North A Street	EnviroStor Cleanup Evaluation Site	Potential for soil contamination. Potential contaminant of concern is lead.

SOURCE: DTSC, 2016; SWRCB, 2016a, 2016b, 2016c.

## Asbestos-Containing Materials and Lead-Based Paint

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that can be hazardous to human health if it becomes airborne. Due to their small size, asbestos particles are inhaled and the fibers can become lodged in the lungs or go to other parts of the body. Asbestos fibers can cause local inflammation and

disrupt cell division in the lungs. Some of the diseases associated with asbestos exposure include lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis. Asbestos was used as a fireproofing and insulating component of building materials before such uses were terminated due to health concerns in the late 1970s. Because it was widely used prior to the discovery of its health effects, asbestos may be found in a variety of building materials and components such as insulation, walls and ceilings, floor tiles, roofing, and pipe insulation.

Lead and lead compounds can be found in many types of paint. In 1978, the Consumer Product Safety Commission set the allowable lead levels in paint at 0.06 percent by weight in a dry film of newly applied paint. Prior to 1978, the lead content was higher. Lead dust is of special concern, because the smaller particles are more easily absorbed by the body. Common methods of paint removal, such as sanding, scraping, and burning, create excessive amounts of dust. Lead based paints are considered likely present in buildings constructed prior to 1960, and potentially present in buildings built prior to 1978.

Due to the age of the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint abatement activities were conducted between 1993 and 2000. However, lead-based paint and coatings originally used on exterior building surfaces may have flaked or oxidized and been deposited into the surrounding soils. There are also areas of asbestos-containing material present in some of the buildings specifically, near the vent pipes (Nichols Consulting, 2012).

## **Explosive Hazards**

Environmental Science Associates conducted an explosive hazards study addressing the project distance from potential explosive hazards to demonstrate compliance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 51, Subpart C (ESA, 2016). The results of the study are included with this IS/EA in Appendix C. Hazards as defined by HUD regulations include stationary containers of an explosive or fire prone nature (e.g., above-ground storage tanks [ASTs] containing gasoline). HUD-assisted projects must meet required HUD Acceptable Separation Distance standards or implement appropriate mitigation.

Potential AST sites were identified by reviewing existing Phase 1 environmental site assessments and requesting and receiving information from the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (SCEMD) regarding above-ground storage tanks (ASTs). Of the eight sites listed within the project vicinity that had hazardous materials listings with the SCEMD, only two sites have active ASTs: Sims Metals at 130 North 12th Street and Downtown Ford Sales at 525 North 16th Street. Only Sims Metals has ASTs with contents (gasoline) that would be substantially explosive. The HUD Acceptable Separation Distance Electronic Assessment Tool calculator (HUD, 2016) estimated the acceptable separation distance at 276.57 feet. The Sims Metals AST is located about 930 feet from the project site.

### 3.7.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations

#### **City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan**

The City of Sacramento adopted its 2035 General Plan on March 3, 2015. The General Plan includes redevelopment of the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and the construction of the proposed Dos Rios LRT Station in its long range plans. A summary of General Plan policies that are relevant to the proposed project is provided below.

#### **River District Specific Plan**

The River District Specific Plan (RDSP) was adopted in 2011 and established planning and design standards for the redevelopment of approximately 773 acres of land (City of Sacramento, 2011). The RDSP area includes the entirety of the proposed project area under consideration in this IS/EA. A summary of RDSP policies that are relevant to the proposed project is provided below.

#### **State Department of Toxic Substances Control**

The DTSC is responsible for the management of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes within the state of California. The DTSC oversees some cleanup sites, sharing certain overlapping jurisdiction with the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (SCMED) or the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Sites within DTSC's jurisdiction include hazardous materials sites where soil and sometimes groundwater has been contaminated.

#### **Regional Water Quality Control Board**

The RWQCB is responsible for maintaining the high quality of waters within the state. Although many hazardous materials sites are overseen by the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), the RWQCB often assumes lead agency status over hazardous materials sites where groundwater has been contaminated.

#### **Sacramento County Environmental Management Department**

The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (SCEMD) is the local CUPA. Hazardous waste laws and regulations are enforced locally by SCEMD, including Underground Storage Tank (UST) investigations and cleanups.

#### **Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District**

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) enforces Rule 902 that protects the public from exposure to asbestos in the event of a release, as discussed further below. Federal regulations and regulations adopted by the SMAQMD apply to the identification and treatment of hazardous materials during demolition and construction activities.

### ***SMAQMD Rule 902 and Commercial Structures***

The work practices and administrative requirements of Rule 902 apply to all commercial renovations and demolitions where the amount of Regulated Asbestos-Containing Material (RACM) is greater than 260 lineal feet of RACM on pipes, or 160 square feet of RACM on other facility components, or 35 cubic feet of RACM that could not be measured otherwise. The administrative requirements of Rule 902 apply to any demolition of commercial structures, regardless of the amount of RACM.

### ***Asbestos Surveys***

To determine the amount of RACM in a structure, Rule 902 requires that a survey be conducted prior to demolition or renovation unless the structure is otherwise exempt from the rule, or any material that has a propensity to contain asbestos (so-called "suspect material") is treated as if it is RACM. Surveys must be done by a state-licensed asbestos consultant and require laboratory analysis.

### ***Removal Practices, Removal Plans/Notification and Disposal***

If a survey shows that there are asbestos-containing materials present, the SMAQMD recommends leaving the materials in place. If it is necessary to disturb the as part of a renovation, remodel, repair or demolition, Cal OSHA and the Contractors State License Board require a licensed asbestos abatement contractor be used to remove the asbestos-containing material. There are specific disposal requirements in Rule 902 for friable asbestos-containing material, including disposal at a licensed landfill. If the material is non-friable asbestos, any landfill willing to accept asbestos-containing material may be used to dispose of the material.

### ***Cal/OSHA Lead in Construction Standard Construction Safety Order 1532.1***

The work practices and administrative requirements of Section 1532.1 apply to all construction work where an employee may be occupationally exposed to lead, such as in lead-based paint. These requirements include employee training, employee air monitoring, medical surveillance, dust control, and recordkeeping.

### ***U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Explosive Hazards Safety Assessment***

24 CFR 51 Subpart C requires that projects receiving HUD assistance be evaluated for potential exposure to explosive forces that could derive from hazardous materials operations associated with surrounding land uses. The principal purpose of the regulation is to ensure that suitable separation distances are maintained between HUD-assisted projects and stationary hazardous materials operations which store, handle, or process hazardous substances. The regulation defines specific substances of concern, and prescribes specific methods by which acceptable separation distances are to be determined.



## 3.7.4 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR

### 2035 General Plan Master EIR

The Master EIR evaluated effects of development on hazardous materials, emergency response and aircraft crash hazards (see Master EIR Chapter 4.6). The Master EIR disclosed that implementation of the 2035 General Plan may result in the exposure of people to hazards and hazardous materials during construction activities, and exposure of people to hazards and hazardous materials during the life of the 2035 General Plan. Impacts related to construction activities and operations were found to be less than significant. Policies included in the 2035 General Plan were determined to be effective in reducing the identified impacts, and include the following:

***Policy PHS 3.1.1: Investigate Sites for Contamination.*** The City shall ensure buildings and sites are investigated for the presence of hazardous materials and/or waste contamination before development for which City discretionary approval is required. The City shall ensure appropriate measures are taken to protect the health and safety of all possible users and adjacent properties. This Policy requires that buildings and sites under consideration for new development or redevelopment be investigated for the presence of hazardous materials prior to development activities.

***Policy PHS 3.1.2: Hazardous Material Contamination Management Plan.*** The City shall require that property owners of known contaminated sites work with Sacramento County, the State, and/or Federal agencies to develop and implement a plan to investigate and manage sites that contain or have the potential to contain hazardous materials contamination that may present an adverse human health or environmental risk.

***Policy PHS 4.1.1: Multi-Hazard Emergency Plan.*** The City shall maintain and implement the Sacramento County Multi-Hazard Emergency Plan to address disasters such as earthquakes, flooding, dam or levee failure, hazardous material spills, epidemics, fires, extreme weather, major transportation accidents, and terrorism.

Routine use and transport of hazardous materials is regulated by a number of federal, state, and local regulations. Potential incidents may include accidental spills or releases, intentional releases, and/or the release of hazardous materials during or following a natural disaster such as an earthquake or flood. To respond to these circumstances, Sacramento County has developed an Area Plan for Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents. The City of Sacramento Fire Department also has a hazardous materials incident response team, and works in cooperation with other regional and state agencies in the event of a major emergency.

The Master EIR found that compliance with all applicable rules and regulations, along with the 2035 General Plan policies, would reduce the potential for exposure of construction workers and the general public to unusual or excessive risks related to hazardous materials during demolition or construction activities throughout the life of the 2035 General Plan. The Master EIR concluded that the impact of the 2035 General Plan on hazards within the City was less than significant.

## River District Specific Plan EIR

The River District Specific Plan (RDSP) EIR evaluated effects of development on hazardous materials (see EIR Chapter 5.4). The EIR found that implementation of the RDSP could result in the exposure of people to hazards and hazardous materials during construction activities, and exposure of people to hazards and hazardous materials during the life of the RDSP. Exposure of people to hazards and hazardous materials during construction activities would be less than significant through implementation of the following mitigation measures:

**Mitigation Measure 5.4-1(a):** Prior to any ground-disturbing or site construction activities associated with redevelopment of a parcel east of [North] 12th Street, a determination shall be made by the County's Environmental Management Department (EMD) as to whether the parcel is within 1,000 feet of the following County Assessor's Parcels. Assessor Parcel Numbers: 003-0032-008, 003-0032-009, 001-0160-010, 001-0160-011, 003-0032-012, 003-0041-006, 001-0170-022, and 003-00410-003. The listed parcel numbers are associated with a former landfill site located adjacent to the American River and east of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. If so, the applicant shall contact the County of Sacramento's Local Enforcement Agency, per Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 21190. The applicant shall comply with all requirements of the EMD regarding development and use of the parcel.

**Mitigation Measure 5.4-1(b):** Prior to demolition or renovation of structures, the project applicant shall provide written documentation to the City that asbestos-containing materials and/or lead-based paint have been abated and that any remaining hazardous substances and/or waste have been removed in compliance with application State and local laws.

### 3.7.5 Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

#### City of Sacramento Standards of Significance

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to hazards and hazardous materials are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable general plans and previous environmental documents, and professional judgment. The standards also incorporate appropriate HUD or FTA criteria, where applicable. The project alternatives would have a significant adverse effect if they would:

- Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated soil during construction activities;
- Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to asbestos-containing materials, or other hazardous materials or situations;
- Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated groundwater during construction or dewatering activities;

## Department of Housing and Urban Development Evaluation Criteria

24 CFR 51 Subpart C requires that projects receiving HUD assistance be evaluated for potential exposure to explosive forces that could derive from hazardous materials operations associated with surrounding land uses. The principal purpose of the regulation is to ensure that suitable separation distances are maintained between HUD-assisted projects and stationary hazardous materials operations which store, handle, or process hazardous substances. Under this criteria, an adverse effect would occur if a HUD-assisted project were to be located at a lesser separation distance than that prescribed in the regulation.

## Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria

There are no other criteria that would be applicable to the proposed project.

## Environmental Analysis

### ***HAZ-1. Would the project expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated soil during construction activities?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

Under this alternative, existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Past uses may have released hazardous materials into the environment as a result of practices common at one time or another. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I assessment), identified previous uses such as gasoline service stations, automobile repair facilities, battery shops, machine shops, car dealerships and vehicle wash areas, as uses that would have used hazardous materials (e.g., fuels, oils and greases, solvents, and metals). The current and historical industrial land uses on the project site and within the immediate vicinity could have resulted in the release of hazardous materials, resulting in contamination in the soil, soil vapor and groundwater beneath the sites. The potential spills or releases at the nearby locations could have resulted in the migration of contaminants from these facilities to the project site (Nichols Consulting, 2012; 2013).

The project site is also located within an area generally known to have imported fill. Much of the immediate vicinity was backfilled during initial development with imported fill from nearby industrial land use properties. Some locations that received fill during this period have been found to contain high levels of metals such as lead (Nichols Consulting, 2012; 2013).

Because unidentified hazardous materials could be present at the project site, construction activities could expose workers to contaminated soil or other hazardous substances or debris that may be present, if such hazards are not properly identified and managed prior to site work. This is

considered a potentially significant impact which could be mitigated to less than significant through implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.6-1, which is prescribed at the end of this section. Mitigation Measure 3.6-1 would require that a Phase II assessment be conducted to analyze soil and groundwater conditions beneath the site, and that any hazardous materials conditions discovered be remediated to defined regulatory standards. Based these considerations, and after compliance with Mitigation Measure 3.6-1, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

RDSP EIR Mitigation Measure 5.4-1(a) requires that applicants considering development of parcels that are east of [North] 12th Street or within 1,000 feet of the former landfill, located east of the RDSP area, contact the County's Environmental Management Department to determine whether the parcel is, in fact, located within 1,000 feet. The Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area would be located east of North 12th Street; however, the nearest listed parcel associated with the former landfill is more than 3,000 feet from the project area. As such, RDSP EIR Mitigation Measure 5.4-1(a) would not apply to the proposed project.

***HAZ-2. Would the project expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to asbestos-containing materials, or other hazardous materials or situations?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

Under this alternative, existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As identified in the environmental setting, the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex was constructed when asbestos and lead-based paint were used in building construction. Asbestos and lead based paint abatement activities were conducted at the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex. However, the Phase 1 assessment identified that there is potential for lead to be present in the soil (at both the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area) originating from lead based paints and coatings originally used on exterior building surfaces, which may have flaked or oxidized and deposited into the surrounding soils (Nichols Consulting, 2012; 2013).

CCR Title 8 Section 5208 requires that a State-certified risk assessor conduct a risk assessment and/or paint inspection of all structures constructed prior to 1978 for the presence of asbestos or lead-based paint prior to demolition. If such hazards are determined to exist on site, the risk assessor would then prepare a site-specific hazard control plan detailing asbestos and/or paint removal methods and specific instructions for providing protective clothing and gear for abatement personnel. If necessary, a State-certified lead-based paint and/or an asbestos removal contractor (independent of the risk assessor) would be retained to conduct the appropriate abatement measures as required by the plan. Wastes from abatement and demolition activities would be disposed of at a landfill(s) licensed to accept such waste. RDSP EIR Mitigation

Measure 5.4-1(b) enhances the framework by ensuring that project applicants provide written documentation to the City that development in the RDSP area does not expose people to potential hazards due to asbestos-containing material or lead-based paint.

If any unforeseen conditions are discovered during construction, the contractor would coordinate with the appropriate agencies for the safe handling, sampling, and disposal of encountered materials. Construction workers are required to comply with California Occupational Safety and Health Administration worker health and safety standards that ensure safe workplaces and work practices.

Compliance with the federal, State, local regulatory framework (including General Plan policies), and Mitigation Measure 5.4-1(b) would ensure that workers and the public are protected from hazards such as asbestos-containing material and/or lead-based paint during ground disturbing, demolition and/or construction activities. Based these considerations, and after compliance with RDSP Mitigation Measure 5.4-1(b), there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

***HAZ-3. Would the project expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated groundwater during construction or dewatering activities?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

Under this alternative, existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Groundwater underlying a nearby site was recently measured at 12 to 22 feet below ground surface. As described in the environmental setting, groundwater in the proposed project vicinity has been documented as being contaminated by diesel, lead, other chlorinated hydrocarbons, and waste oil. The potential spills or releases at the nearby locations could result in the migration of contaminants in groundwater from these facilities to the project site (Nichols Consulting, 2012; 2013).

If the proposed project were to require dewatering during construction and/or the Phase II assessment identified contaminated groundwater, any discharges to the sewer, or a storm drainage system would be required to comply with the City's Department of Utilities Engineering Services regulations to ensure that contaminants do not enter the environment. Because discharge of groundwater during dewatering is regulated by federal, state and local regulations to minimize potential degradation of receiving waters and to minimize exposure to associated risks, this is considered a less-than-significant impact.

**HAZ-4. Would the project place housing in proximity to explosive hazards at distances less than that prescribed in 24 CFR 51 Subpart C?**

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

Under this alternative, existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As discussed above in the Setting, the nearest AST is located approximately 930 feet from the project site, which is well outside of the HUD acceptable separation distance of approximately 277 feet. Under NEPA, there would be **no effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Mitigation Measures**

**Mitigation Measure 3.7-1: Phase II Assessment.** Prior to construction or development of the proposed project, a Phase II assessment and subsurface geophysical investigation shall be conducted. If the Phase II assessment concludes that site remediation would be necessary to protect human health and the environment, the site shall not be developed until the site is remediated to levels that would be protective of the most sensitive population for the planned use, as prescribed in applicable regulations.

**RDSP Mitigation Measure 5.4-1(b):** Prior to demolition or renovation of structures, the project applicant shall provide written documentation to the City that either there is no asbestos-containing materials and/or lead-based paint in the structures or that such materials have been abated and that any remaining hazardous substances and/or waste have been removed in compliance with application State and local laws.

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## 3.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

### 3.8.1 Introduction

This section discusses hydrology and water quality in the vicinity of the project area. This analysis describes the effects on all surface water sources, including the Section 303(d) list of water bodies in the project area with pollutants that cannot be managed completely. This analysis also evaluates potential effects on flooding resulting from the proposed project. Please see Section 3.13, Utilities, for an analysis of the proposed project's effects to the storm drainage system.

### 3.8.2 Environmental Setting

#### Surface Water

The project site is located in a mixed-use urban environment area near the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers. The American River is approximately 0.20 miles north of the project site and the Sacramento River is approximately 1.15 miles to the west of the project site. The water quality in these rivers is influenced by a number of factors, including agricultural drainage, urban runoff, and industrial, municipal, and construction discharges. According to the City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan, the reaches of the Sacramento and American rivers that flow through the Sacramento urban area are considered by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) to be impaired for certain fish consumption and aquatic habitat and are listed on the EPA approved 2006 Section 303(d) list of water quality limited segments. Both of these rivers can be treated to meet all Title 22 drinking water standards using conventional and direct filtration processes, and newer membrane technologies. There are no persistent constituents in the raw waters that require additional treatment processes. Chemical treatments are sometimes seasonally required to be treated for rice herbicides.

#### Groundwater

Groundwater levels near the project site have been identified at between 12 and 22 feet below ground surface (bgs) and are generally mapped around the 20 foot depth (Nichols Consulting, 2012 and DWR, 2016). Groundwater in the project area is not a federally listed sole source aquifer (USEPA, 2016) and is not currently in use for the public water supply. However, it could be a future source of water to supplement surface water supply for the City (US EPA, 2016; City of Sacramento, 2014). Sources of groundwater recharge include active river and stream channels, inflow of groundwater from outside the project area, deep percolation of applied surface water, and precipitation.

#### Stormwater

The entire project site is partially paved, and is occupied by buildings, surface streets, parking areas, and open space. There are a number of trees within the project footprint. The project site is in an urban area north of downtown Sacramento. Currently the project site is only partially



composed of impervious surfaces and as a result, storm water drains through the soil as well as to the adjacent storm drain system.

The public wastewater collection system within the City includes a combined sewer system (CSS) that extends partially within the River District area, and a separated sewer system (sanitary sewer) in the remaining areas of the City. The existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex is currently served by a sanitary sewer managed by the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) and conveyed to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP), while the Expansion Area portion of the project site is served by the CSS.

The CSS serves residences and businesses generally within the Downtown, East Sacramento, and Land Park communities, which contribute both sanitary sewage and storm drainage flows (combined sewer) to the local CSS (City of Sacramento, 2004). Currently stormwater from this area enters a series of storm drain pipes and is delivered to Sump 111, near the northerly terminus of North 5th Street, from where it is discharged into the American River. This storm drainage system is regulated by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater Permit issued by the CVRWQCB. The permit requires the use of best management practices to meet the standard of “reducing pollutants in urban runoff to the maximum extent practicable” (City of Sacramento, 2010). Meanwhile, the SRCSD and the Sacramento Area Sewer District (SASD) provide both collection and treatment services within their service area for the portions of the city served by the separate sewer system. The SRWTP, which is located just south of the city limits, is owned and operated by SRCSD and provides sewage treatment for the entire 2035 General Plan Policy Area (City of Sacramento, 2015).

The CSS is composed of about 345 miles of 4- to 120-inch diameter vitrified clay, reinforced concrete and brick pipes that drain westwards to two large pump station facilities known as Pump Station 1/1A/1B and Pump Station 2/2A, located near the Sacramento River. Pump Stations 1B and 2A are the primary pumping stations at each facility, operating continuously throughout the year, while Pump Stations 1/1A and 2 only operate during large storms. Other City facilities include an off-line storage facility known as Pioneer Reservoir that also serves as a primary treatment plant and the Combined Wastewater Treatment Plant (CWTP), which is another primary treatment plant with a capacity of 130 million gallons per day (mgd). Pioneer Reservoir has a peak hydraulic capacity of approximately 350 mgd and a treatment capacity of about 250 mgd.

The City has an agreement with the SRCSD whereby the City can convey a maximum of 60 mgd to the SRWTP for secondary treatment prior to discharge to the Sacramento River. This capacity is sufficient to treat all CSS dry weather sanitary flows (about 17 to 18 mgd) and stormwater from low-intensity storms. During moderate to large storms when the CSS flows are greater than 60 mgd, the flows greater than 60 mgd are routed to CWTP and/or Pioneer Reservoir for temporary storage. When flows exceed storage capacity, the excess flows are released to the Sacramento River after receiving primary treatment, including chlorination and de-chlorination. When the storage and treatment capacities are reached, additional CSS flows are discharged directly to the Sacramento River from Sump 1 and/or Sump 2.

Flows conveyed by the City's wastewater systems are routed to the SRWTP for treatment and disposal via an interceptor system consisting of large diameter pipes and pump stations. The interceptor system and the SRWTP, located just south of the City limits, are owned and operated by the independent SRCSD.

Several projects are planned to improve the operation of the combined system. Projects initiated by the City to address existing deficiencies are system improvements, while major land development projects often include specific measures to mitigate the additional sewage and drainage flows created by the specific development. Notably, the Downtown Combined Sewers Upsizing Project is a 15-year program to upsize downtown sewers which will provide significant reductions of street flooding and combined sewer outflows when complete. Upsizing the 7th Street Sewer from K Street to P Street from 24 inches to 60 inches is one of the final legs of the project and will provide the downtown area combined system with additional capacity. Major development projects within the combined sewer area are required to mitigate the additional sewage flows and the added impervious surface, which increases drainage runoff, or to pay the new CSS Development Fee, which funds this project.

## **Flooding**

According to Flood Insurance Rate (FIRM) maps produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the project site is designated as Zone X (FEMA, 2015a and 2015b). The Zone X is given to areas protected by levees from a one-percent (100 year) annual chance of flood. According to FEMA, buildings in this zone could be flooded by severe, concentrated rainfall coupled with inadequate local drainage systems. The failure of a local drainage system creates areas of high flood risk within these rate zones. Flood insurance is available in participating communities but is not required by regulation in these zones.

Existing levees along the American and Sacramento Rivers provide flood protection to this area. Because the levees are federally authorized flood control levees, the land established for the levees and the flood control easements are owned by the State. Two agencies maintain these areas; the American River Flood Control District, for the American River, and the California Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), for the Sacramento River. Any activities or encroachments proposed within the flood control area of either levee are subject to permits from the CVFPB.

In addition, protection is provided by the operation of upstream reservoirs and dams, including Folsom Dam and Shasta Dam. The project site is within the dam inundation zone in the event of failure at the Folsom Dam, which is located on the American River, upstream of the project site.

### **3.8.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations**

#### **Federal Clean Water Act (CWA)**

The Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1251 – 1376) established the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the U.S. and gave the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) the authority to implement pollution control programs such as wastewater standards for industry. The CWA sets water quality standards for all contaminants in

surface waters. The statute employs a variety of regulatory and nonregulatory tools to reduce direct pollutant discharges into waterways, finance municipal wastewater treatment facilities, and manage polluted runoff. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has jurisdiction over all waters of the U.S. including, but not limited to, perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, and ponds, as well as wetlands in marshes, wet meadows, and side hill seeps. Under Section 401 of the CWA, every applicant for a federal permit or license for any activity which may result in a discharge to a water body must obtain State Water Quality Certification that the proposed activity will comply with state water quality standards.

Section 303(d) of the CWA requires that each state identify water bodies or segments of water bodies that are “impaired” (i.e., not meeting one or more of the water quality standards established by the state). These waters are identified in the Section 303(d) list as waters that are polluted and need further attention to support their beneficial uses. Once the water body or segment is listed, the state is required to establish Total Maximum Daily Load(s) (TMDL) for the pollutant(s) causing the conditions of impairment. TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. Generally, TMDL is the sum of the allowable loads of a single pollutant from all contributing point and nonpoint sources. The intent of the Section 303(d) list is to identify water bodies that require future development of a TMDL to maintain water quality.

## **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System**

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program under the CWA controls water pollution by regulating point and nonpoint sources that discharge pollutants into “waters of the U.S.” California has an approved state NPDES program. The USEPA has delegated authority for NPDES permitting to the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), which has nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs). Under this system, municipal and industrial facilities are required to obtain a NPDES permit from the applicable RWQCB that specifies allowable limits, based on available wastewater treatment technologies, for pollutant levels in their effluent.

Stormwater discharges are regulated somewhat differently than pollutant discharges. Discharge of stormwater runoff from construction areas of one acre or more requires either an individual permit issued by the RWQCB or coverage under the statewide Construction General Stormwater Permit for stormwater discharges (discussed below). Specific industries and public facilities, including wastewater treatment plants that have direct stormwater discharges to navigable waters, are also required to obtain either an individual permit or obtain coverage under the statewide General Industrial Stormwater Permit.

## **Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60**

This part of the Code contains the regulations governing development in a floodplain. FEMA establishes flood zones and boundaries based on information from the Corps. The maps distributed by FEMA identify the locations of special flood hazard areas, including the 100-year floodplain.

## **State Porter-Cologne Act**

The SWRCB and the RWQCBs share responsibility under the Porter-Cologne Act to formulate and adopt water policies and plans, and to adopt and implement measures to fulfill CWA requirements. To meet these requirements, the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan) was prepared by the CVWQCB to protect the water quality of the State according to the beneficial uses identified for each water body. Prior to authorizations of waste discharge by the RWQCB, the Porter-Cologne Act requires reports of waste discharges to be filed. The RWQCB then prescribes Waste Discharge Requirements, which serve as NPDES permits under a provision of the Porter-Cologne Act.

## **Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4012a]**

The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 require that projects receiving federal assistance and located in an area identified by FEMA as being within a Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) be covered by flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

## **Executive Order 11988**

Executive Order 11988 (May 24, 1977) requires federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative.

## **Sole Source Aquifer: 40 CFR 149**

A sole source aquifer is defined as an aquifer that supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. 40 CFR 149 applies to federally assisted projects which may contaminate an aquifer designated by the USEPA as the sole source of drinking water for a community. The regulation prohibits financial assistance of projects which USEPA determines may contaminate a designated sole source aquifer.

## **Stormwater Quality Improvement Program (SQIP)**

The City operates under a NPDES permit (NPDES No. CAS082597) for stormwater municipal discharges to surface waters. The permit requires that the City impose water quality protection measures for all development projects. The permit prohibits discharges from causing violations or water quality standards or result in conditions that create water quality impairment in receiving waters. A key component of the NPDES permit is the implementation of the SQIP. The SQIP consists of elements such as control of commercial/industrial discharges, control of stormwater during construction, and control of postconstruction stormwater for new development and redevelopment of parcels. In addition, the two following sections of the City Code provide additional regulation and guidance to prevent degradation of water quality.

### **Mitigation of Drainage Impacts (City Code Section 13.08.145)**

Sacramento City Code Section 13.08.145 addresses mitigation of drainage impacts, and a design and procedures manual for water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, and water quality facilities. The code requires that when a property contributes drainage to the storm drain system or combined sewer system, all storm water and surface runoff drainage impacts resulting from the improvement or development must be fully mitigated to ensure that the improvement or development does not affect the function of the storm drain system or combined sewer system, and that there is no increase in flooding or in water surface elevation that adversely affects individuals, streets, structures, infrastructure, or property. Because the CSS is considered at or near capacity, all additional inflow into the system is required to be mitigated. The Sewer Development Fee Fund is used to recover an appropriate share of the capital costs of the City's existing or newer system facilities or the City's existing or new CSS facilities. Revenues are generated from impact fees paid by developers and others whose projects add to the demand on the combined sewer collection systems. In order to connect with the SRCSD wastewater conveyance and treatment system, developers must pay impact fees. Infill development pays \$2,519 per equivalent multi-family dwelling (ESD) (rates effective July 1, 2016).

### **Stormwater Management and Control (City Code Section 13.16)**

This section of the Code regulates non-stormwater discharges to the stormwater conveyance system, by eliminating discharges to the stormwater conveyance system from spills, dumping, or disposal of materials other than stormwater, and by reducing pollutants in urban stormwater discharges to the maximum extent practicable. Non-stormwater discharges are prohibited except where the discharge is regulated under a NPDES permit.

Post-construction non-stormwater and pollutant discharges resulting from new development are minimized and controlled using source and/or treatment control measures to remove and prevent pollution in stormwater.

### **Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control (City Code Section 15.88)**

This section regulates land disturbances, soil storage, pollution, and erosion and sedimentation resulting from construction activities within the City. Grading approval must be received from the Department of Utilities before construction. All projects are required to prepare erosion and sediment control plans which apply during and post construction. The plans include erosion control measures such as straw mulch, sediment controls such as fiber rolls, inlet protection, and housekeeping practices such as concrete management and spill prevention.

### **Resolution No. 92-439 of the Sacramento City Council**

This resolution regulates groundwater discharges to the CSS or a separated sewer system. The Department of Utilities is responsible for the permitting of short-term discharges or approval of a Memorandum of Understanding for long-term discharges. Groundwater discharges to a sewer system are defined as discharges from construction dewatering, foundation dewatering, treated or untreated contaminated groundwater cleanup, and uncontaminated groundwater.

All groundwater discharges to the sewer must be granted a SRCSD discharge permit. If the discharge contains excessive contaminants, CVRWQCB approval is also required.

## City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan

The City of Sacramento adopted its 2035 General Plan on March 3, 2015. The General Plan includes redevelopment of the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and the construction of the proposed Dos Rios LRT Station in its long range plans. A summary of General Plan policies that are relevant to the proposed project is provided below.

## River District Specific Plan

The River District Specific Plan (RDSP) was adopted in 2011 and established planning and design standards for the redevelopment of approximately 773 acres of land (City of Sacramento, 2011). The RDSP area includes the entirety of the proposed project area under consideration in this IS/EA, and includes water related elements that are directly applicable to the proposed project. A summary of RDSP policies that are relevant to the proposed project is provided below.

### 3.8.4 Summary of Analysis Under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR

#### 2035 General Plan Master EIR

Chapter 4.7 of the Master EIR considered the potential effects of the 2035 General Plan on surface water, groundwater, flooding, stormwater, and water quality, and the proposed project was included in all aspects of the plan's evaluation.

The 2035 General Plan Master EIR identified potential impact to water quality degradation due to construction activities (Impacts 4.7-1, 4.7-2), and exposure of people to flood risks (Impacts 4.7-3). Policies included in the 2035 General Plan, including a directive for regional cooperation (Policies ER 1.1.2, EC 2.1.1), comprehensive flood management (Policy EC 2.1.23), and construction of adequate drainage facilities with new development (Policy ER 1.1.1 to ER 1.1.10) were identified that the Master EIR concluded would reduce all impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Water Quality goals and policies applicable to the project area include the following:

***Goal ER 1.1: Water Quality Protection.*** Protect local watersheds, water bodies and groundwater resources, including creeks, reservoirs, the Sacramento and American rivers, and their shorelines.

***Policy ER 1.1.1: Conservation of Open Space Areas.*** The City shall conserve and where feasible create or restore areas that provide important water quality benefits such as riparian corridors, buffer zones, wetlands, undeveloped open space areas, levees, and drainage canals for the purpose of protecting water resources in the city's watershed, creeks, and the Sacramento and American rivers.

**Policy ER 1.1.2: Regional Planning.** The City shall continue to work with local, State, and Federal agencies and private watershed organizations to improve water quality.

**Policy ER 1.1.3: Stormwater Quality.** The City shall control sources of pollutants and improve and maintain urban runoff water quality through stormwater protection measures consistent with the city's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

**ER 1.1.4: New Development.** The City shall require new development to protect the quality of water bodies and natural drainage systems through site design (e.g., cluster development), source controls, storm water treatment, runoff reduction measures, best management practices (BMPs), and Low Impact Development (LID), and hydromodification strategies consistent with the City's NPDES Permit.

**ER 1.1.5: Limit Stormwater Peak Flows.** The City shall require all new development to contribute no net increase in stormwater runoff peak flows over existing conditions associated with a 100-year storm event.

**ER 1.1.6: Post-Development Runoff.** The City shall impose requirements to control the volume, frequency, duration, and peak flow rates and velocities of runoff from development projects to prevent or reduce downstream erosion and protect stream habitat.

**Policy ER 1.1.7: Construction Site Impacts.** The City shall minimize disturbances of natural water bodies and natural drainage systems caused by development, implement measures to protect areas from erosion and sediment loss, and continue to require construction contractors to comply with the City's erosion and sediment control ordinance and stormwater management and discharge control ordinance.

**Policy ER 1.1.8: Clean Watershed.** The City shall continue ongoing Sacramento and American River source water protection efforts (e.g., Keep Our Waters Clean), based on watershed sanitary survey recommendations.

**Policy ER 1.1.9: Groundwater Recharge.** The City shall protect open space areas that are currently used for recharging groundwater basins, have the potential to be used for recharge, or may accommodate floodwater or stormwater.

**Policy EC 2.1.9: Community Rating System.** The City shall maintain eligibility in FEMA's Community Rating System program, which gives property owners discounts on flood insurance.

**Policy EC 2.1.11: New Development.** The City shall require evaluation of potential flood hazards prior to approval of development projects to determine whether the proposed development is reasonably safe from flooding and consistent with California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Urban Level of Flood Protection Criteria. The City shall not approve new development or a subdivision or enter into a development agreement for any property within a flood hazard zone unless the adequacy of flood protection specific to the area has been demonstrated.

**EC 2.1.6: New Development.** The City shall require evaluation of potential flood hazards prior to approval of development projects.

**Policy EC 2.1.25: Flood Risk Notification.** The City shall annually notify owners of residential development protected from flooding by a levee and/or subject to inundation in the event of levee failure of the risk.

**Policy EC 2.1.26: Deed Notification.** The City shall require, for areas protected by levees, all new developments to include a notice within the deed that the property is protected by flooding from a levee and that the property can be subject to flooding if the levee fails or is overwhelmed.

**Policy EC 2.1.27: Flood Insurance.** The City shall encourage all residents to purchase flood insurance.

**Goal U 4.1: Adequate Stormwater Drainage.** Provide adequate stormwater drainage facilities and services that are environmentally-sensitive, accommodate growth, and protect residents and property.

## River District Specific Plan EIR

The River District Specific Plan (RDSP) EIR considered the effects of the buildout of the proposed RDSP on hydrology and water quality. Chapter 5.5 of the RDSP EIR evaluated the potential effects of the RDSP on surface water and groundwater quantity and quality and the potential for either construction (Impacts 5.5-1, 5.5-2), or development associated with the RDSP to result in an increased risk to exposure to flooding (Impact 5.5-3). The RDSP Draft EIR concluded all impacts to hydrology and water quality would be less than significant.

Water Quality goals and policies applicable to the project area include the following:

**Goal I 1:** Reduce water consumption and wastewater flows by implementing conservation techniques such as those described in the Water Forum agreement.

**Policy a:** Encourage the installation of techniques such as bio-swales, permeable pavement and greywater systems to reduce stormwater runoff.

### 3.8.5 Impact Assessment and Mitigation

#### City of Sacramento Standards of Significance

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to hydrology and water quality are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable general plans and previous environmental documents, and professional judgment. The standards also incorporate appropriate HUD or FTA criteria, where applicable. The project alternatives would have a significant adverse effect if they would:

- Substantially degrade water quality and violate any water quality objectives set by the State Water Resources Control Board, due to increases in sediments and other contaminants generated by construction and/or development of the project; or
- Substantially increase the exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood.



## Department of Housing and Urban Development Evaluation Criteria

HUD regulations provide a listing of federal laws, regulations, and executive orders against which all HUD-assisted projects must be evaluated. Those authorities under 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities, that are relevant to the proposed project have been listed previously in the Applicable Policies and Regulations section. Most notable are the Flood Disaster Protection regulations, which identify flood level standards for new housing construction, and consideration of a sole source aquifer. Exceedance of those standards would constitute an adverse impact.

The online HUD Exchange provides additional guidance documents for considering context and intensity impacts associated with hydrology and water quality (HUD, 2013). Specific factors to consider include use of a septic system, whether the project involves a substantial increase in impervious surface area, impacts related to use of groundwater such as its availability, quality, and recharge ability.

## Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria

There are no other criteria that would be applicable to the proposed project.

## Environmental Analysis

***HYD-1. Would the project substantially degrade water quality and violate any water quality objectives set by the State Water Resources Control Board, due to increases in sediments and other contaminants generated by construction and/or development of the project?***

### Alternative 1 – No Project

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

### Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project

Construction activities associated with the proposed project would create the potential to degrade water quality from increased sedimentation and increased discharge (increased flow and volume of runoff) associated with storm water runoff. Disturbance of site soils would increase the potential for erosion from storm water. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted a statewide general NPDES permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activity. Dischargers whose projects disturb one or more acres of soil are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading and disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling, or excavation.

The City's SQIP contains a Construction Element that guides in implementation of the NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity. This General Construction Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP should contain a site map(s) which shows the construction site perimeter, existing and proposed buildings, lots, roadways, storm water collection and discharge points, general topography both before and after construction, and drainage patterns across the project. The SWPPP must list BMPs the discharger will use to protect storm water runoff and the placement of those BMPs. Additionally, the SWPPP must contain a visual monitoring program; a chemical monitoring program for "non-visible" pollutants to be implemented if there is a failure of BMPs; and a sediment monitoring plan if the site discharges directly to a water body listed on the 303(d) list for sediment. Section A of the Construction General Permit describes the elements that must be contained in a SWPPP. Compliance with City requirements to protect storm water inlets would require the developer to implement BMPs such as the use of straw bales, sandbags, gravel traps, and filters; erosion control measures such as vegetation and physical stabilization; and sediment control measure such as fences, dams, barriers, berms, traps, and basins. City staff also inspect and enforce the erosion, sediment and pollution control requirements in accordance with City codes (Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control ordinance).

Based on each of the considerations outlined above, and compliance with existing codes and regulations, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

***HYD-2. Would the project substantially increase the exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The proposed project site is located within Flood Zone X of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The project area designation under Flood Zone X is determined to be outside the area having a 0.2 percent chance of a flood. Based on this designation, the project site is not subject to flooding from the 100 or 500-year storm events (refer to Appendix B, HUD Floodplain Management Worksheet). Because the proposed project site is located outside the FEMA 100-year floodplain, the project would not place housing within a 100-year flood hazard, expose people to significant risk, or impede flood flows.

The City requires all infill developments to comply with the City’s “Do No Harm” policy, which requires that all existing affected drainage systems function as well, or better, as a result of the new construction, and that there is no increase in flooding or in water surface elevation with negative impacts to individuals, streets, structures, infrastructure, or property. In order to comply with this standard, underground storage facilities through the use of oversized pipes, storm vaults, or similar methods, would be incorporated into the project design. A storm drain study would be submitted to the City Department of Utilities demonstrating compliance with the City’s “Do No Harm” policy at time of improvement plan review.

Based on the considerations outlined above, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

***HYD-3. Would the project result in a contamination of a sole source aquifer?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Groundwater in the project area is not a federally listed sole source aquifer and is not currently in use for the public water supply (refer to Appendix B, HUD Sole Source Aquifer Worksheet). As such, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact**.

**Mitigation Measures**

None required.

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## 3.9 Land Use, Population and Housing, and Socioeconomics

### 3.9.1 Introduction

This section discusses the land use, population and housing, and socioeconomic characteristics of the project area and describes potential impacts associated with implementation of the project alternatives. Issues addressed in this section include land use compatibility, relocation of residences, occupants, and businesses, and also property acquisitions and fiscal impacts. Related information can be found in Section 3.5, *Environmental Justice*.

### 3.9.2 Environmental Setting

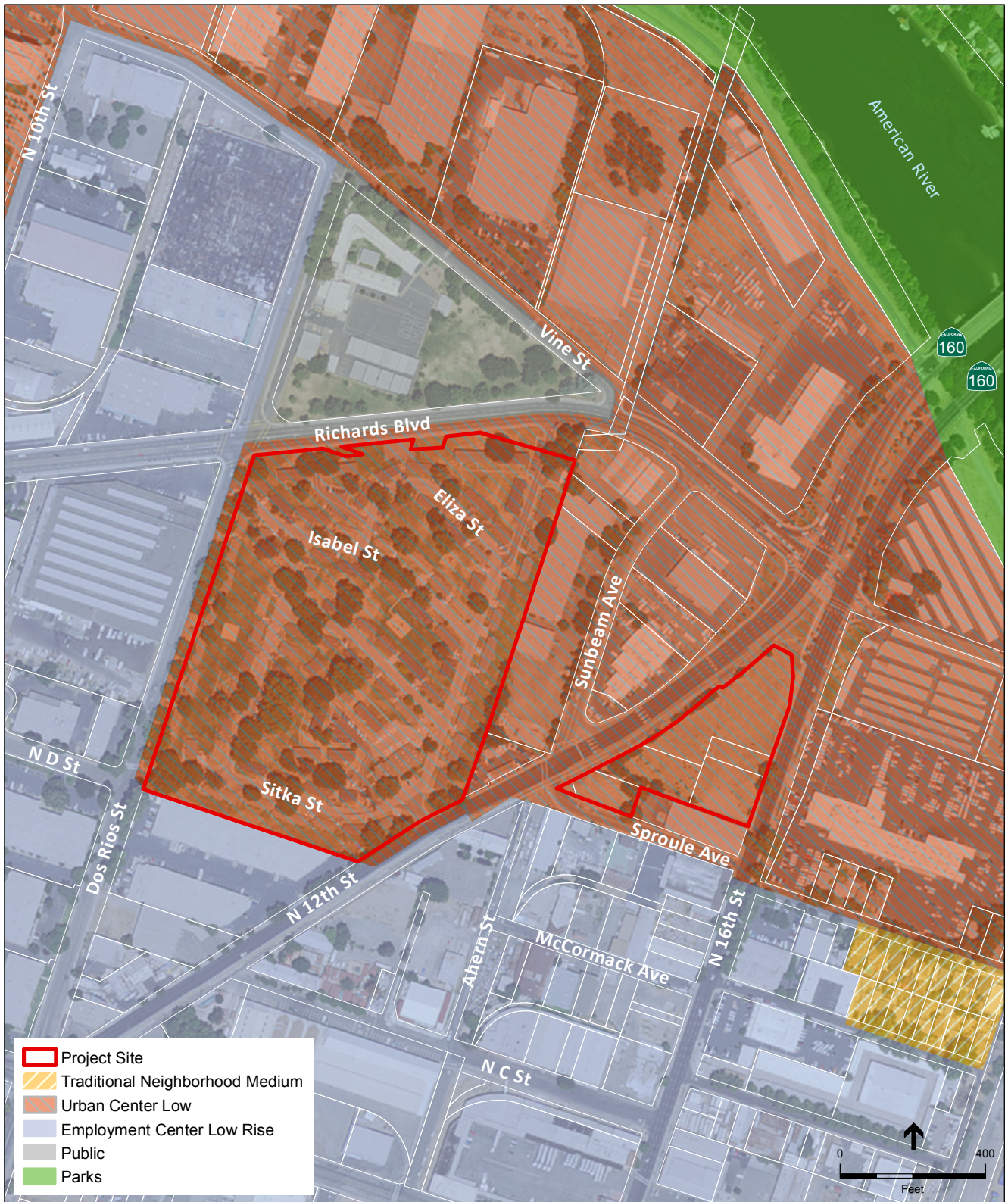
#### Existing and Zoned Land Uses

Land use designations in the project area were recently updated as part of the City's 2035 General Plan Update, with the designation for portions of the project site adjusted in anticipation of the proposed project. Designations in much of the River District were altered in both the General Plan and the River District Specific Plan (RDSP) to accommodate the projected buildout of the RDSP, which provides for the eventual transition of much of the area from commercial and industrial uses to mixed-use and residential. **Figure 3.9-1** shows current General Plan land use designations on the site and in the surrounding area, with the project site identified. The land use designation for both the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area is Urban Center Low (City of Sacramento, 2014). This designation provides for residential densities ranging from 20 to 150 units per acre, with Floor Area Ratios (FAR) ranging from 0.40 to 4.00. Urban Center Low areas are intended to be located around light rail stations, along local arterials, and other key areas of the City.

Zoning on the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex is currently R-5-SPD. This zoning provides for multi-family residential development with densities ranging up to 150 units per acre, with no minimum. However, proposed uses would need to be consistent with the General Plan land use designation, so the range would technically be 20 to 150 units per acre.

Zoning on most of the parcels on the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion site east of North 12th Street is C-1-SPD - Limited Commercial/Special Planning District. One parcel (APN 001-0103-001) is zoned as both C-1-SPD and C-2-SPD - General Commercial/Special Planning District. Areas zoned as C-1 provide for a variety of uses as defined in Sacramento City Code Section 17.216.610. These uses include certain commercial, institutional, industrial, and residential uses. Additional uses may be allowed with appropriate approvals. Areas zoned as C-2 allow for similar uses as provided in C-1 areas, with certain additional commercial uses allowed. Allowable uses in C-2 areas are listed in Section 17.216.710 of the Sacramento City Code.

Besides the C-1 zoning designation, the area is also included within the River District Special Planning District (SPD). Allowances provided for in the SPD can be found in Section 17.436 of the Sacramento City Code. As defined in the Code, uses allowed within the SPD are generally the



SOURCE: ESRI, 2012; City of Sacramento, 2016; ESA, 2016

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 3.9-1**  
General Plan Land Use Designation

same as those allowed outside of the SPD, but the SPD designation provides for greater flexibility. As further defined in the code, the purpose and intent of the SPD designation is to:

1. Establish a greater mix of land uses and intensities to attract private investment;
2. Provide the opportunity for reuse and rehabilitation of heavy commercial and industrial uses; to take advantage of the light rail facilities in the area; and to reduce the number of obsolete and underutilized buildings and sites;
3. Allow for the retention and continued operation of industrial and service-oriented uses;
4. Provide for improved circulation, infrastructure, and community facilities that will serve existing and future needs within the area;
5. Provide for the future creation of a significant residential population within the River District area as industrial uses relocate or are replaced; achieve the housing objectives of the general plan and Central City Community Plan; and provide a jobs-housing balance for future office growth;
6. Provide for the intensification of commercial and office uses within close proximity to the planned and existing light rail stations and Interstate 5;
7. Discourage uses that contribute to visual or economic blight;
8. Encourage the preservation of historic structures; and
9. Promote aesthetic improvements to the area by implementing development standards and design guidelines.

Existing land uses adjacent to the project site are generally commercial, industrial, and institutional. To the south and east of the project site, existing occupants include Loaves & Fishes, the Mustard Seed School, Family Promise of Sacramento, Endless Auto Body, Capital Casino, Downtown Ford Sales, and multiple public storage facilities. Occupants to the north include the Depo of Sacramento, Ken Imler Diesel Performance, GCR Tires & Service, Restaurant Depot, Kelly Paper, Sacramento Habitat for Humanity, and the Smythe Academy Middle School and Dos Rios School Park. Land uses to the west include restaurants, a clothing wholesaler, and retail space. Other nearby uses include the California Lottery office, approximately 0.15 mile west of the project site, and California Highway Patrol offices 0.3 mile to the west.

## Demographics

General demographic information for Sacramento County, the City of Sacramento, and the project study area was obtained from U.S. Census data from the 2010 Census. The project area is wholly contained within Census Tract 53.01, as is the River District Specific Plan (RDSP) area, with minimal overlap into adjoining areas. Therefore, Tract 53.01 was used as the project study area for site-specific demographic characteristics. **Figure 3.9-2** shows the boundary of Census Tract 53.01.





SOURCE: ESRI, 2012; City of Sacramento, 2016;  
 U.S. Census Bureau, 2013; ESA, 2016

SHRA Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 3.9-2**  
 Census Tract Boundaries

## Population and Housing Characteristics

### County of Sacramento Population and Housing Characteristics

The 2010 Census determined that 1,418,788 persons lived in the County of Sacramento. There were a total of 555,932 housing units, 513,945 (92.4 percent) of which were occupied. Of the occupied units in the County, 57.5 percent were owner-occupied, and 42.5 percent were renter-occupied. The average household size was 2.71 persons per household.

In the 2000 Census, 1,223,449 persons lived in the County. There were a total of 474,814 housing units, 453,602 (95.5 percent) of which were occupied. Of the occupied units in the County, 58.2 percent were owner-occupied, and 41.8 percent were renter-occupied. The average household size was 2.64 persons per household. **Table 3.9-1** shows population and housing trends in the County between 2000 and 2010.

**TABLE 3.9-1  
POPULATION AND HOUSING TRENDS – 2000 THROUGH 2010**

	2000	2010	% change
<b>County of Sacramento</b>			
Population	1,223,499	1,418,788	+15.9
Total Housing Units	474,814	555,932	+17.1
<b>City of Sacramento</b>			
Population	407,018	466,488	+14.6
Total Housing Units	163,957	190,911	+16.4
<b>Tract 53.01</b>			
Population	NA	1,823	NA
Total Housing Units	NA	333	NA

NOTES: All data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2000 and 2010. Table DP-1. Accessed June 28, 2016.

### City of Sacramento Population and Housing Characteristics

The 2010 Census determined that 466,488 persons lived in the City of Sacramento. There were a total of 190,911 housing units, 174,624 (91.4 percent) of which were occupied. Of the occupied units in the City, 49.4 percent were owner-occupied, and 50.6 percent were renter-occupied. The average household size was 2.62 persons per household.

In the 2000 Census, 407,018 persons lived in the City. There were a total of 163,957 housing units, 154,581 (94.2 percent) of which were occupied. Of the occupied units in the City, 50.1 percent were owner-occupied, and 49.9 percent were renter-occupied. The average household size was 2.57 persons per household. Table 3.9-1 shows population and housing trends in the City between 2000 and 2010.

### **Census Tract 53.01 Population and Housing Characteristics**

The 2010 Census determined that 1,823 persons lived in Census Tract 53.01. There were a total of 333 housing units, 310 (93.1 percent) of which were occupied. Of the occupied units in Tract 53.01, 8.7 percent were owner-occupied, and 91.3 percent were renter-occupied. The average household size was 2.36 persons per household.

It should be noted that the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex comprises a substantial portion (218 out of 333, or 65.5 percent) of the available housing units within Tract 53.01. Although the tract is relatively large for such an urbanized area, most of the tract is dedicated to non-residential uses.

Census data from the 2000 Census is not available for Tract 53.01. However, no new housing has been constructed in the area since the late 1990s, so it is likely that the amount of available housing has remained largely unchanged since that time. It is thus also likely that the population of the area has also not undergone substantial change since 2000.

### ***Homelessness***

Based on a January 2013 count, Sacramento Steps Forward<sup>1</sup> found a total of 2,659 homeless individuals living in Sacramento County, with 1,711 people living in transitional housing or shelters, and 948 living in unsheltered conditions (Sacramento Steps Forward, 2013). Within the River District, there are a number of social services facilities that provide aid to the poor and the homeless. These services include emergency and transitional housing, medical services, counseling and mental health services, food distribution, and meal service facilities. Some of those support services include the Union Gospel Mission at 400 Bannon Street, Loaves and Fishes at 1351 North C Street, Women's Empowerment at 1590 North A Street, Family Promise of Sacramento at 321 N 12th Street, Francis House Center at 1422 C Street, and Volunteers of America at 470 Bannon Street. Based on the concentration of homeless services in the area, levels of homeless persons in and around the project area tend to be substantially higher than most other areas of the City.

### ***Transit Dependent Populations***

Transit dependent populations are defined as households without private transportation. These individuals generally rely on public transportation services for access to employment opportunities, school, social/recreational functions, medical appointments, and mobility in general. Error! Reference source not found. **Table 3.9-2** shows the representation of transit-dependent populations in the County, the City, and Census Tract 53.01 based on 2010 U.S. Census data. Approximately 21 percent of the households in Census Tract 53.01 are without a private automobile, in contrast to 10 percent for the City of Sacramento and 8 percent for the County.

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<sup>1</sup> Sacramento Steps Forward is the lead nonprofit agency monitoring and addressing homeless issues in the Sacramento region.

**TABLE 3.9-2  
TRANSIT DEPENDENT POPULATIONS (2010 CENSUS DATA)**

	No. of Households	Households without Private Transport	Percent of Households without Private Transport
<b>County of Sacramento</b>	508,499	36,761	8.0
<b>City of Sacramento</b>	173,938	16,905	10.0
<b>Census Tract 53.01</b>	292	61	21.0

SOURCE: All data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. Household Size by Vehicles Available: 2010. Table B08201. Accessed June 28, 2016.

### ***Income and Employment***

**Table 3.9-3** shows comparative levels of household income and employment status for the County, the City, and Census Tract 53.01. Mean household income within Census Tract 53.01 was only 29 percent of mean household income in the County, and only 35 percent that of mean household income for the City. Rates of unemployment rates in Tract 53.01 are more than three times that recorded in the City and the County.

**TABLE 3.9-3  
INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT (2010 CENSUS DATA)**

	Mean Household Income <sup>1</sup>	Percent Unemployed <sup>2</sup>
<b>County of Sacramento</b>	\$56,439	10.2
<b>City of Sacramento</b>	\$46,731	11.4
<b>Census Tract 53.01</b>	\$16,364	38.5

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. Financial Characteristics: 2010. Table S2503. Accessed June 28, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. Employment Status: 2010. Table S2301. Accessed June 28, 2016.

## 3.9.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations

### **Property Acquisition Regulations**

Acquisition of any property associated with the proposed project would be required to occur in accordance with the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and Amendments (Public Law 91-646) and the California Relocation Act (California Government Code, Chapter 16, Section 7260 *et. seq.*). As noted in Chapter 2.0, Alternatives, partial acquisition of two commercial parcels would be required as part of the realignment of RT's tracks leading into the proposed Dos Rios LRT Station site. RT has a specific process it follows with regards to acquisitions. These processes are in accordance with the above-noted regulatory requirements and are summarized as follows:

**Appraisals.** The process by which properties would be acquired would begin with an appraisal of the affected property, followed by an offer to purchase. Appraisals would be

made by licensed professional appraisers and would take into consideration a number of factors, included the assessed value of the property and improvements, as well as comparable sales in the general area. Property owners would have the right to appeal and/or counteroffer the appraisal. Following acceptance of the offer, the funds would be transferred to the seller and title to the property would transfer to RT.

**Partial Acquisitions.** For partial acquisitions, as is the case with both commercial parcels that would be acquired by RT as part of the proposed project, property owners would be paid only for the value of the land acquired. A value would be assigned to the entire parcel of land (not to include buildings or other improvements). The value of the land would be broken down into a cost per square foot and the owner would be paid that price per square foot for the acquisition.

**Severance Damages for Substantial Devaluation.** In some cases, the amount of property acquired may render the remaining portion of the property substantially devalued to a point where compensation for the entire property is warranted, even if improvements on the property are not directly impacted. Such could be the case, for example, if the new RT alignment were to require the partial acquisition of a property that could leave the remaining improvements on the property substantially devalued and undesirable from the standpoint of future sale. In these situations, severance damages would be offered. Severance damage is a loss in value of the remaining property after acquisition and construction of a project. Severance damages are valued by appraisal of the remaining property as a portion of the total property in the “before” condition and as a remainder in the “after” condition. The remainder is considered damaged if it is worth less after the project’s construction. The payment of severance damages would compensate for the loss in value of the remaining property. In some cases, this can include payment for the value of the entire property, in which case the property owner would have two options available to them: 1) accept the payment for the acquisition and severance damages and maintain possession of the property; and 2) request a full acquisition of the property and relocate to a replacement property. If the second option is chosen, the cost of relocation would be borne by RT, subject to certain legal limitations.

**Relocation Assistance.** Relocation assistance would also apply to property owners affected by full acquisitions. If it is determined that an entire property is necessary to be acquired to implement the project, then the affected property owner would receive payment for the full appraised value of the acquired property as well as relocation assistance. RT and its consultants would then work with the property owners to help them find a suitable replacement property.

**Transfer of Proceeds to Property Owners and Lenders.** In cases where acquired property is fully owned by the property owner (i.e., no mortgage, lien, or other encumbrance), the entire purchase amount would be transferred to the property owner upon transfer of title. In cases where a mortgage or other encumbrance is present on the property, a percentage of the purchase price would be transferred to the lender or lien holder to compensate for the loss in the property’s overall secured value, with the balance transferring to the property owner. If the property owner’s equity in the property is negative (i.e., the appraised value of the property is less than the amount owed on the property) or is subject to some other substantial encumbrance, then RT would negotiate a short sale with the lending institution or lien holder on the property owner’s behalf. In these cases, the property owner would still receive relocation assistance, but the proceeds from the acquisition would transfer to the lending institution and not to the property owner.

## City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan

The City of Sacramento adopted its 2035 General Plan on March 3, 2015. The General Plan includes redevelopment of the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and the construction of the proposed Dos Rios LRT Station in its long range plans. A summary of General Plan policies that are relevant to the proposed project is provided below.

## River District Specific Plan

The River District Specific Plan (RDSP) was adopted in 2011 and established planning and design standards for the redevelopment of approximately 773 acres of land (City of Sacramento, 2011). The RDSP area includes the entirety of the proposed project area under consideration in this IS/EA, and includes a number of land use and circulation elements that are directly applicable to the proposed project.

### 3.9.4 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR

#### 2035 General Plan Master EIR

Chapter 3 of the Master EIR considered the effects of the 2035 General Plan on land use, population, and housing, and the proposed project was included in all aspects of the plan's evaluation. With respect to land use, the General Plan's policies focused on strategic growth to preserve existing viable neighborhoods and targeted new development primarily within infill areas that are vacant or underutilized. Land Use and Mobility goals and policies applicable to the project area include the following:

***Policy LU 1.1.4: Leading Infill Growth.*** The City shall facilitate infill development through active leadership and the strategic provision of infrastructure and services and supporting land uses.

***Policy LU 2.1.3: Complete and Well-Structured Neighborhoods.*** The City shall promote the design of complete and well-structured neighborhoods whose physical layout and land use mix promote walking to services, biking, and transit use; foster community pride; enhance neighborhood identity; ensure public safety; are family-friendly and address the needs of all ages and abilities.

***Policy LU 2.1.6: Neighborhood Centers.*** The City shall promote the development of strategically located (e.g., accessible to surrounding neighborhoods) mixed-use neighborhood centers that accommodate local-serving commercial, employment, and entertainment uses; provide diverse housing opportunities; are within walking distance of surrounding residents; and are efficiently served by transit.

***Policy LU 2.1.8: Neighborhood Enhancements.*** The City shall promote infill development, reuse, rehabilitation, and reuse efforts that contribute positively (e.g., architectural design) to existing neighborhoods and surrounding areas.

**Policy LU 2.5.1: Connected Neighborhoods, Corridors, and Centers.** The City shall require that new development, both infill and greenfield, maximizes connections and minimizes barriers between neighborhoods, corridors, and centers within the city.

**Policy LU 2.6.2: Transit-Oriented Development.** The City shall actively support and facilitate mixed-use retail, employment, and residential development around existing and future transit stations.

**Policy LU 2.6.6: Efficiency Through Density.** The City shall support an overall increase in average residential densities throughout the city consistent with the adopted General Plan Land Use & Urban Form Diagram, as new housing types shift from lower-density, large lot developments to higher-density, small lot and multifamily developments as a means to increase energy efficiency, conserve water, and reduce waste.

**Policy LU 4.1.10: Family-Friendly Neighborhoods.** The City shall promote the development of family-friendly neighborhoods throughout the city that provide housing that accommodates families of all sizes and provides safe and convenient access to schools, parks, and other family-oriented amenities and services.

**Policy LU 5.6.6: Central City Development Projects.** The City shall work with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), the Capitol Area Development Authority (CADA), and private developers to ensure that development efforts in areas surrounding the CBD (e.g., Railyards, River District, Docks Area, R Street) respect and respond to the urban patterns—streets, blocks, building heights, massing—and character established in the CBD, and do not undermine the physical centrality, visual primacy, or land use composition of the CBD.

**Goal M 1.2: Multimodal System.** Increase multimodal accessibility (i.e., the ability to complete desired personal or economic transactions via a range of transportation modes and routes) throughout the city and region with an emphasis on walking, bicycling, and riding transit.

As described in the 2013-2021 Housing Element, the City maintains a commitment to combating homelessness throughout Sacramento through the provision of affordable housing and support services. To achieve these efforts, the City maintains a partnership with a variety of supporting organizations and agencies, such as the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance (DHA), SHRA, Sacramento Steps Forward, and several local and resident-based groups. Accordingly, the City's 2013-2021 Housing Element outlines policies aimed at addressing homelessness and collaborating with groups to better ensure improved housing conditions for the homeless population in Sacramento. The Public Health and Safety Element also includes relevant policies. These policies include:

**Policy H-3.1.1: Promote Extremely Low Income Housing.** The City shall promote the siting, production, rehabilitation, and preservation of housing for ELI households, including nontraditional housing types.

**Policy H-3.2.2: Community Based Non-profit Organizations.** The City shall continue to work with community-based non-profit organizations that develop affordable housing and provide supportive services for special needs populations.

**H-3.2.3: Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness and the Continuum of Care.** The City shall support the efforts of Sacramento Steps Forward to implement and update the

Sacramento City and County Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness and the Continuum of Care to meet the needs of homeless families and individuals.

***H-3.2.5: Emergency Shelter Facilities.*** The City shall continue to provide assistance to emergency shelter facilities for the homeless population, including alcohol and drug recovery programs.

***H-3.2.9: Special Needs Housing Prioritized.*** The City shall prioritize development and acquisition/rehabilitation projects designed and programmed to serve special needs tenants such as chronically homeless individuals or families for available local affordable housing financing as set forth in the City's Multifamily Lending and Mortgage Revenue Bond Policies. Projects that augment or safeguard the City's inventory of single room occupancy units will also have the same priority.

***Policy H-4.3: Preservation of Affordable Housing.*** The City shall continue to administer its Preservation Ordinance to ensure no loss of regulated multifamily rental units.

***PHS 5.1.4: Homeless Population.*** The City shall work with public and private social service agencies to site facilities to address the human service needs of the city's homeless populations.

## River District Specific Plan EIR

The River District Specific Plan (RDSP) EIR evaluated the effects of the buildout of the proposed RDSP on land use. For land use, the proposed project was included in all aspects of the RDSP's evaluation. The issues of population, employment, and housing were not analyzed in the RDSP EIR. The development of the RDSP area with future development assumptions of 8,000 dwelling units and 10,600 employees had previously been assumed as one of the pipeline projects in the Master EIR for the 2030 General Plan. Since the RDSP used the same development assumptions, additional analysis was not warranted.

## 3.9.5 Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

### City of Sacramento Standards of Significance

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to land use, population and housing, and socioeconomics under CEQA are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable general plans and previous environmental documents, and professional judgment. The project alternatives would have a significant adverse effect if they would:

- Physically divide an established community;
- Conflict with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project site;
- Result in a change in land use that would be incompatible with surrounding land uses;
- Induce substantial population growth within an area, either directly or indirectly;
- Displace substantial numbers of residents or businesses;



- Reduce employment or otherwise diminish employment opportunities; or
- Substantially reduce local jurisdiction revenues through decreases in property tax revenues or other sources of revenue.

## Department of Housing and Urban Development Evaluation Criteria

The online HUD Exchange provides guidance documents for considering context and intensity impacts associated with land use, population, housing, and socioeconomics (HUD, 2013). Specific factors to consider include the project's conformity with comprehensive plans and zoning, its compatibility with the surrounding community, and its impact on the urban setting. Other factors to consider include displacement of existing populations, demographic and character changes that could occur as a result of the project, and changes to employment and income patterns. These factors generally mirror those listed in the standards of significance listed above.

## Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria

There are no other criteria that would be applicable to the proposed project.

## Environmental Analysis

### *LU-1. Would the project physically divide an established community?*

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The proposed project would expand the intensity of the existing residential and transit uses, while adding community facilities and improved landscaping. The Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex would be redeveloped to provide additional residential capacity which would include market-rate and affordable housing in a multi-unit development. The Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area would develop additional housing, which would expand the established residential community within the RDSP Area. The Dos Rios light rail station would be constructed to provide enhanced service to an existing light rail route. None of these improvements would add additional fragmentation or divisions within the existing community.

Based on the information above, there would be **no adverse effect** attributable to Alternative 2 under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

***LU-2. Would the project conflict with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project site?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The proposed project would build out the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex Site, Dos Rios light rail station, and Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex Expansion Area. Each of these improvements has been envisioned and planned for in the RDSP and the City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with an existing land use plan, policy or regulation.

Based on the information above, there would be **no adverse effect** attributable to Alternative 2 under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

***LU-3. Would the project result in a change in land use that would be incompatible with surrounding land uses?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The proposed project would build out the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex Site, Dos Rios light rail station, and Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex Expansion Area in a manner consistent the RDSP and City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan. The land use on the existing housing complex site would not change. The proposed project would expand multi-family residential uses into the Expansion Area, which is presently undeveloped. However, existing adjacent land uses, which are primarily commercial, would not be incompatible with the expanded residential development as the project would be a continuance of an existing development pattern. Likewise, construction of the Dos Rios light rail station would also be consistent as it would be an improvement to and a continuance of the existing transit use.

Based on the information above, there would be **no adverse effect** attributable to Alternative 2 under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

***LU-4. Would the project induce substantial population growth within an area, either directly or indirectly?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The proposed project would increase the number of housing units in the River District by 269, which would directly contribute to population growth in the immediate area. However, the proposed project was included in growth patterns assumed under the RDSP and the City's 2035 General Plan and is consistent with the City's goal of providing transit-oriented development in areas of the City where it is feasible to do so (General Plan Policy LU 2.6.2). Thus, population growth due to buildout of the proposed project has already been accounted for in the existing land use plans for the area and would not induce population growth that has not been previously accounted for.

Based on the information above, there would be **no adverse effect** attributable to Alternative 2 under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

***LU-5. Would the project displace substantial numbers of residents or businesses?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Temporary relocation of existing residents during construction would be conducted as directed by a relocation plan that would be developed to maximize options available to residents.

Construction of the proposed project would occur in phases to facilitate efficient relocation of residents from existing units into the new replacement housing on site as the existing units are demolished and new units are constructed. The phasing would involve sequential steps; as new housing is constructed, residents would be moved into the new units, and the older vacated units would be demolished, with the process repeating itself until the project is complete. Other options for residents would include temporary and/or permanent relocation to existing available units in other areas of the City or County using housing choice vouchers. With implementation of

construction phasing and providing options for temporary relocation to existing affordable housing, housing units or people would not be permanently displaced.

Partial acquisition of two commercial parcels would be required as part of the realignment of RT's tracks to the immediate south of the proposed Dos Rios light rail station site. **Figure 2-11** shows the locations of these two parcels and the amount of property that would be required to facilitate realignment of the RT tracks. Both acquisition areas are currently utilized for parking for the adjoining uses. **Table 3.9-4** shows the characteristics of the partial acquisition parcels.

**TABLE 3.9-4**  
**PARTIAL ACQUISITION PARCEL CHARACTERISTICS**

Assessor's Parcel Number	Total Size of Parcel (sq ft)	Portion of Parcel to be Acquired (sq ft)	Percentage of Parcel to be Acquired
001-0103-027	179,467	1,306	>1%
001-0141-001	16,458	167	1%

SOURCE: RT, 2016

As shown in the table, acquisition of only a small portion of each parcel would be required, and no full property acquisitions would be needed. Acquisition of approximately 1 percent of each of the affected parcels would be unlikely to substantially diminish the value of the properties, and federal and State laws govern the taking of private property, and include requirements for just compensation and other assistance measures. Property owners would be compensated in accordance with those requirements.

Based on the information above, there would be **no adverse effect** attributable to Alternative 2 under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

***LU-6. Would the project reduce employment or otherwise diminish employment opportunities?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The proposed project would create a temporary increase in construction jobs during project construction. The project would not be anticipated to directly create new permanent employment, aside from the potential addition of a small number of maintenance jobs at the expanded housing facility.

As a transit-oriented development (i.e., inclusion of the Dos Rios light rail station), the proposed project is intended to extend transit opportunities to link residents to employment opportunities throughout the region. In addition, businesses within the River District could benefit from construction of the Dos Rios light rail station due to increased patronage from RT users. This would improve opportunities for employment for area residents.

Based on the information above, there would be a **beneficial** effect attributable to Alternative 2 under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would also be **beneficial**.

***LU-7. Would the project substantially reduce local jurisdiction revenues through decreases in property tax revenues or other sources of revenue?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and light rail station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The proposed project would add 267 market-rate housing units to the project site that would include the expansion parcels east of North 12th Street. Addition of housing units and additional transit opportunities from construction of the Dos Rios light rail station would contribute to an increase in local jurisdictional revenues through increased property tax revenues and other sources of revenue (e.g., sales tax). The proposed project would be a visibly contributing project for planned neighborhood transitions within the RDSP area and is intended to encourage additional development in the RDSP area, which would include new Office-Mixed-Use (OMU), Office/Residential Mixed-Use (ORMU), Light Industrial/Mixed Use (LIMU), and Public (PUB) zoning designations for properties in the River District area. The transformation thus planned would have a positive effect on the local tax base.

Based on the information above, there would be **no adverse effect** attributable to Alternative 2 under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

**Mitigation Measures**

None required.

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## 3.10 Noise and Vibration

### 3.10.1 Introduction

This section describes the existing noise environment in the vicinity of the proposed project area, and evaluates the potential for construction and operation of the project to result in significant impacts associated with noise and vibration.

The analysis included in this section was developed based on field investigations to measure existing noise levels, as well as data provided in the *City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan*, the *City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report*, the *River District Specific Plan EIR*, the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment* manual, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Noise Abatement and Control Criteria directive (24 CFR 51, Subpart B) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Noise Prediction Model based upon vehicular trip generation data provided in the project's transportation evaluation as presented in Section 3.12, Transportation.

### 3.10.2 Environmental Setting

The following discussions present basic information related to noise and vibration, as well as the existing noise environment at the proposed project site.

#### Noise

Sound is mechanical energy transmitted by pressure waves through the air. Noise can be defined as unwanted sound. Sound is characterized by various parameters that include the rate of oscillation of sound waves (frequency), the speed of propagation, and the pressure level or energy content (amplitude). In particular, the sound pressure level has become the most common descriptor used to characterize the loudness of an ambient sound level. The decibel (dB) scale is used to quantify sound intensity. Since the human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies within the entire spectrum, noise measurements are weighted more heavily within those frequencies of maximum human sensitivity in a process called "A-weighting," referred to as dBA. In general, a difference of more than 3 dBA is a perceptible change in environmental noise, while a 5 dBA difference typically causes a change in community reaction. An increase of 10 dBA is perceived by people as a doubling of loudness (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1974).

Cumulative noise levels from two or more sources will combine logarithmically, rather than linearly. For example, if two identical noise sources produce a noise level of 50 dBA each, the combined noise level would be 53 dBA, not 100 dBA.

Time variation in noise exposure is typically expressed in terms of the average energy over time ( $L_{eq}$ ), or alternatively, as a statistical description of the sound level that is exceeded over some fraction of a given period of time. For example, the L50 noise level represents the noise level that is exceeded 50 percent of the time – half the time the noise level exceeds this level and half the time the noise level is less than this level. This level is also representative of the level that is



exceeded 30 minutes in an hour. Similarly, the L8 and L25 represent the noise levels that are exceeded 8 and 25 percent of the time, respectively, or for 5 and 15 minutes during a 1 hour period, respectively.

Several methods have been devised to relate noise exposure over time to human response. The Day-Night Noise Level ( $L_{dn}$ ) is a 24-hour  $L_{eq}$  that adds a 10 dBA penalty to sounds occurring between 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM to account for the increased sensitivity to noise events that occur during the quiet late evening and nighttime periods. A commonly used noise metric for this type of study is the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL). The CNEL, originally developed for use in the California Airport Noise Regulation, adds a five dBA penalty to noise occurring during evening hours from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM, and a 10 dBA penalty to sounds occurring between the hours of 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM to account for the increased sensitivity to noise events that occur during the quiet late evening and nighttime periods. Thus, the CNEL noise metric provides a 24-hour average of A-weighted noise levels at a particular location, with an evening and a nighttime adjustment, which reflects increased sensitivity to noise during these times of the day.

Another noise descriptor that is used primarily for the assessment of rail and aircraft noise is the Sound Exposure Level (SEL). The SEL descriptor represents the acoustic energy of a single event (e.g., rail pass-bye) normalized to a one-second event duration. This is useful for comparing the acoustical energy of different events involving different durations of the noise sources. The SEL is based on an integration of the noise during the period when the noise first rises within 10 dBA of its maximum value and last falls below 10 dBA of its maximum value. The SEL is often 10 dBA or greater than the  $L_{max}$ , since the SEL logarithmically adds the  $L_{eq}$  for each second of the duration of the noise.

An important concept used in evaluating noise impacts is the fact that measured and perceived noise levels decrease the further a receptor is from the noise source. For example, a working bulldozer is much louder from a distance of 50 feet than it is from a distance of 100 feet. This principal is established in the inverse-square law, which states that a specified physical quantity or intensity is inversely proportional to the square of the distance from the source of that physical quantity. Mathematically, the law is formulated as:

$$intensity = \alpha \frac{1}{distance^2}$$

When applied to noise, the law determines that sound levels from a point source will decrease by 6 dBA for each doubling of distance, and will decrease approximately 3 dBA for each doubling of distance for a line source, such as an operational light rail line. Using the example of a bulldozer for a point source noise generator, a noise meter positioned 50 feet from an operating bulldozer might record a noise level of 85 dBA, whereas the meter positioned 100 feet from the bulldozer would record a noise level of 79 dBA. For a line source noise generator, such as an operating light rail line, a noise level of 75 dBA might be recorded at a distance of 50 feet, and a level of 72 dBA would be recorded at 100 feet. This “doubling of distance” or “drop-off rate” is an important concept in predicting the likely noise levels that would be experienced by sensitive receptors from noise-generating equipment and activities.

## Vibration

Vibration is an oscillatory motion through a solid medium in which the motion’s amplitude can be described in terms of displacement, velocity, or acceleration. There are several different methods that are used to quantify vibration. The peak particle velocity (PPV) is defined as the maximum instantaneous peak of the vibration signal. The PPV is most frequently used to describe vibration impacts to buildings. The root mean square (RMS) amplitude is most frequently used to describe the effect of vibration on the human body. The RMS amplitude is defined as the average of the squared amplitude of the signal. Decibel notation (VdB) is commonly used to measure RMS. The decibel notation acts to compress the range of numbers required to describe vibration (FTA, 2006). Typically, groundborne vibration generated by man-made activities attenuates rapidly with distance from the source of the vibration. Man-made vibration issues are therefore usually confined to short distances (i.e., 500 feet or less) from the source. Sensitive receptors for vibration include structures (especially older masonry structures), people (especially residents, the elderly and sick), and vibration sensitive equipment. Fragile buildings can be exposed to ground-borne vibration levels of 0.5 PPV without experiencing structural damage. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) measure of the threshold of architectural damage for conventional sensitive structures is 0.2 in/sec PPV. The human annoyance response level is 80 RMS.

## Existing Noise Setting

To quantify the current existing ambient noise levels in the project vicinity, a noise survey was conducted in and around the project area. The noise measurement survey was conducted from January 24 to January 25, 2016, and consisted of seven 15-minute short-term noise measurements and two 24-hour long-term noise measurements. These locations are illustrated in **Figure 3.10-1**.

The area surrounding the project site during the noise survey was found to be dominated by localized vehicle traffic noise, as well as light rail activity noise, which were measured to be as high as 70 dBA  $L_{eq}$  at some locations. Results of the short- and long-term noise measurements are presented in **Table 3.10-1** and **Table 3.10-2**, respectively. The seven short-term noise measurements were conducted using a Larson Davis 831 sound level meter (SLM) and the two long-term noise measurements were conducted using Metrosonics Model db-308 SLMs. All SLMs were calibrated before and after the noise measurement survey.

**TABLE 3.10-1  
15-MINUTE SHORT-TERM AMBIENT NOISE MONITORING RESULTS**

Monitor	Start Date & Time	$L_{eq}$ (dBA)	$L_{max}$ (dBA)	Primary Noise Source(s)
ST-1	1/25/16 10:00 am	70	93	Traffic noise along 12th Street, light rail passbys, and distance sirens
ST-2	1/25/16 10:19 am	66	74	Traffic noise along 16th Street and light rail passbys.
ST-3	1/25/16 10:43 am	61	79	Traffic noise along Dos Rios Street, car alarms.
ST-4	1/25/16 11:02 am	70	83	Traffic noise along Richards Boulevard
ST-5	1/25/16 11:27 am	65	76	Traffic noise along 12th Street and light rail passbys
ST-6	1/25/16 12:00 am	53	68	Traffic noise along Basler Street

SOURCE: ESA, 2016.



SOURCE: Google Earth Pro, basemap, 2016; ESA 2016

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**Figure 3.10-1**  
Noise Measurement Locations

**TABLE 3.10-2  
24-HOUR LONG-TERM AMBIENT NOISE MONITORING RESULTS**

Monitor	Start Date & Time	24-hour L <sub>eq</sub> (dBA)	L <sub>dn</sub> (dBA)	L <sub>max</sub> (dBA)	Primary Noise Source(s)
LT-1	1/25/16 10:00 am	65	71	90.1	Traffic noise along Richards Boulevard and Isabel Street.
LT-2 <sup>1</sup>	-- <sup>1</sup>	53	58	-- <sup>1</sup>	Traffic noise along 12th Street, light rail pass-byes.

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Day, evening and night noise measurements were conducted at LT-2 to approximate a day-night and 24 hour L<sub>eq</sub> with the Twin River Development.

SOURCE: ESA, 2016.

### 3.10.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations

#### City of Sacramento

##### **City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan**

The City’s General Plan contains a number of policies directed towards reduction and management of noise and vibration impacts in the City. These policies are described in detail in the *Summary of Analysis Under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR* discussion later in this section.

##### **City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance**

Chapter 8.68 of the Sacramento City Code contains the City’s general noise ordinance. The code establishes exterior and interior noise standards, and establishes certain restrictions and exemptions associated with the generation of noise. Exterior and interior noise standards are described below.

##### **8.68.060 Exterior Noise Standards**

- A. The following noise standards unless otherwise specifically indicated in this article shall apply to all agricultural and residential properties.
  - 1) From seven a.m. to ten p.m. the exterior noise standard shall be fifty-five (55) dBA.
  - 2) From ten p.m. to seven a.m. the exterior noise standard shall be fifty (50) dBA.
- B. It is unlawful for any person at any location to create any noise which causes the noise levels when measured on agricultural or residential property to exceed for the duration of time set forth following, the specified exterior noise standards in any one hour by:

<u>Cumulative Duration of the Intrusive Sound</u>	<u>Allowance Decibels</u>
1. Cumulative period of 30 minutes per hour	0
2. Cumulative period of 15 minutes per hour	+5
3. Cumulative period of 5 minutes per hour	+10
4. Cumulative period of 1 minute per hour	+15
5. Level not to be exceeded for any time per hour	+20

**8.68.070 Interior Noise Standards**

- A. In any apartment, condominium, townhouse, duplex or multiple dwelling unit it is unlawful for any person to create any noise from inside his or her unit that causes the noise level when measured in a neighboring unit during the periods ten p.m. to seven a.m. to exceed:
  - 1. Forty-five (45) dBA for a cumulative period of more than five minutes in any hour;
  - 2. Fifty (50) dBA for a cumulative period of more than one minute in any hour;
  - 3. Fifty-five (55) dBA for any period of time.
- B. If the ambient noise level exceeds that permitted by any of the noise level categories specified in subsection A of this section, the allowable noise limit shall be increased in five dBA increments in each category to encompass the ambient noise level.

**Federal Regulations**

**HUD Noise Abatement and Control Criteria, 24 CFR 51, Subpart B**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has identified exterior noise standards for new housing construction. As indicated below in **Table 3.10-3**, sites with sound levels of 65 CNEL and below are “acceptable” and are allowable. Construction of new noise sensitive uses is prohibited generally for projects with “unacceptable” noise exposures and is discouraged for projects with “normally unacceptable” noise exposure.

**TABLE 3.10-3  
 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SITE ACCEPTABILITY STANDARDS**

Approval	Ldn or CNEL (dBA) <sup>2</sup>	Requirements
Acceptable <sup>1</sup>	≤65 <sup>3</sup>	None.
Normally Unacceptable	65 – 75	Special Approvals <sup>4</sup> Environmental Review <sup>5</sup> Attenuation <sup>6</sup>
Unacceptable	> 75	Special Approvals <sup>4</sup> Environmental Review <sup>5</sup> Attenuation <sup>7</sup>

NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> The noise environment inside a building is considered acceptable if: (i) The noise environment external to the building complies with these standards, and (ii) the building is constructed in a manner common to the area or, if of uncommon construction, has at least the equivalent noise attenuation characteristics.
- <sup>2</sup> Where the building location is determined, the standards shall apply at a location 6.5 feet from the building housing noise sensitive activities in the direction of the predominant noise source. Where the building location is undetermined, the standards shall apply 6.5 feet from the building setback line nearest to the predominant noise source. However, where quiet outdoor space is desired at a site, distances should be measured from important noise sources to the outdoor area in question. (It is assumed that quiet outdoor space includes single-family private yards and multi-family patios or balconies that are greater than six feet in depth).
- <sup>3</sup> Acceptable threshold may be shifted to 70 dBA in special circumstances pursuant to Section 51.105 (a).
- <sup>4</sup> See Section 51.104(b) (Special Requirements) for requirements.
- <sup>5</sup> See Section 51.104(b) (Special Requirements) for requirements.
- <sup>6</sup> Five (5.0) dBA additional attenuation required for sites above 65 dB but not exceeding 70 dBA, and 10 dBA additional attenuation required for sites above 70 dBA but not exceeding 75 dB; see Section 51.104(a).
- <sup>7</sup> Attenuation measures can be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for CPD for approval on a case-by-case basis.

SOURCE: 24 CFR Part 51 (Environmental Criteria and Standards), Subpart B (Noise Abatement and Control), Section 51.103 (Criteria and Standards).

### 3.10.4 Federal Transit Administration Noise Impact Criteria

Under the FTA’s criteria, the descriptors and criteria for assessing noise impacts vary according to land use categories adjacent to the track. For land uses where people live and sleep (e.g., residential neighborhoods, hospitals, and hotels), the  $L_{dn}$  is the assessment parameter. For other land-use types where there are noise-sensitive uses (e.g., outdoor concert areas, schools, and libraries), the  $L_{eq}$  for an hour of noise sensitivity that coincides with train activity is the assessment parameter. **Table 3.10-4** summarizes the three land use categories.

**TABLE 3.10-4  
FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION NOISE-SENSITIVE LAND USES**

Land Use Category	Noise Metric dBA <sup>1</sup>	Land Use Category
1	Outdoor $L_{eq}(h)$ <sup>2</sup>	Tracts of land where quiet is an essential element in their intended purpose. This category includes lands set aside for serenity and quiet, such as outdoor amphitheaters, concert pavilions, and National Historic Landmarks with significant outdoor use.
2	Outdoor $L_{dn}$	Residences and buildings where people normally sleep. This category includes homes and hospitals, where nighttime sensitivity to noise is of utmost importance.
3	Outdoor $L_{eq}(h)$ <sup>1</sup>	Institutional land uses with primarily daytime and evening use. This category includes schools, libraries, and churches, where it is important to avoid interference with such activities as speech, meditation, and concentration. Buildings with interior spaces where quiet is important, such as medical offices, conference rooms, recording studios, concert halls fall into this category, as well as places for meditation or study associated with cemeteries, monuments, and museums. Certain historical sites, parks, and recreational facilities are also included.

NOTES:

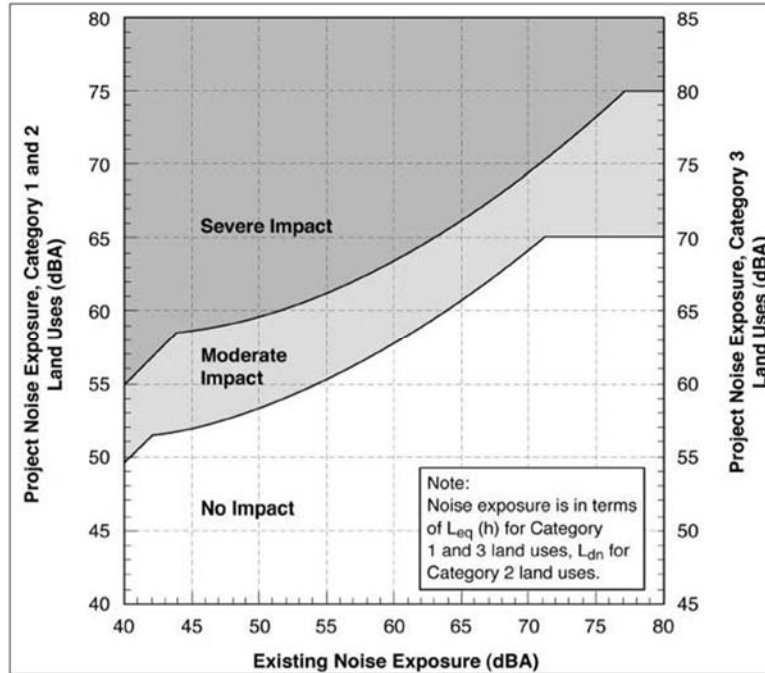
- <sup>1</sup> Onset-rate adjusted sound levels ( $L_{eq}$  and  $L_{dn}$ ) are to be used where applicable.
- <sup>2</sup>  $L_{eq}$  for the noisiest hour of transit-related activity during hours of noise sensitivity.

SOURCE: FTA, 2006.

The noise impact criteria used by the FTA are ambient-based; the increase in future noise (future noise levels with the transit project compared to existing noise levels) is assessed rather than the noise caused by each passing train. The criteria specify a comparison of future project noise with existing levels because comparison with an existing condition is more accurate (FTA, 2006).

**Figure 3.10-2** illustrates the FTA noise impact criteria for human annoyance. There are two levels of impact included in the criteria, which are described below.

- **Moderate Impact:** In this range of noise impact, other project-specific factors must be considered to determine the magnitude of the impact and the need for mitigation. These other factors can include the predicted increase over existing noise levels, the types and number of noise-sensitive land uses affected, existing outdoor-indoor sound insulation, and the cost effectiveness of mitigating noise to more acceptable levels.
- **Severe Impact:** Severe noise impacts are considered “significant” as this term is used in NEPA and implementing regulations. Noise mitigation will normally be specified for severe impact areas unless there is no practical method of mitigating the noise.



SOURCE: FTA, 2006

**Figure 3.10-2**  
 Federal Transit Administration Noise Impact Criteria

In general, a severe impact would occur when a significant percentage of people would be highly annoyed by a project’s noise. A moderate impact would occur when the change in cumulative noise level would be noticeable to most people, but may not be sufficient to generate strong, adverse reactions.

The FTA offers the following guidance in determining which noise impact threshold to apply in specific project circumstances:

- **Moderate Impact:** Predicted noise levels in the “... moderate impact range will also require consideration and adoption of mitigation measures when it is considered reasonable. The range of Moderate Impact delineates an area where project planners are alerted to the potential for adverse impacts and complaints from the community and must then carefully consider project specifics as well as details concerning the affected properties in determining the need for mitigation.” Factors that may be considered when deciding whether to mitigate moderate impacts can include the predicted increase over existing noise levels, the type and number of noise-sensitive land uses affected, existing outdoor indoor sound insulation, and the cost effectiveness of mitigating noise to more acceptable levels.
- **Severe Impact:** “Impacts in this range have the greatest adverse impact on the community; thus there is a presumption by FTA that mitigation will be incorporated in the project unless there are truly extenuating circumstances which prevent it.”

The FTA notes that no standardized criteria have been developed for assessing construction noise impacts. However, it does recommend as part of its General Assessment procedure for addressing construction noise that the potential for impact be evaluated by estimating the combined noise

level from the two noisiest pieces of equipment likely to operate at the same time. Adverse impacts would occur at nearby residential receptors, for example, where the noise level exceeds 90 dBA during the day and 80 dBA at night. Controls involving construction planning and scheduling and equipment would then be implemented to reduce construction noise intrusions to these receptors to the maximum feasible extent.

### 3.10.5 Federal Transit Administration Vibration Impact Criteria

FTA has also established criteria for determining impacts associated with ground-borne vibration. **Table 3.10-5** summarizes vibration sensitivity in terms of the three land use categories and the criteria for acceptable ground-borne vibrations and acceptable ground-borne noise. Ground-borne noise is a low-frequency rumbling sound inside buildings, caused by vibrations of floors, walls, and ceilings.

**TABLE 3.10-5  
FTA GROUND-BORNE VIBRATION AND GROUND-BORNE NOISE IMPACT CRITERIA**

Land Use Category	Ground-Borne Vibration Impact Criteria (VdB relative to 1 micro inch/second)		Ground-Borne Noise Impact Criteria (dB re 20 microPascals)	
	Frequent Events <sup>1</sup>	Infrequent Events <sup>2</sup>	Frequent Events <sup>1</sup>	Infrequent Events <sup>1</sup>
<b>Category 1:</b> Buildings where vibration would interfere with interior operations	65 VdB <sup>3</sup>	65 VdB <sup>3</sup>	NA <sup>4</sup>	NA <sup>4</sup>
<b>Category 2:</b> Residences and buildings where people normally sleep	72 VdB	80 VdB	35 dBA	43 dBA
<b>Category 3:</b> Institutional land uses with primarily daytime use	75 VdB	83 VdB	40 dBA	48 dBA

NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Frequent Events is defined as more than 70 vibration events per day.
- <sup>2</sup> Infrequent Events is defined as fewer than 70 vibration events per day.
- <sup>3</sup> This criterion limit is based on levels that are acceptable for most moderately sensitive equipment, such as optical microscopes. Vibration-sensitive manufacturing or research will require detailed evaluation to define the acceptable vibration levels. Ensuring lower vibration levels in a building often requires special design of the heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, and stiffened floors.
- <sup>4</sup> Vibration-sensitive equipment is not sensitive to ground-borne noise.

SOURCES: FRA 2005, 2012; FTA, 2006.

### 3.10.6 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR

#### 2035 General Plan Master EIR

The Master EIR evaluated the potential for development under the 2035 General Plan to increase noise levels in the community. New noise sources include vehicular traffic, aircraft, railways, light rail and stationary sources. A number of General Plan policies were adopted as mitigation to address potentially significant noise and vibration effects. Policies that are applicable to the project area are listed below. Notwithstanding application of these policies, the Master EIR found



that noise impacts for exterior noise levels, interior noise levels, and vibration impacts would be significant and unavoidable.

***Policy EC 3.1.1: Exterior Noise Standards.*** The City shall require noise mitigation for all development where the projected exterior noise levels exceed those shown in Table EC 1 [of the General Plan], to the extent feasible.

***Policy EC 3.1.2: Exterior Incremental Noise Standards.*** The City shall require noise mitigation for all development that increases existing noise levels by more than the allowable increment shown in Table EC-2 [of the General Plan], to the extent feasible.

***Policy EC 3.1.3: Interior Noise Standards.*** The City shall require new development to include noise mitigation to assure acceptable interior noise levels appropriate to the land use type: 45 dBA Ldn (with windows closed) for residential, transient lodgings, hospitals, nursing homes and other uses where people normally sleep; and 45 dBA L<sub>eq</sub> (peak hour with windows closed) for office buildings and similar uses.

***Policy EC 3.1.4: Interior Noise Review for Multiple, Loud Short-Term Events.*** In cases where new development is proposed in areas subject to frequent, high-noise events (such as aircraft over-flights, or train and truck pass-bys), the City shall evaluate substantiated noise impacts on any sensitive receptors from such events when considering whether to approve the development proposal, taking into account potential for sleep disturbance, undue annoyance, and interruption in conversation, to ensure that the proposed development is compatible within the context of its surroundings.

***Policy EC 3.1.10: Construction Noise.*** The City shall require development projects subject to discretionary approval to assess potential construction noise impacts on nearby sensitive uses and to minimize impacts on these uses, to the extent feasible.

***Policy EC 3.1.5: Interior Vibration Standards.*** The City shall require construction projects anticipated to generate a significant amount of vibration to ensure acceptable interior vibration levels at nearby residential and commercial uses based on the current City or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) criteria.

**Policy EC 3.1.6 – Effects of Vibration:** The City shall consider potential effects of vibration when reviewing new residential and commercial projects that are proposed in the vicinity of rail lines or light rail lines.

**Policy EC 3.1.7 – Vibration:** The City shall require an assessment of the damage potential of vibration-induced construction activities, highways, and rail lines in close proximity to historic buildings and archeological sites and require all feasible mitigation measures be implemented to ensure no damage would occur.

## **River District Specific Plan EIR**

The River District Specific Plan EIR evaluated the potential for the buildout of the River District Specific Plan (RDSP) to increase noise and vibration levels in the community. New noise sources include vehicular traffic, aircraft, railways, light rail and stationary sources. A number of mitigation measures were adopted to address potentially significant noise and vibration effects. Measures that are applicable to the project area are listed below. Notwithstanding application of

the mitigations, noise impacts for exterior noise levels, interior noise levels, vibration impacts, and cumulative noise impacts were found to be significant and unavoidable.

**Mitigation Measure 5.6-1:** Future development projects in the RDSP Area consisting of noise sensitive receptors shall have an acoustical and vibration analysis prepared to measure any potential project specific noise and/or vibration impacts and identify specific noise attenuation features to reduce impacts associated with exterior noise to a less than significant level consistent with the policies of the General Plan.

**Mitigation Measure 5.6-3:** The contractor shall ensure that the following measures are implemented during all phases of construction:

- Whenever construction occurs adjacent to occupied residences (on or offsite), temporary barriers shall be constructed around the construction sites to shield the ground floor of the noise-sensitive uses. These barriers shall be of ¾-inch Medium Density Overlay (MDO) plywood sheeting, or other material of equivalent utility and appearance, and shall achieve a Sound Transmission Class of STC-30, or greater, based on certified sound transmission loss data taken according to ASTM Test Method E90 or as approved by the City of Sacramento Building Official.
- Construction equipment staging areas shall be located as far as feasible from residential areas while still serving the needs of construction contractors.
- Quieter “sonic” pile-drivers shall be used, unless engineering studies are submitted to the City that show this is not feasible and cost-effective, based on geotechnical considerations.

**Mitigation Measure 5.6-4:** Implement Mitigation Measure 5.6-3 and:

- During construction, should damage occur despite the above mitigation measures, construction operations shall be halted and the problem activity shall be identified. A qualified engineer shall establish vibration limits based on soil conditions and the types of buildings in the immediate area. The contractor shall monitor the buildings throughout the remaining construction period and follow all recommendations of the qualified engineer to repair any damage that has occurred to the pre-existing state, and to avoid further structural damage.
- Prior to individual development projects, the applicant shall have a certified vibration consultant prepare a site-specific vibration analysis for residential uses and historic structures that are within the screening distance [shown in Figure 5.6-7 of the RDSP Draft EIR] for freight and passenger trains or light rail trains. The analysis shall detail how the vibration levels at these receptors would meet the applicable vibration standards to avoid potential structural damage and annoyance. The results of the analysis shall be incorporated into project design.

## 3.10.7 Impact Assessment and Mitigation

### **City of Sacramento Standards of Significance**

For purposes of CEQA, noise and vibration impacts may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the project would result in the following impacts that remain significant after implementation of 2035 General Plan policies. Under CEQA, a significant impact related to noise and vibration would occur if the project would:

- Result in exterior noise levels in the project area that are above the upper value of the normally acceptable category for various land uses due to the project's noise level increases;
- Result in residential interior noise levels of 45 dBA  $L_{dn}$  or greater caused by noise level increases due to the project;
- Result in construction noise levels that exceed the standards in the City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance;
- Permit existing and/or planned residential and commercial areas to be exposed to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to project construction;
- Permit adjacent residential and commercial areas to be exposed to vibration peak particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to highway traffic and rail operations; or
- Permit historic buildings and archaeological sites to be exposed to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.2 inches per second due to project construction and highway traffic.

### **Department of Housing and Urban Development Evaluation Criteria**

HUD regulations provide a listing of federal laws, regulations, and executive orders against which all HUD-assisted projects must be evaluated. Those authorities that are relevant to the proposed project have been listed previously in the *Applicable Policies and Regulations* section. Most notable are the Site Acceptability Standards, as presented previously in Table 3.10-3, which identify exterior noise standards for new housing construction. Exceedance of those standards would constitute an adverse impact.

The online HUD Exchange provides guidance documents for considering context and intensity impacts associated with noise (HUD, 2013). Specific factors to consider include noise abatement and control, the effects of ambient noise on the project, and the project's contribution to community noise levels.

### **Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria**

Since the proposed Dos Rios Light Rail Station could receive funding from the FTA for its construction, FTA noise and vibration evaluation criteria are also applicable to the project. Noise and vibration from the light rail station would be considered adverse if they would exceed the noise and vibration thresholds provided in the FTA's *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual* (FTA, 2006).

## Environmental Analysis

Given the specificity of the local and federal policies and regulations, as well as their associated significance criteria, this analysis of noise and vibration impacts is organized to discuss the project's impacts under CEQA in NV-1 through NV-6 and its effects under NEPA in NV-7 through NV-9.

### ***NV-1. Would the project result in exterior noise levels in the project area that are above the upper value of the normally acceptable category for various land uses due to the project's noise level increases?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

##### Traffic Exterior Noise Impacts

The effect of project-generated traffic was calculated using traffic noise prediction equations found in the FHWA Traffic Noise Prediction Model (FHWA RD-77-108). **Table 3.10-6** shows the calculated traffic noise levels along roadways that are expected to have an increase in traffic due to the proposed project during existing and existing plus project conditions.

As shown in Table 3.10-6, the greatest effect on ambient levels would occur in the area of the existing residential land uses within the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex along Dos Rios Street, between Richards Boulevard and North D Street, where traffic noise would increase by 1.1 dB. All other traffic noise increases at existing residential land uses along roadway segments affected by the proposed project were found to be below 0.6 dB. The City of Sacramento General Plan Policy EC 3.1.1 requires that outdoor area of residential (and other noise sensitive land use) projects be constructed such that they are not exposed to noise levels that would exceed the City's noise standards. According to the City's General Plan, the project is located in the Urban Center Low District. Therefore, an impact would be considered significant if residences would be exposed to transportation-related noise levels above 70 dBA  $L_{dn}$ , as shown in General Plan Table EC-1. As shown in Table 3.10-6, the calculated traffic noise generated by the proposed project from all roadway segments would range from approximately 52.9 to 68.9 dBA  $L_{dn}$  under existing plus project conditions. These noise levels would be less than 70 dBA  $L_{dn}$ ; therefore, this impact would be considered **less than significant** under CEQA.

##### Light Rail Station Exterior Noise Impacts

The proposed project would result in the construction of the Dos Rios light rail station adjacent to the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area east of North 12th Street, which has the potential to increase existing ambient noise levels above the City's exterior noise standards. As previously discussed, General Plan Policy EC 3.1.1 requires that outdoor areas of new projects be

**TABLE 3.10-6  
 TRAFFIC NOISE LEVELS ALONG ROADWAYS IN THE PROJECT VICINITY**

Roadway Segments	Existing Sensitive Receptor Located within 100 feet from Center of Roadway (Yes or No)?	Traffic Noise Levels, dBA, L <sub>dn</sub> <sup>1</sup>			
		Existing	Existing Plus Project	Incremental Increase	Significant <sup>2</sup> (Yes or No)?
		(A)	(B)	(B - A)	
1. Richards Blvd., between I-5 and N. 7th St.	No	66.6	66.6	0.0	No
2. Richards Blvd., between N. 7th St. and N. 10th St.	No	65.3	65.4	0.1	No
3. Richards Blvd., between N. 10th St. and Dos Rios St.	No	65.0	65.1	0.1	No
4. Richards Blvd., between Dos Rios St. and Vine St.	Yes	65.1	65.2	0.1	No
5. Dos Rios St., between Richards Blvd. and N. D St.	Yes	52.9	54.0	1.1	No
6. Dos Rios St., between N. D St. and N. B St.	No	52.3	52.9	0.6	No
7. N. 12th St., between Richards Blvd. and Sunbeam Ave.	Yes	65.4	65.4	0.0	No
8. N. 12th St., between Sunbeam Ave. and N. B St.	No	65.4	65.5	0.1	No
9. N. 16th St., between Richards Blvd. and Sproule Ave.	No	68.9	68.9	0.0	No
10. N. 16th St., between Sproule Ave. and N. B St.	No	66.1	66.1	0.0	No

NOTES:

- 1 Noise levels were determined using FHWA Traffic Noise Prediction Model (FHWA RD-77-108).
- 2 Per the City of Sacramento General Plan Table EC-1, transportation noise levels under existing plus project conditions that exceed 70 dBA L<sub>dn</sub> would constitute a significant impact.

SOURCE: ESA, 2016

constructed such that they are not exposed to noise levels that exceed the City's exterior noise standards. Therefore an impact would be considered significant if new residences would be exposed to transportation-related noise levels above 70 dBA L<sub>dn</sub>, as shown in General Plan Table EC-1 for urban infill residential land uses.

To assess noise impacts from the proposed Dos Rios light rail station, the stationary noise prediction equations found in the FTA's *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment* were used to assess noise impacts from trains arriving, idling, and departing the station (FTA, 2006). The light rail station would not include any heating, ventilation, air conditioning units (HVAC). A public address system would be installed, and exterior announcements would be broadcast from each train while in the station (e.g., "Watt/I-80 bound train"; Doors are closing, please stand clear.") Based on RT's current Blue Line schedule, it was determined that the RT rail line along North 12th street operates 20 hours a day, with approximately 106 train pass-by events occurring near the Expansion Area per day (Sacramento Regional Transit, 2016).

The multi-family residential dwelling units proposed for the Expansion Area would be subjected to line source noise from these rail pass-by events, and sensitive receptors located approximately 50 feet from the rail center line would be exposed to noise levels of approximately 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$ . Applying this calculated line source noise level at 50 feet and assuming a drop-off rate of 3 dBA per doubling of distance, future residents within 159 feet of the light rail centerline would be exposed to rail noise that would exceed the City's General Plan noise standard of 70 dBA  $L_{dn}$ . Although the exact location of the multi-family dwelling units within the Expansion Area are unknown at this time, at least some of the dwelling units would likely be located within 159 feet of the proposed light rail station and would thus be exposed to rail noise that would exceed the City's noise standards. This impact would be considered **significant** under CEQA. However, implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.10-1** would reduce this impact to a **less than significant level**.

#### Traction Power Substation Exterior Noise Impacts

The proposed project would also include the construction of a traction power substation (TPSS), which would be used to provide the power distribution needed to operate the light rail line following construction of the new Dos Rios light rail station. As discussed in Chapter 2 of this IS/EA, Alternatives, three options are under consideration for the placement of the new TPSS, which include the following locations:

- Option 1, on City-owned land in the triangular-shaped parcel at the intersection of North 12th Street, North 16th Street, and Richards Boulevard, immediately north of the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area. This option would require RT to acquire the site from the City.
- Option 2, in the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area. This parcel is currently privately-held, but would be acquired as part of the development of the housing expansion area.
- Option 3, on the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, adjacent to North 12th Street near the existing entrance to the housing complex at the intersection of Sitka Street and North 12th Street.

The primary noise sources on TPSS units are the air conditioning units. The precise locations of air conditioning units are unknown at this time, but will be mounted to one side of the TPSS. Air conditioning units can generate noise levels of approximately 51 dBA  $L_{eq}$  at a reference distance of 100 feet from the operating units during maximum air conditioning operations (Puron, 2005). Noise from the rectifiers and other equipment inside the TPSS will be less than from the air conditioners.

Sensitive receptors located within approximately 110 feet of these air conditioning units could be exposed to noise levels above the City of Sacramento's nighttime noise standard of 50 dBA  $L_{eq}$ . There are no existing or planned sensitive receptors located within 110 feet of the TPSS units proposed in Options 1 or 2. However, if the TPSS units are placed on the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, as proposed with Option 3, sensitive receptors could be located within 110 feet of the TPSS units and be exposed to air conditioning noise levels that would exceed the City of Sacramento's nighttime noise standard. Therefore, if the TPSS units are placed within the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, this impact would be considered

**significant** under CEQA. However, implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.10-2** would reduce this impact to a **less than significant level**.

***NV-2. Would the project result in residential interior noise levels of 45 dBA L<sub>dn</sub> or greater caused by noise level increases due to the project?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

**Interior Traffic Noise Impacts**

Table 3.10-6 shows the future traffic noise levels along roadway segments in the vicinity of the proposed project. An exterior noise exposure of 70 dBA L<sub>dn</sub> or greater would result in potentially incompatible interior noise for new urban infill sensitive receptors. As shown in Table 3.10-5, the total roadway noise from existing and project-related traffic would not exceed the 70 dBA L<sub>dn</sub> standard at existing or proposed residential uses. In addition, the multi-family residences to be developed as part of the proposed project would be subject to Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, which requires an interior noise standard of 45 dBA L<sub>dn</sub> in any habitable room and requires an acoustical analysis demonstrating how dwelling units have been designed to meet this interior standard. To allow the project to meet the City and State interior noise requirement of 45 dBA L<sub>dn</sub>, in habitable rooms of residential dwellings, the exterior facades of residential buildings would need to be designed to reduce sound transmission (i.e., exterior-to-interior noise). Since none of the roadway segments analyzed would exceed the City of Sacramento exterior noise standards and onsite multi-family residential buildings would be subject to Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, interior noise levels at existing and proposed residential uses adjacent to these roadway segments would not result in interior noise levels exceeding 45 dBA L<sub>dn</sub>. Therefore, this impact would result in a **less than significant impact** under CEQA.

**Interior Light Rail Noise Impacts**

The multi-family residential dwelling units proposed within the Expansion Area are the most susceptible to elevated interior noise levels from existing light rail operations. As previously discussed in Impact NV-1 above, the proposed multi-family housing within the Expansion Area would be exposed to light rail noise that would exceed the City's exterior noise standards. Assuming the multi-family dwellings would be located within 50 feet of the proposed light rail station; these residential units would be exposed to an exterior noise level of approximately 75 dBA L<sub>dn</sub>. Given an exterior noise level of 75 dB L<sub>dn</sub>, a building facade noise reduction of 30 dB would be required to achieve an interior noise level of 45 dB L<sub>dn</sub>. Standard residential construction (wood siding, STC-27 windows, door weather-stripping, exterior wall insulation, composition plywood roof), typically results in an exterior to interior noise reduction of at least 25 dB with windows closed and approximately 15 dB with windows open (Caltrans, 2013). Therefore, standard

construction would fail to provide the required noise reduction at the buildings facades. This impact would be considered **significant** under CEQA. However, implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.10-3** would reduce this impact to a **less than significant level**.

***NV-3. Would the project result in construction noise levels that exceed the standards in the City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Construction activity noise levels at the proposed project site would fluctuate depending on the particular type, number and duration of usage for various pieces of construction equipment. Proposed project construction activities would involve demolition, excavation, grading and earth movement, foundation setting (concrete pours), materials delivery, building erection and cladding, roofing, exterior treatments (power washing, painting, application of siding materials), and landscaping. The redevelopment of the existing housing complex and construction of the Expansion Area housing would take approximately seven years to complete, beginning in 2017. The proposed project would include the demolition and replacement of the existing residential structures on the current Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex site, and construction of new residential dwelling units and the Dos Rios light rail station at the Expansion Area site. It is anticipated that construction of the proposed project would start with the light rail station, followed by the construction of the proposed multi-family buildings in the Expansion Area, and then redevelopment of the current Twin Rivers site. Upon completion of the Expansion Area, some residents in the existing housing complex could be relocated temporarily to the newly-constructed facilities in the Expansion Area.

**Table 3.10-7** shows typical noise levels produced by various types of construction equipment. Although project construction would not require the use of an impact pile driver, it is possible that impact pile driving activities would be required during the construction of the light rail station. The construction period of the proposed station would be 18 months.

Since construction-related noise would be less noticeable during the daytime hours versus the night time hours, construction noise generated outside of the City of Sacramento Municipal Code (Chapter 8.68.080) exempt hours (between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday) would constitute a significant impact. Construction-related noise generated outside of City of Sacramento exempt hours would result in a substantial noise increase over the existing ambient, which would result in an annoyance.



**TABLE 3.10-7  
 TYPICAL NOISE LEVELS FROM CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AT DISTANCE OF 50 FEET**

Type of Equipment	L <sub>max</sub> , dBA	Hourly L <sub>eq</sub> , dBA/% Use
Dump Truck	84	80/40%
Air Compressor	80	76/40%
Pneumatic Tools	85	82/50%
Concrete Mixer (Truck)	85	81/40%
Scraper	85	81/40%
Jack Hammer	85	78/20%
Dozer	85	81/40%
Paver	85	82/50%
Generator	82	79/50%
Backhoe	80	76/40%
Impact Pile Driver	95	88/20%

SOURCE: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Roadway Construction Noise Model User's Guide, 2006.

The proposed project construction activities that would generate the highest noise levels would involve impact pile driving during the construction of the proposed Dos Rios light rail station at the Expansion Area, which can generate a noise level as high as 95 dBA L<sub>max</sub> from a distance of 50 feet. During the building demolition and building construction phases, construction activities that would generate high noise levels would involve the use of bulldozers and pneumatic tools, which can generate a combined noise level as high as 85 dBA L<sub>max</sub> from a distance of 50 feet. The nearest existing offsite sensitive receptor to the proposed project site consists of a single-family residences adjacent to Basler Street located approximately 500 feet southeast of the Expansion Area and 810 feet southeast of the proposed light rail station. Assuming 6 dBA drop-off rate, this existing offsite single-family residences would be exposed to a construction noise level of 71 dBA L<sub>max</sub> during onsite impact pile driving and 65 dBA L<sub>max</sub> during onsite building construction.

As the existing site is incrementally redeveloped over time, future residential buildings constructed in earlier phases would be occupied and these residents could be exposed to noise from construction of the subsequent phases. These future residences within the redeveloped Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex could be located within 50 feet of onsite construction activities. From a distance of 50 feet, future residential receptors could be exposed to noise levels as high as 85 dBA L<sub>max</sub> during the use of pneumatic tools. Although future ambient noise levels would be higher compared than existing conditions (e.g., increase in traffic noise), the noise levels during construction could result in an annoyance for future onsite sensitive receptors.

As described above, construction noise associated with development of the proposed project would be noticeable at sensitive receptors in the area. Daytime demolition, building construction and impact pile driving activities would generate noise that could disturb people living in the surrounding residential uses. Since it is anticipated that some nighttime construction would be required to complete the construction of the proposed Dos Rios light rail station, the proposed

project could result in construction noise levels that exceed the standards in the City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance, which prohibits construction noise between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Construction activities could expose occupants of nearby buildings to elevated levels of noise during daytime and nighttime hours. Therefore, this would be considered a **short-term significant impact under CEQA**. However, implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.10-4** would reduce construction noise levels to a **less than significant level**.

***NV-4. Would the project permit existing and/or planned residential and commercial areas to be exposed to peak particle vibration velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to project construction?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Construction activities would include – in order – the phased demolition of the existing structures on the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex site, followed by phased new building construction; the construction of the Dos Rios light rail station; and construction of housing structures in the Expansion Area. Construction activities may generate perceptible vibration when heavy equipment or impact tools such as impact pile drivers, jackhammers, hoe rams, or impact wrenches are used. As previously discussed, the proposed project could include the use of an impact pile driver during the construction of the proposed light rail station and dozers during the demolition of the existing structures on the existing Housing Complex site. Phased demolition and construction in the existing Housing Complex site would be expected to begin in the fall of 2017 and would be completed in approximately seven years. Construction of the new Dos Rios light rail station would be expected to begin in the fall of 2019, followed by construction of the adjacent housing in the Expansion Area.

The potential use of an impact pile driver during the construction of the Dos Rios light rail station would be expected to generate the highest vibration levels during construction. Impact pile drives typically generate vibration levels of 0.644 in/sec PPV at a distance of 25 feet. Assuming an impact pile driver would be used during the construction of the proposed station, sensitive receptors located within approximately 30 feet of impact pile driving activities would be exposed to vibration levels that would exceed the City of Sacramento allowed construction vibration standard of 0.5 in/sec PPV. Since there are no existing sensitive receptors within 30 feet of the proposed light rail station and the construction of the station would be completed prior to building occupation of the Expansion Area, there would be no vibration impacts related to impact pile driving.

Since the demolition of the existing structures on the existing Housing Complex site would be completed in phases, there would be onsite existing residences near where onsite demolition activities would occur. During onsite demolition, the potential use of a large bulldozer is expected to generate the highest vibration levels. Large bulldozers typically generate vibration levels of 0.089 in/sec PPV at a distance of 25 feet, which is below the City of Sacramento allowed construction vibration standard of 0.5 in/sec PPV. Since there are no existing or planned receptors located close enough to where onsite impact pile driving and demolition would occur, this impact would result in a **less than significant impact** under CEQA.

***NV-5. Would the project permit adjacent residential and commercial areas to be exposed to peak particle vibration velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to light rail operations?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

A vibration impact would occur if vibration levels generated by light rail pass-by events are above the City of Sacramento significance threshold of 0.5 in/sec PPV. According to the FTA's *Guidance Manual for Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*, the typical ground-surface vibration levels for light rail trains traveling at a speed of 50 miles per hour (mph) and at a distance of 10 feet is 0.05 in/sec PPV, which is below the City of Sacramento vibration impact threshold of 0.5 in/sec PPV (FTA, 2006). The construction of the light rail station would result in train speeds being substantially reduced from this conservative 50 mph assumption, since trains would be slowing and stopping as they moved through the station; RT's speed limit entering and exiting stations is 25 mph, and train speeds would be further limited by 20-mph curves south of the station and 15-mph curves north of the station. Therefore, future onsite residences in Expansion Area would be exposed to vibration levels from light rail traffic along North 12th Street that would result in a **less than significant impact** under CEQA.

***NV-6. Would the project permit historic buildings and archaeological sites to be exposed to peak particle vibration velocities greater than 0.2 inches per second due to project construction and light rail traffic?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As previously discussed in Impact NV-5, the highest vibration levels would occur during construction of the Dos Rios light rail station, which may require the use of an impact pile driver. Impact pile drives typically generate vibration levels of 0.644 in/sec PPV at a distance of 25 feet. Assuming an impact pile driver would be used during the construction of the proposed station, sensitive receptors located within approximately 55 feet of where the impact pile would be used would be exposed to vibration levels that would exceed the City of Sacramento allowed vibration standard for historical structures of 0.2 in/sec PPV. As discussed in Section 3.4, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, there are no known archaeological sites or historical structures located within the project area or within 55 feet of the proposed project site that would be exposed to vibration levels above the City of Sacramento 0.2 in/sec PPV threshold. Therefore, this would be considered a **less than significant impact** under CEQA.

### ***NV-7. Would the project exceed applicable noise impact criteria as established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**.

### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

HUD has established interior and exterior noise standards for residential development projects (CFR Title 24, Volume 1, Part 51, Subpart B – Noise Abatement and Control). For interior spaces, it is a HUD goal that noise levels shall not exceed 45 dBA  $L_{dn}$ . For exterior noise, the following site acceptability standards have been established by HUD for residential development:  $L_{dn}$  less than 65 dBA would be considered “Acceptable”;  $L_{dn}$  above 65 dBA but not exceeding 75 dBA would be considered “Normally Unacceptable,” and  $L_{dn}$  above 75 dBA would be considered “Unacceptable”.

The HUD Day/Night Noise Level Calculator requires assessing noise impacts from roadways potentially affecting the project site of up to 1,000 feet away and railways potentially affecting the site of up to 3,000 feet away. The planned on-site residential units would be located on both the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex site and the Expansion Area. These proposed residential dwelling units would be located within approximately 1,000 feet from adjacent roadway centerlines near Richards Boulevard, Dos Rios Street, North 12th Street and North 16th Street and within 3,000 feet of the light rail line along 12th Street.

As discussed under Impact NV-1 and shown in Table 3.10-6, the calculated traffic noise generated by the proposed project from roadway segments surrounding the project site would range from approximately 54.0 to 68.9 dBA  $L_{dn}$  under existing plus project conditions and the rail noise generated by light rail traffic at the proposed light rail station along North 12th Street would

be about 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$  from a distance of 50 feet from the center of the rail tracks. As noted in the discussion of *Applicable Policies and Regulations*, the combined roadway and light rail noise levels would fall within the HUD's "normally unacceptable" range between 65 and 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$ . Therefore, this impact would result in an **adverse effect** with respect to HUD noise standards. However, implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.10-1 and 3.10-2** would reduce this impact to a **no adverse effect** under NEPA.

***NV-8. Would the project exceed the Moderate or Severe noise impact criteria as defined by the Federal Transit Administration?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

The noise impact criteria used by the FTA is discussed earlier in this section in *Applicable Policies and Regulations*. Figure 3.10-2 shows the FTA noise impact criteria for human annoyance. Depending on the magnitude of the cumulative noise increases, FTA categorizes impacts as (1) no impact; (2) moderate impact; or (3) severe impact.

The proposed project would include the construction of a multi-family building in the Expansion Area east of North 12th Street. The Dos Rios light rail station would also be constructed in this area, immediately adjacent to the proposed multi-family dwellings. However, the proposed light rail station would be constructed prior to construction and occupancy of the multi-family dwellings, so the eventual occupants of the dwellings would not be subject to construction noise during construction of the light rail station.

Once the multi-family dwelling units in the Expansion Area are completed and occupied, these future residences would be subjected to frequent light rail noise during operation of the station and associated light rail tracks. As discussed in Impact NV-1 above, the operational rail noise generated at the proposed station would be approximately 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$  at a distance of 50 feet from the center of the rail tracks. Since it is likely that residences within the Expansion Area would be located within 50 feet of the station, for this analysis, the baseline for existing environmental noise levels in this area is 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$ . As shown in Figure 3.10-2, a moderate and severe noise impact would occur if the future residences in the Expansion Area are exposed to a day-night noise level above 73 and 65 dBA  $L_{dn}$ , respectively.

Assuming a 6 dBA per doubling of distance drop-off rate, residences within the Expansion Area located within 80 feet of the light rail centerline would be exposed to rail noise that would result in a severe impact. Moderate noise impacts would occur at distances greater than 80 feet. Although the exact location of the multi-family dwelling units within the Expansion Area is unknown at this time, at least some of the dwelling units would likely be located within 80 feet of

the proposed light rail station and would be exposed to rail noise that would result in severe noise impact. There could therefore be **adverse effect** with respect to FTA noise standards. However, implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.10-1 and 3.10-2** would reduce this potential impact to a **no adverse effect** under NEPA.

***NV-9. Would the project exceed Moderate and Severe vibration impact criteria as defined by the Federal Transit Administration?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Under this alternative, the proposed project would be constructed and would become operational. At the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, the existing housing would be replaced with new residential structures, community facilities, and landscaping. A new housing facility and a light rail station would be developed on the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex Expansion Area and Dos Rios Light Rail Station parcel.

**Construction Vibration Impacts**

Construction activities would include – in order – the phased demolition of the existing structures on the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex site, followed by phased new building construction; the construction of the Dos Rios light rail station; and construction of housing structures in the Expansion Area. Construction activities may generate perceptible vibration when heavy equipment or impact tools such as impact pile drivers, jackhammers, hoe rams, or impact wrenches are used. As previously discussed, the proposed project could include the use of an impact pile driver during the construction of the station and dozers during the demolition of the existing structures on the existing Housing Complex site. Phased demolition and construction in the existing Housing Complex site would be expected to begin in the fall of 2017 and would be completed in approximately seven years. Construction of the new Dos Rios light rail station would be expected to begin in the fall of 2019, followed by construction of the adjacent housing in the Expansion Area.

A vibration impact would occur if construction vibration levels are above the FTA impact threshold for human annoyance. According to the FTA guidance as shown in Table 3.10-3, the vibration threshold for infrequent events (i.e., less than 70 vibration events per day) is 80 VdB for Category 2 land uses (i.e., residences and buildings where people normally sleep). Since the nature of construction would be infrequent in nature, the FTA vibration threshold of 80 VdB is used to assess construction vibration impacts. Therefore, existing residential receptors exposed to construction vibration levels exceeding 80 VdB would result in an **adverse effect**.

As previously discussed under Impact NV-4, the potential use of an impact pile driver during the construction of the light rail station would be expected to generate the highest vibration levels

during construction. Impact pile drives typically generate vibration levels of 104 VdB at a distance of 25 feet. Assuming an impact pile driver would be used during the construction of the station, sensitive receptors located within approximately 165 feet of where the impact pile would be used would be exposed to vibration levels that would exceed the FTA vibration threshold. Since there are no existing sensitive receptors within 165 feet of the proposed station, and the construction of the station would be completed prior to building occupation of the Expansion Area, there would be no vibration impacts related to impact pile driving. There would therefore be **no adverse effect** with the FTA vibration standards with respect to construction vibration.

#### Light Rail Station Operational Vibration Impacts

As previously discussed, the proposed project would construct residences in the Expansion Area. These residences would be located adjacent to the proposed Dos Rios light rail station, which would be constructed and would become operational prior to building occupation in the Expansion Area. According to the FTA's *Guidance Manual for Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*, vibration impacts from rail traffic must be assessed if a project is located within 150 feet of a light rail transit facility. The proposed onsite residential units in the Expansion Area could be located within 15 feet from the light rail centerline. These future onsite residential receptors would be located within the FTA vibration impact screening distance. There is therefore a potential for these residences to be exposed to perceptible vibration levels from light rail pass-bys.

A vibration impact would occur if vibration levels generated by light rail activity are above the FTA impact threshold for human annoyance. According to the FTA guidance as shown in Table 3.10-7, the vibration threshold for frequent events (i.e., more than 70 vibration events per day) is 72 VdB for Category 2 land uses (i.e., residences and buildings where people normally sleep). Therefore, existing residential receptors exposed to construction vibration levels from light rail operation exceeding 72 VdB would result in an adverse effect.

The typical ground-surface vibration level for light rail trains traveling at a speed of 50 miles per hour (mph) and at a distance of 10 feet is 82 VdB (FTA, 2006). RT's speed limit for light rail trains entering a station is 25 mph. However, the track curve geometry entering and leaving the station would be the governing constraint at the proposed Dos Rios Station. The curves at the south end of the station limit approach and departure speeds to 20 mph; the curves at the north end of the station limit approach and departure speeds to 15 mph. As a result, northbound trains would travel at approximately 20 mph through the southern half of the station platform, before they would decelerate during the last 160 feet or so before stopping at the station. Using an FTA speed correction factor, the adjusted vibration level for a rapid transit or light rail vehicle traveling at a speed of 20 mph at a distance of 15 feet is 69 VdB, which is below the FTA impact threshold of 72 VdB for frequent transit vibration events. Therefore, there would be **no adverse effect** with the FTA vibration standards with respect to operational vibration.

### Mitigation Measures

**Mitigation Measure 3.10-1:** During the design and construction of exterior residential elements in the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area, the project applicant shall consult with a certified acoustical professional to design and implement appropriate noise attenuation elements

that are of sufficient effectiveness to reduce noise levels to below the City exterior noise standard as shown in General Plan Table EC-1 for residential land uses. The effectiveness of these measures shall be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the City Community Development Department prior to the issuance of occupancy permits.

**Mitigation Measure 3.10-2:** If traction power substation (TPSS) units are placed nearer than 110 feet from proposed residential uses, the applicant shall submit engineering and acoustical specifications for project air conditioning equipment to the City prior to the issuance of building permits. The engineering and acoustical specification shall demonstrate to the City's satisfaction that the air conditioning equipment design (types, location, enclosure, specification) will control noise from the equipment to at least 10 dBA below existing ambient levels at nearby residential and other noise sensitive receptors.

**Mitigation Measure 3.10-3:** Prior to the issuance of building permits for residential projects within the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area, the City shall require project applicants for residential development to submit a detailed noise analysis, prepared by a qualified acoustical professional, to identify design measures to be implemented to achieve the City interior standard of 45 L<sub>dn</sub> in the proposed new residences. The resulting study shall be submitted to the City for review and approval. Design measures such as the following could be required, depending on the specific findings of the noise study: double-paned glass windows facing noise sources; solid-core doors; increased sound insulation of exterior walls (such as through staggered- or double-studs, multiple layers of gypsum board, and incorporation of resilient channels); weather-tight seals for doors and windows; or sealed windows with an air conditioning system installed for ventilation. The building plans submitted for building permit approval shall be accompanied by certification of a licensed engineer that the plans include the identified noise-attenuating design measures and satisfy the requirements of City standards.

**Mitigation Measure 3.10-4:** The City of Sacramento and the project contractor(s) shall implement the following measures as feasible and appropriate during all phases of project construction:

- Whenever construction occurs within 130 feet of occupied residences (on- or off-site), temporary barriers shall be constructed around the construction sites to shield the ground floor of the noise-sensitive uses. These barriers shall be of ¾-inch Medium Density Overlay (MDO) plywood sheeting, or other material of equivalent utility and appearance, and shall achieve a Sound Transmission Class of STC-30, or greater, based on certified sound transmission loss data taken according to ASTM Test Method E90 or as approved by the City of Sacramento Building Official.
- Construction equipment staging areas shall be located as far as feasible from residential areas while still serving the needs of construction contractors.
- Use of auger displacement installation techniques for installation of foundation piles shall be used, if feasible. If impact pile driving is required, sonic pile drivers shall be used, unless engineering studies are submitted to the City that show this is not feasible, based on geotechnical considerations.



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## 3.11 Public Services and Recreation

### 3.11.1 Introduction

This section discusses existing public services available in the vicinity of the project site and examines the effects of implementation of the proposed project on those services. The services evaluated in this section include fire protection, police protection, schools, and park and recreational facilities.

### 3.11.2 Environmental Setting

#### Fire Protection Services

Fire protection is provided to the project site by the City of Sacramento Fire Department (SFD). According to SFD's 2015 annual report, SFD serves approximately 480,000 residents within the city (City of Sacramento Fire Department, 2015). Although SFD does not have an official staffing ratio goal, SFD uses a number of measures to determine the need for fire protection services, which include the provision of one station for every 1.5 mile service radius, one station for every 16,000 residents, and one station in areas where a company could expect call volumes exceeding 3,500 in a year.

SFD responded to approximately 80,000 calls in 2015. Station 14 is the closest SFD station to the project site, located approximately 350 feet south of the project site at 1341 North C Street. In 2015, Station 14 responded to approximately 2,962 "first-in" calls and an additional 620 dispatches for mutual aid. Based on the above call volume criterion, Station 14 has additional capacity to provide emergency response. According to the SFD 2014 annual report, Station 14 was constructed in 1939 and is slated to be relocated and reconstructed in the general area.

#### Police Protection Services

Police protection services are provided by the City of Sacramento Police Department (SPD). According to the SPD 2016 annual report, the department had 697 sworn officers on staff that responded to 351,472 calls for service (City of Sacramento Police Department, 2016).

The project site is situated within SPD District 3, Central Command. The substation that currently serves the project site is the Richards Police Facility, which is located approximately 0.75 mile west of the project site at 300 Richards Boulevard. This facility serves both the SPD's Central and East Commands. The Sacramento 2035 Master EIR used an unofficial staffing goal of 2.0 to 2.5 sworn police officers per 1,000 residents and one civilian support staff per two sworn officers.

#### School Facilities

The project site is within the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD). The District currently has 28 elementary schools, five junior high schools, five high schools (when counting Grant Union High School's Main and West Campuses as separate schools), three dependent

charter schools, one independent charter school, and eight alternative/special program facilities. The District has a design capacity for 18,117 elementary, 5,521 middle school, and 9,999 high school students, and currently has 14,497 elementary, 3,107 middle school, and 5,561 high school students enrolled District-wide (Twin Rivers Unified School District, 2015a, 2015b).

The project site is within the attendance boundaries of the following public schools:

- Woodlake Elementary School, grades K-6, 700 Southgate Road  
Student capacity 674, open seats 195
- Rio Tierra Junior High School, grades 6-8, 3201 Northstead Drive  
Student capacity 762, open seats 246
- Grant Union High School, grades 9-12, Main Campus at 1400 Grand Avenue or West Campus at 1333 South Avenue  
Student capacity 2,684, open seats 759

Grant Union students would attend either the Main Campus or West Campus based on particular classes and student needs. The capacity data is reported for the 2013-14 school year. Several alternative school sites are available, including Creative Connections Arts Academy, Smythe Academy of Arts and Sciences (across Richards Boulevard from the project site), Westside Preparatory Charter School, Keema High School, NOVA Opportunity Program, Pacific Career and Technology High School, and Vista Nueva High School. Special education students aged 18-22 would attend Richmond School. TRUSD allows for intra-district transfers between schools in different attendance areas.

## Parks and Open Space

The project area is served by nearby parks operated by the City of Sacramento and the American River Parkway operated by Sacramento County. The City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Department (SPRD) oversees and manages park and recreation resources within the city limits. The City currently owns and operates 226 parks and parkways totaling nearly 3,200 acres of land including developed and passive parks, golf courses, bikeways and trails, lakes/ponds and beaches, dog parks, community gardens, skate parks and other recreational facilities. The City also operates other types of recreational facilities including a senior center, numerous community centers, and several clubhouses (i.e., activity buildings available for rental by the public small parties, gatherings, and meetings).

**Table 3.11-1** presents the park service level goals for each category of park as outlined in SPRD's most recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan (SPRD, 2009), with updates based on recently adopted Title 17 of the Planning and Development Code (17.512 Parks and Recreation Facilities) and Park Impact Fee Nexus Study Update (both adopted February 14, 2017). A detailed description of each category is provided below along with an inventory of current acreage per category.

**TABLE 3.11-1  
CITY OF SACRAMENTO PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT PARK SERVICE LEVEL GOALS**

Park Type	Acres/1,000 Residents	Size Guidelines	Service Area Guidelines
<b>Neighborhood Serving</b>			
Urban Plaza / Pocket Parks	0.875	Less than 5 acres	½ mile
Neighborhood Parks		5-10 acres	½ mile
<b>Community Serving</b>			
Community Parks	0.875	10 – 60 acres	Drivable from several neighborhoods, 3 miles
<b>Citywide / Regionally Serving</b>			
Regional Parks, Open Space, Parkways	8.0	Varies; may be larger than community parks and/or have destination attractions.	Citywide and beyond
Linear Parks/Parkways and Trails/Bikeways (off and on street)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Along all major public waterways in City limits, contributing to interconnected regional system of open space/trails/bikeways</li> <li>• 0.5 linear miles / 1,000 population of trails/bikeways implemented per adopted City Bikeways, Pedestrian, and Trail Master Plans</li> <li>• Locate next to compatible uses (greenbelts, multi-use trail corridors, schools, waterways, and parks)</li> </ul>	
Open Space		Implementation dependent on numerous factors, including but not limited to: current and future mitigation requirements, land set aside for community separators, protection of sensitive habitat/wetlands, etc. Locate near existing open space, parks, urban forest, wildlife preserve, nature area or parkway, drainage area, wetland, environmentally sensitive area. Locate near existing or proposed trail system. Locate to take advantage of scenic vista, existing cultural or historical significance, and passive recreation and education potential. Provide adequate access for Fire, Emergency, and Maintenance.	

SOURCE: City of Sacramento 2009; with updated based on Title 17 of the Planning and Development Code (17.512 Parks and Recreation Facilities) and Park Impact Fee Nexus Study Update (2017)

### **Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks are generally 5 to 10 acres in size and are intended to be used primarily by residents within a half-mile radius. Some neighborhood parks are situated adjacent to elementary schools, and improvements are generally oriented toward the recreation needs of children. In addition to landscaping, improvements might include irrigation, turf, trees, site furniture, walkways, entry improvements, signage, drinking fountains, children’s play areas (tot lots and adventure areas), picnic areas with shade structure, sports courts, and sports fields.

Urban plazas and pocket parks also fall under the category of neighborhood serving parks and tend to be less than 5 acres in size. These parks are more appropriate for areas of denser urban mixed-use development.

### **Community Parks**

Community parks are generally 10 to 60 acres in size and have a service area of approximately three miles, which encompasses several neighborhoods and meets the requirements of a large portion of the city. In addition to neighborhood park elements, a community park might also have

restrooms, on-site parking, a community center, a swimming pool, lighted sports fields or courts, and other specialized facilities not found in a neighborhood park. Some of the smaller community parks may be dedicated to one use, and some elements of the park could be leased to community groups.

**Citywide/Regional Parks and Parkways**

Citywide/regional parks are larger sites developed with a wide range of improvements usually not found in local neighborhood or community facilities to meet the needs of the entire city population. In addition to neighborhood and community park type improvements, regional parks may include a golf course, marina, amusement area, zoo, nature area, and other region-wide amenities. Some elements in the park may be under lease to community groups. Parkways, typically linear and narrow, may be situated along an existing corridor such as a railroad line, roadway, waterway, or other common corridor.

**Open Space**

Open space areas are natural areas that are set aside primarily to enhance the city’s environmental amenities. Recreational use of these sites is generally limited to natural features of the sites, such as native plant communities or wildlife habitat. Parkways are similar to open space areas because they also have limited recreational uses and are primarily used as corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists, linking residential uses to schools, parks, and commercial developments.

**Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities**

**City of Sacramento**

The SPRD’s recreational grounds are divided into ten community planning areas. Twin Rivers development would be located in Community Planning Area 1 – Central City. **Table 3.11-2** summarizes the existing citywide/regionally serving parks in the central city.

**TABLE 3.11-2  
 ACREAGE OF EXISTING PARKS SERVING THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO**

<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Existing Acreage</b>
Regional Acres	1,965.8
Parkway Acres	409.9
Neighborhood/Community Serving Acres <sup>1</sup>	142.0
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>4,779.2</b>

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> While Regional Park and Parkway Acres have a service area of citywide and beyond, portions of most regional park sites also meet neighborhood/community acreage requirements of adjacent neighborhoods.

SOURCE: City of Sacramento 2009

### ***County of Sacramento Regional Parks***

The County operates a system of 42 park and open space facilities, mostly of large region-serving scale. The American River Parkway is the closest regional park to this proposed project. The parkway provides an important link in a 70-mile regional trail system that includes the American River Parkway, the Ueda Parkway, the proposed Dry Creek Greenway, and Folsom Lake State Park.

### ***River District Specific Plan Area Parks***

The closest open spaces to the project site are the Muir Children's Park, about 0.5-mile to the south at 1515 C Street; Matsui Waterfront Park, about 1.1-mile to the west at 450 Jibboom Street; and Tiscornia Park, about 1.2-mile to the west at 195 Jibboom Street.

The eight acre Robert T. Matsui Waterfront Park was completed in 2007. It features an interactive water fountain, a grassy area overlooking the Sacramento River and a network of pedestrian walkways, benches and shade trees. The Water Intake Facility has been incorporated into the park and provides visitors a unique overlook on the Sacramento River. Tiscornia Park is almost 10 acres in size, has a sandy beach, picnic area and boat access to the American River. Both Tiscornia and Robert T. Matsui Waterfront Parks are connected via the Sacramento River Parkway, a Class 1 bicycle and pedestrian trail running along the Sacramento River. In addition, while not included within the boundaries of the River District Specific Plan area, the planned Sutter's Landing Regional Park is located about a mile and a half upstream along the American River. Plans are in place to connect Sutter's Landing Regional Park to the River District via an extension of the Two Rivers Trail.

Another regional recreational feature in close proximity to the project site is the American River Trail, which is a 32-mile-long multi-use trail that runs along the southern bank of the American River between the City of Folsom and Old Town Sacramento. The trail lies approximately 1,000 feet north of the project site.

## 3.11.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations

### **Proposition 1A/Senate Bill (SB) 50 (Chapter 407, Statutes of 1998)**

Senate Bill (SB) 50 is a school construction funding measure that was approved on the November 1998 ballot. SB 50 created the School Facility Program for eligible school districts to obtain State bond funds. State funding requires matching local funds that generally come from developer fees. The passage of SB 50 eliminated the ability of cities and counties to require full mitigation of school impacts and replaced it with the ability for school districts to assess fees directly to offset the costs associated with increasing school capacity as a result of new development. Although SB 50 states that payment of developer fees are "deemed to be complete and full mitigation" of the impacts of new development, fees and State funding do not fully fund new school facilities.

## **Quimby Act**

California Government Code Section 66477, Subdivision Map Act, referred to as the Quimby Act, permits local jurisdictions to require the dedication of land and/or the payment of in-lieu fees solely for park and recreation purposes. The required dedication and/or fee are based upon the residential density and housing type, land cost, and other factors. Land dedicated and fees collected pursuant to the Quimby Act may be used for developing new, or rehabilitating existing park or recreational facilities.

### **3.11.4 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR**

#### **2035 General Plan Master EIR**

Chapter 4.9 of the Master EIR considered the effects of the 2035 General Plan on the City's existing parkland, urban forest, recreational facilities and recreational services. The General Plan identified a goal of providing an integrated park and recreation system in the City (Goal ERC 2.1). The City has set a park acreage service level of 1.75 acres of community and neighborhood parks per 1,000 population in the Central City Community Plan Area, which includes the project site (Policy ERC 2.2.4). New residential development is required to dedicate land, pay in-lieu fees or otherwise contribute a fair share to the acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities (Policy ERC 2.2.5). Impacts were considered less than significant after application of the applicable policies.

Chapter 4.10 of the Master EIR evaluated the potential effects of the 2035 General Plan on various public services. These include police, fire protection, schools, libraries and emergency services.

The General Plan provides that adequate staffing levels for police and fire are important for the long-term health, safety and well-being of the community (Goal PHS 1.1, PHS 2.1). The Master EIR estimated that development anticipated under the 2035 General Plan would require the addition of up to 620 new police staff (sworn officers and civilian support staff) with implementation of the General Plan's policies. Likewise, buildout of the General Plan would require at least 10 new fire stations and additional personnel. The Master EIR concluded that effects of development that could occur under the General Plan would be less than significant with implementation of the adopted Public Services policies.

According to the General Plan Master EIR analysis, a total of 23,565 students would be added to area public school district rolls with full build-out. This analysis also found that these districts had a combined capacity to accommodate an additional 36,000 students. The Master EIR found that General Plan policies that call for the City to consider impacts of new development on schools (see, for example, Policy ERC 1.1.2 setting forth locational criteria, and Policy ERC 1.1.4 that encourages joint-use development of facilities) would reduce impacts on schools to a less-than-significant level. Impacts on library facilities were considered less than significant.

## River District Specific Plan EIR

The River District Specific Plan EIR evaluated the potential for the buildout of the proposed River District Specific Plan (RDSP) to impact open space, recreation, and public services.

The City of Sacramento's parkland dedication requirements are outlined in City Code, Chapter 17.512, which establishes the formulas for the provision of parkland required for new development. Meeting these requirements is intended to provide the public with opportunities to access parks within reasonable walking or driving distance of all residences. The EIR concluded that with implementation of these requirements, together with existing and planned public park facilities, payment of in-lieu fees for planned projects, and private recreation facilities within the development boundaries, impacts to open space and recreational resources would be less than significant.

A similar finding was made for police, fire, and school services. Payment of development fees for these services would reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels.

### 3.11.5 Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

#### City of Sacramento Standards of Significance

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to public services and recreation are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable general plans and previous environmental documents, and professional judgment. The project alternatives would have a significant adverse effect if they would:

- Result in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, school facilities, or other governmental services beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan.
- Cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities or create a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan.

#### Department of Housing and Urban Development Evaluation Criteria

The online HUD Exchange provides guidance documents for considering context and intensity impacts associated with public services and recreation. Specific factors to consider include the project's effects on educational facilities, commercial facilities, health care services and facilities, social services, public safety services, open space and recreation, and cultural facilities. These factors generally mirror those listed in the standards of significance listed above.

#### Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria

There are no other criteria that would be applicable to the proposed project.



## Environmental Analysis

### ***PSR-1. Would the project result in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, school facilities, or other governmental services beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition, with no increase in resident population. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As discussed in Chapter 2, Alternatives, the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex houses approximately 550 residents in 218 housing units. This equates to a residential population occupancy rate of 2.53 persons per unit. The U.S. Census Bureau's 2010-2014 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates indicate that the estimated population for the tract that includes the project site is 1,052 residents in 348 housing units. This equates to a residential population occupancy rate of 3.03 persons per unit in this tract. Using this higher occupancy rate with the project's proposed 487 units, the proposed project would be expected to result in 1,475 residents within the project site. Subtracting the existing 550 residents, the proposed project would result in a net increase of 925 residents.

#### **Fire Protection**

As discussed above, the SFD does not have an official staffing ratio goal. Station 14 would serve the project site and, when considering the annual call threshold, has capacity to provide emergency response. The proposed project would add approximately 923 new residents. This amount of new residents would not meet the unofficial threshold of requiring a new station (based on one station per 16,000 residents). When considered with the 2035 General Plan Master EIR analysis, which included this development in its analysis, any potential impact would be addressed with implementation of General Plan policies. For example, impact fees are required for development projects, which would fund additional fire personnel and facilities. Additionally, a new joint fire and police station has been proposed for construction as part of the nearby Railyards Specific Plan, approximately 900 feet southwest of the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would be adequately served by existing and planned fire protection services.

Based on the information above, there would be **no adverse effect** to fire protection services under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

#### **Police Protection**

As discussed above, the SPD uses an unofficial goal of providing 2.0 to 2.5 sworn officers per 1,000 residents. The proposed project would add 925 new residents, which would require one additional sworn officer. When considered with the General Plan Master EIR analysis, which

included this development in its analysis, any potential impact would be addressed with implementation of General Plan policies. For example, impact fees are required for development projects, which would fund additional police personnel and facilities. Additionally, a new joint fire and police station is proposed for construction as part of the nearby Railyards Specific Plan, approximately 900 feet southwest of the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would be adequately served by existing and planned police protection services.

Based on the information above, there would be **no adverse effect** to police protection services under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

**School Facilities**

Based on the student generation rate from the 2010 U.S. Census, the number of new students that would be generated by the proposed project is calculated in **Table 3.11-3** below:

**TABLE 3.11-3  
 NEW STUDENT GENERATION**

<b>Grade Group</b>	<b>Students per Housing Unit</b>	<b>New Students<sup>1</sup></b>
K-6	0.285	77
7-8	0.072	19
9-12	0.118	32
<i>Total</i>	<i>0.475</i>	<i>128</i>

<sup>1</sup> Calculated based on 269 new residential units.

SOURCE: Twin Rivers Unified School District, 2016. School Facility Fee Justification Report for Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Development Project for the Twin Rivers Unified School District. Page 5, Table 1-1.

The overall number of new students that would be generated by the proposed project would be approximately 128. As of the 2013-14 school year, the three schools which would likely receive these additional students have a combined open seat capacity of 1,200. This proposed project’s new students alone would not warrant the expansion or construction of school facilities. Therefore, there would be **no adverse effect** to school facilities under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less than significant**.

***PSR-2. Would the project cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities or create a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

## **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan Policy ERC 2.2.4 states that it is the City's goal to provide 1.75 acres of neighborhood and community parks and other recreational facilities/sites per 1,000 population within the Central City Community Plan Area. Based on occupancy rates for the Central City as determined by SPRD in its 2017 Park Impact Fee Nexus Study, the proposed project would require approximately 1.5 acres of onsite park facilities to fully meet the City's parkland requirements.

The proposed project is anticipated to provide a number of recreational facilities, including an approximately 1.15-acre central park area. Other amenities would include a swimming pool/amenity space, a child care playground, several tot lots and other open space areas. The project could receive partial credit for these additional facilities that could be applied towards its parkland dedication requirements. If any shortfall to the dedication requirement were identified during the project's final design, the difference would be made up by payment of in-lieu fees. As such, the project's dedication requirements would be met by a combination of onsite parks and recreational facilities, and payment of fees. Therefore, the proposed project would meet the City's General Plan policy regarding park acreage service levels, and access to quality recreational facilities would be improved from what is currently available.

Based on the information above, there would be a **beneficial** effect to parks and recreational facilities under NEPA. Under CEQA, the impact would also be **beneficial**.

## **Mitigation Measures**

None required.

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## 3.12 Transportation and Traffic

### 3.12.1 Introduction

This section evaluates the potential traffic and transportation effects, including potential transit, bicycle, and pedestrian effects, that would result from implementation of the proposed project.

The potential off-site traffic impacts of the project are analyzed under existing and cumulative conditions. Impacts to bicycle, pedestrian, and transit circulation, as well as temporary impacts during project construction are also evaluated. Access to the project site is analyzed for all modes of travel.

The cumulative impacts on roadway segments, freeway segments, transit, bicycle facilities, pedestrian circulation, and parking from development associated with the Sacramento 2035 General Plan were identified and analyzed in the General Plan Master EIR, and the analysis in this section reviews such issues on a project-specific basis only. Project impacts on intersections were included in the transportation evaluation to determine the project's conformity with the Mobility Elements of the adopted 2035 General Plan, and to confirm that no substantial new or additional information indicates that the impacts on the roadway system will be more significant than as described in the Master EIR for this document.

### Travel Demand

California Senate Bill 743 (2013) provided guidance for analyzing and defining significant impacts to vehicle miles traveled (VMT), as stated below.

#### **Public Resources Code Section 21155.4:**

- a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a residential, employment center, as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 21099 of the Public Resources Code, or mixed use development project, including any subdivision, or any zoning, change that meets all of the following criteria is exempt from the requirements of this division:
  - 1) The project is proposed within a transit priority area, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 21099 of the Public Resources Code
  - 2) The project is undertaken to implement and is consistent with a specific plan for which an environmental impact report has been certified.
  - 3) The project is consistent with the general use designation, density, building intensity, and applicable policies specified for the project area in either a sustainable communities strategy or an alternative planning strategy for which the State Air Resources Board, pursuant to subparagraph (H) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 65080 of the Government Code, has accepted a metropolitan planning organization's determination that the sustainable communities strategy or the alternative planning strategy would, if implemented, achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
- b) Further environmental review shall be conducted only if any of the events specified in Section 21166 have occurred."

For the purpose of the analysis for the proposed project, “transit priority areas” were defined based on Public Resources Code Section 21099(a)(7), in which transit priority areas are defined as follows:

“Transit priority area” means an area within one-half mile of a major transit stop that is existing or planned, if the planned stop is scheduled to be completed within the planning horizon included in a Transportation Improvement Program adopted pursuant to Section 450.216 or 450.322 of Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Further, the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has stated in its SB 743 implementation guidance (OPR, 2016) that lead agencies can presume that residential, retail, office, or mixed use projects proposed within half- mile of an existing major transit stop or an existing stop along a high-quality transit corridor will have a less than significant impact on VMT. OPR defines a “major transit stop” as a site containing an existing rail transit station or the intersection of two or more major bus routes with a frequency of service interval of 15 minutes or less during the morning and afternoon peak commute periods. OPR defines a high-quality transit corridor as a corridor with fixed route bus service with service intervals no longer than 15 minutes during peak commute hours. The proposed project site is within a half mile of two existing rail transit stations (Township 9 Station and Alkali Flat/La Valentina Station), and includes the construction of a new infill rail transit station as part of the proposed project. Furthermore, the proposed project is consistent with the adopted River District Specific Plan and the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) prepared and adopted by SACOG. Based on each of these considerations, and the directives contained with Public Resources Code Section 21155.4(a), analysis of VMT impacts for the proposed project is not required.

Readers should refer to the “Cumulative Impacts” discussion in this section for additional information regarding the travel demand model used for this evaluation and to the City’s website (at <http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Resources/Online-Library/Sustainability>) for additional information pertaining to VMT. The project is also being evaluated for its consistency with Sacramento Area Council of Governments’ (SACOG) Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Projects that achieve this distinction are granted certain CEQA streamlining benefits under SB 375.

## Study Area

In urban environments such as the project area, roadway capacity is governed by the operation of intersections. For this reason, and because roadway segments were included in the traffic analysis for the 2035 General Plan, the City of Sacramento determines impacts on the roadway system based upon the operations of intersections.

The study area for the traffic impact analysis conducted for this IS/EA includes 12 existing intersections and nine planned or proposed intersections identified below that are located in the vicinity of the proposed project. These intersections were selected based on their proximity to the project site, expected usage by project traffic, and susceptibility for being impacted. Output from the Sacramento Metropolitan (SACMET) regional travel demand model was used to assist with the determination of the study area and the selection of study intersections. The resulting list was

reviewed and approved by the City's Department of Public Works. Refer to **Figure 3.12-1** for a map that depicts the location of the project and each of the study intersections. The study area also includes bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities within the project vicinity.

## **Study Intersections**

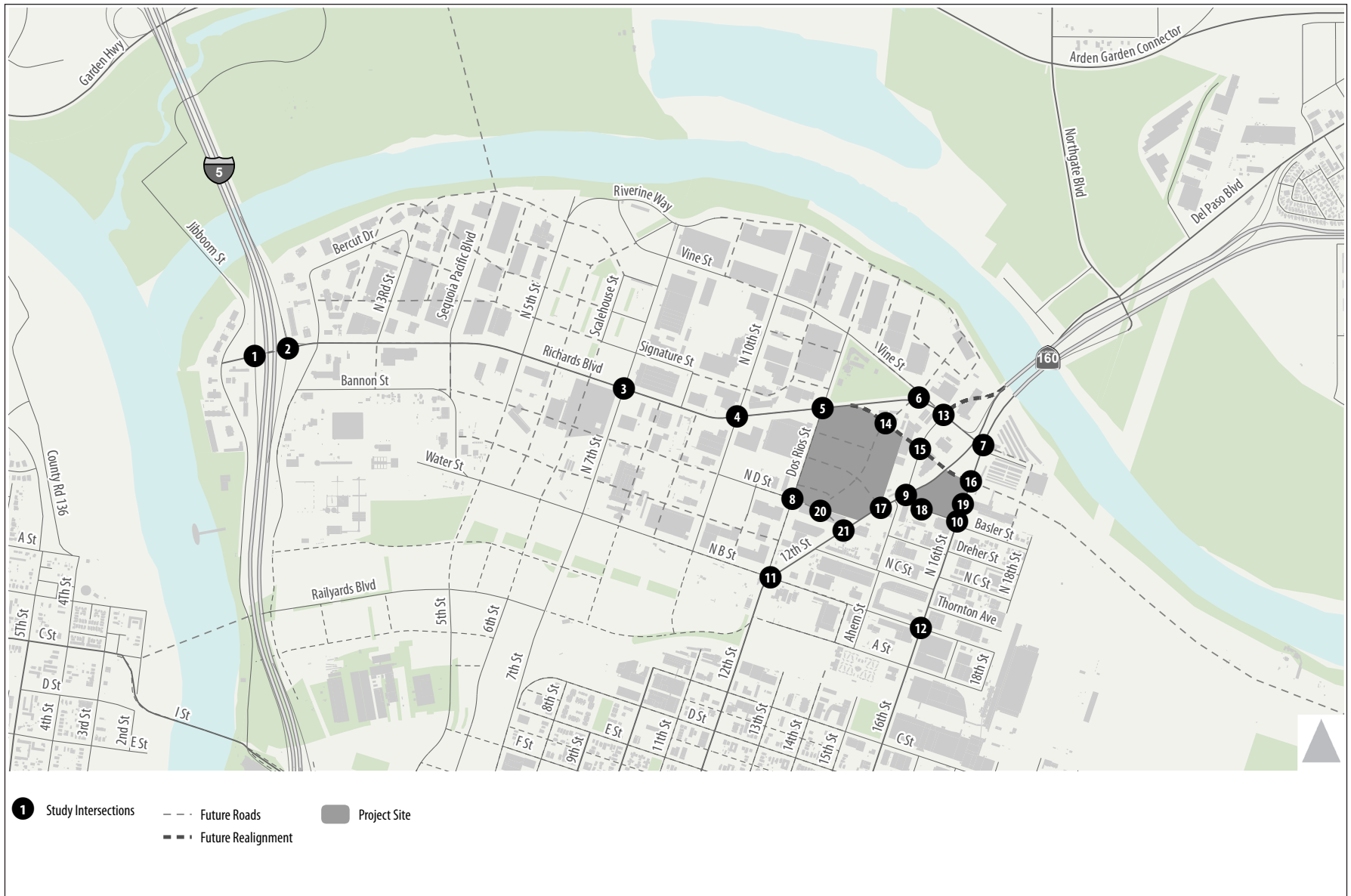
### ***Current Intersections***

1. Richards Boulevard/Interstate 5 Southbound Ramps
2. Richards Boulevard/Interstate 5 Northbound Ramps
3. Richards Boulevard/North 7th Street
4. Richards Boulevard/North 10th Street
5. Richards Boulevard/Dos Rios Street
6. Richards Boulevard/Vine Street (becomes Vine Street/Street W for future scenarios)
7. Richards Boulevard/North 12th Street/North 16th Street (becomes Vine Street/North 16th Street for future scenarios)
8. Dos Rios Street/North D Street (becomes Dos Rios Street/Bannon Street for future scenarios)
9. North 12th Street/Sunbeam Avenue/Sproule Avenue (becomes North 12th Street/Sproule Avenue for future scenarios)
10. North 16th Street/Sproule Avenue/Basler Street
11. North 12th Street/North B Street/Dos Rios Street
12. North 16th Street/North B Street

### ***Future Intersections***

13. Vine Street/North 12th Street
14. Richards Boulevard/Street W
15. Richards Boulevard/North 12th Street
16. Richards Boulevard/North 16th Street
17. North 12th Street/Project Access
18. Sproule Avenue/Project Access
19. North 16th Street/Project Access
20. Street W/Bannon Street
21. North 12th Street/Bannon Street





SOURCE: Fehr & Peers

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**Figure 3.12-1**  
Study Area

## Analysis Scenarios

The following scenarios are analyzed in this study:

- **Existing Conditions** – Represents the baseline condition on the current roadway network, upon which project impacts are measured.
- **Existing Plus Project Conditions** – Reflects changes in travel conditions associated with implementation of the proposed project.
- **Cumulative Plus Project Conditions** – Analyzes conditions for a cumulative scenario, which includes reasonably foreseeable land uses, planned transportation improvement projects, and proposed project implementation. Refer to “Cumulative Impacts” section for a discussion of specific assumptions for this scenario.

### 3.12.2 Environmental Setting

This section describes the environmental setting, which is the baseline scenario upon which project-specific impacts are evaluated. The baseline for the traffic study represents conditions based on field observations conducted in November 2015. The environmental setting for transportation includes baseline descriptions for the roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and rail systems.

#### Roadway System

**Figure 3.12-2** illustrates the study roadway facilities including the number and direction of travel lanes, as well as roadway classifications. The study area is located within the River District Specific Plan area in the City of Sacramento. This area is located between Interstate 5 and State Route 160, which provide regional access to the project site. Key roadways that comprise the regional and local roadway system that would serve trips associated with the proposed project are described below. It should be noted that the 2035 General Plan Mobility Element includes the proposed realignment of Richards Boulevard and North 12th Street in the immediate vicinity of the project site. These realignments are also described below.

- **Interstate 5 (I-5)** is a north-south freeway traversing the length of California and into Oregon and Washington. Within the study area, I-5 runs along the western edge of downtown Sacramento generally paralleling the Sacramento River, and serves as a vital link between the primarily residential neighborhoods to the north and south of Downtown and the Central Business District. The closest interchange on I-5 to the project site is located at Richards Boulevard, approximately 1 mile west of the proposed project.
- **Lincoln Highway (SR 160)** is an east-west state highway connecting the 16th Street Bridge over the American River to Business 80, also known as the Capital City Freeway. State Route 160 begins just northeast of the project site, and provides a key connection across the American River. Westbound SR 160 traffic feeds into North 12th Street, which provides direct access to the project site, while North 16th Street feeds into eastbound SR 160.
- **Richards Boulevard** extends east from its interchange at I-5 as a four-lane arterial, terminating at the North 12th Street/North 16th Street/SR 160 at-grade signalized intersection. This facility provides access into downtown (via 7th Street), while also serving a variety of industrial, office,



SOURCE: Fehr & Peers

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**Figure 3.12-2**  
Roadway Facilities

and residential uses in the area. Its posted speed limit ranges from 35 to 40 mph depending on location. Richards Boulevard features on-street bicycle lanes on both sides of the roadway west of Vine Street.

As shown on Figure M4A of the 2035 General Plan Mobility Element, Richards Boulevard east of Dos Rios Street would be realigned slightly south and extended further east to Business 80 (Capital City Freeway). This realignment and extension would be a 4-lane arterial bordering the project site on its north. It would create study intersections 14 through 16 listed above. The existing segment of Richards Boulevard east of Vine Street would be re-designated as an extension of Vine Street, which would then terminate at its intersection with North 16th Street.

- **North B Street** is an east-west four-lane roadway, running generally parallel to Richards Boulevard between Bannon Street and just east of North 16th Street. The roadway has Class II on-street bicycle lanes on both sides between North 7th Street and North 16th Street. West of North 7th Street, it is a two-lane undivided street with a posted speed limit of 35 mph. East of North 7th Street, it consists of two westbound lanes and one eastbound lane, widening to two undivided lanes in each direction from west of North 10th Street to North 12th Street. It has a posted speed limit of 35 mph.
- **North 7th Street** is a two-lane north-south roadway that connects the study area to Downtown Sacramento, and features an undercrossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks. Between G Street and North B Street, it has one lane in each direction with a posted speed limit of 35 mph. Between North B Street and Richards Boulevard, two northbound lanes and one southbound lane are present. Light rail trains operate on this roadway between G Street and Richards Boulevard. Between Richards Boulevard and North B Street, the Green Line Light Rail runs at-grade in mixed-flow traffic for northbound service and in a dedicated lane for southbound service.
- **North 12th Street** is four-lane one-way road that travels southbound, connecting SR 160 WB to Downtown Sacramento. South of the study area, North 12th Street traverses the UPRR tracks via an undercrossing and continues into Downtown. Though North 12th Street is one-way, the Sacramento Regional Transit (RT) Blue Line provides bidirectional service along the eastern side of the roadway, fully separated from vehicular traffic north of Sproule Avenue, and partially in mixed-flow traffic south of Sproule Avenue (southbound service operates in mixed-flow, while northbound service operates in dedicated right-of-way). The roadway forms a couplet with North 16th Street, and has a posted speed limit of 35 mph.

Figure M4A of the 2035 General Plan Mobility Element shows the current SR 160 southbound approach to intersection 7 realigned to the west at intersection 13 listed above, feeding into the realigned North 12th Street. The Mobility Element shows North 12th Street realigned to the west along the existing footprint of Sunbeam Avenue from its existing intersection with Richards Boulevard (future Vine Street) on the north end to the intersection of North 12th Street/Sproule Avenue to the south.

- **North 16th Street** is a four-lane one-way road that travels northbound and feeds into eastbound SR 160 and runs along the eastern edge of the study area. South of the study area, North 16th Street connects to Downtown Sacramento via an undercrossing of the UPRR tracks. The roadway forms a couplet with North 12th Street, and has a posted speed limit of 35 mph.

## Truck Routes

All federal and state highways within the City of Sacramento have been designated as truck routes by Caltrans, including I-5 and SR 160 within the study area. The City identified 31 two-way streets as City truck routes in a 1983 resolution, in addition to all one-way streets (City of Sacramento, 2017). Within the study area, the following streets are considered City truck routes:

- Richards Boulevard
- North B Street
- North 7th Street
- North 10th Street
- North 12th Street
- North 16th Street

### 3.12.3 Methodology

Traffic operations at all study intersections were analyzed for weekday AM and PM peak-hour conditions using procedures and methodologies contained in the Highway Capacity Manual (Transportation Research Board, 2010) for calculating delay at intersections. These methodologies were applied using the SimTraffic software program, which considers the effects of lane utilization, turn pocket storage lengths, upstream/downstream queue spillbacks, coordinated signal timings, pedestrian crossing activity, and other conditions on intersection and overall corridor operations. Utilization of SimTraffic microsimulation analysis is appropriate given the presence of coordinated signal timing plans, close spacing of signalized intersections, and overall levels of traffic and peak-hour congestion within the study area. Reported results are based on an average of 10 runs. The following procedures and assumptions were applied in the development of the SimTraffic model:

- Roadway geometric data were gathered using aerial photographs and field observations.
- Peak-hour traffic volumes were entered into the model according to the peak hour of the study area.
- The peak-hour factor (PHF) was set at 1.0, in accordance with City of Sacramento Traffic Impact Study Guidelines.
- The counted pedestrian and bicycle volumes were entered into the model according to the peak-hour measurements.
- Signal phasing and timings were based on existing signal timing plans provided by the City of Sacramento and field observations.
- Speeds for the model network were based on the posted speed limits.

Each study roadway facility was analyzed using the concept of Level of Service (LOS). LOS is a qualitative measure of traffic operating conditions whereby a letter grade, from A (the best) to F (the worst), is assigned. These grades represent the perspective of drivers and are an indication of the comfort and convenience associated with driving. In general, LOS A represents free-flow conditions with no congestion, and LOS F represents severe congestion and delay under stop-and-go conditions. **Table 3.12-1** displays the delay range associated with each LOS category for signalized and unsignalized intersections.

**TABLE 3.12-1  
INTERSECTION LEVEL OF SERVICE DEFINITIONS**

Level of Service	Average Control Delay (seconds/vehicle) <sup>1</sup>	
	Signalized	Unsignalized
A	0 – 10.0	0 – 10.0
B	10.1 – 20.0	10.1 – 15.0
C	20.1 – 35.0	15.1 – 25.0
D	35.1 – 55.0	25.1 – 35.0
E	55.1 – 80.0	35.1 – 50.0
F	> 80.0	> 50.0

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Control delay includes initial deceleration delay, queue move-up time, stopped delay, and acceleration delay based on Highway Capacity Manual (Transportation Research Board, 2010).

SOURCE: Fehr & Peers, 2017.

For signalized intersections, the LOS is based on the average delay experienced by all vehicles passing through the intersection. For side-street stop controlled intersections, the delay and LOS for the worst-case movement is reported along with the average delay for the entire intersection.

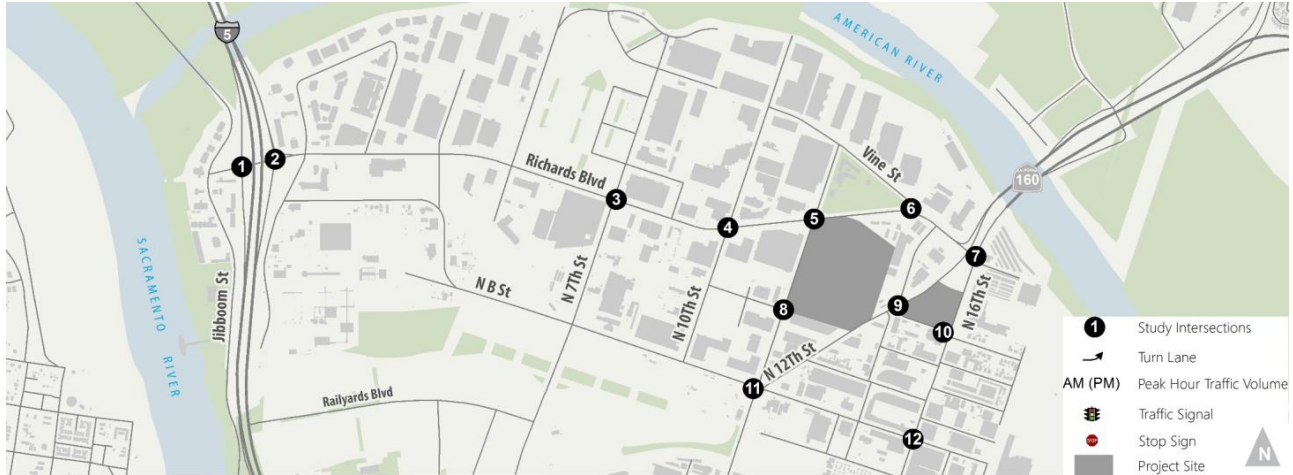
### Traffic Counts

Traffic counts were collected at the study intersections on Thursday, April 3, 2014; Wednesday, May 20, 2015; Wednesday, October 28, 2015, or on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 during the AM (7-9) and PM (4-6) peak periods. During all counts, weather conditions were generally dry, no unusual traffic patterns were observed, and local schools including the Twin Rivers Unified School District and Sacramento City Unified School District were in full session. In addition to collecting vehicle turning movements at the study intersections, all counts included pedestrian and bicycle activity.

**Figure 3.12-3** shows the existing AM and PM peak-hour intersection turning movement volumes, traffic controls, and lane configurations. In general, the AM peak hour within the study area occurred from 7:30 to 8:30, and the PM peak hour occurred from 4:30 to 5:30.

### Existing Levels of Service

**Table 3.12-2** summarizes the existing peak-hour intersection operations at the study intersections (refer to **Appendix D** for detailed calculations). As shown, all of the study intersections operate with an average of LOS D or better during both the AM and PM peak hours, except for the intersection of North 16th Street/Sproule Avenue/Basler Street, which operates at LOS E during the PM peak hour. The higher delay at this location during the PM peak hour is primarily due to queue spillback along northbound North 16th Street from the Richards Boulevard/North 12th Street/North 16th Street intersection. During the PM peak hour, North 16th Street experiences heavy commuter traffic flows leaving Downtown Sacramento and traveling north through the study area to access SR 160.



1. Richards Blvd/I-5 SB Ramps	2. Richards Blvd/I-5 NB Ramps	3. Richards Blvd/N 7th St	4. Richards Blvd/N 10th St
<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>I-5 SB Ramps</p> <p>333 (272) 12 (69) 655 (307)</p> <p>230 (528) 268 (664)</p> <p>361 (692) 45 (53)</p>	<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>I-5 NB Ramps</p> <p>292 (790) 448 (1,133)</p> <p>156 (420) 860 (579)</p> <p>50 (59) 8 (10) 854 (425)</p>	<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>N 7th St</p> <p>26 (92) 9 (67) 6 (53)</p> <p>15 (11) 577 (1,092) 231 (114)</p> <p>137 (11) 908 (827) 112 (83)</p> <p>32 (115) 41 (8) 34 (134)</p>	<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>N 10th St</p> <p>27 (134) 8 (63) 9 (88)</p> <p>51 (18) 880 (973) 15 (7)</p> <p>134 (35) 779 (926) 35 (53)</p> <p>16 (81) 32 (5) 12 (19)</p>
5. Richards Blvd/Dos Rios St	6. Richards Blvd/Vine St	7. Richards Blvd/N 12th St/N 16th St	8. Dos Rios St/N D St
<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>Dos Rios St</p> <p>20 (26) 11 (9) 41 (30)</p> <p>27 (6) 904 (949) 27 (18)</p> <p>26 (13) 746 (993) 28 (27)</p> <p>22 (23) 7 (5) 27 (30)</p>	<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>Vine St</p> <p>7 (9) 19 (29)</p> <p>94 (33) 966 (973)</p> <p>9 (11) 827 (1,059)</p>	<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>N 12th St N 16th St</p> <p>953 (897) 2,325 (1,635)</p> <p>2 (8) 1 (4) 0 (0)</p> <p>749 (778) 20 (117)</p> <p>65 (61) 1,083 (3,852) 3 (8)</p>	<p>Dos Rios St</p> <p>N D St</p> <p>12 (5) 52 (41) 5 (7)</p> <p>7 (7) 1 (2) 1 (2)</p> <p>4 (10) 0 (4) 7 (12)</p> <p>4 (9) 31 (38) 3 (2)</p>
9. N 12th St/Sunbeam Ave/Sproule Ave	10. N 16th St/Sproule Ave/Basler St	11. N 12th St/N B St/Dos Rios St	12. N 16th St/N B St
<p>N 12th St</p> <p>Sunbeam Ave Sproule Ave</p> <p>33 (65) 25 (158)</p> <p>8 (7) 2,298 (1,666) 39 (79)</p> <p>16 (31) 13 (13)</p>	<p>Sproule Ave</p> <p>N 16th St Basler St</p> <p>10 (15) 8 (5)</p> <p>54 (232) 9 (5)</p> <p>19 (44) 1,087 (3,674) 5 (5)</p>	<p>N B St</p> <p>Dos Rios St N 12th St</p> <p>9 (7) 19 (29) 2 (5)</p> <p>6 (2) 142 (55) 2,260 (1,612) 18 (36)</p> <p>24 (14) 85 (78) 30 (53)</p> <p>8 (3) 47 (215) 47 (82)</p>	<p>N B St</p> <p>N 16th St</p> <p>2 (3) 6 (10)</p> <p>47 (259) 6 (3)</p> <p>121 (48) 1,122 (3,349) 6 (2)</p>

SOURCE: Fehr & Peers Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 3.12-3**  
Peak Hour Traffic Volumes and Lane Configurations  
Existing Conditions

**TABLE 3.12-2  
INTERSECTION OPERATIONS – EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Intersection	Control Type	Peak Hour	Level of Service	Average Delay <sup>1</sup> in seconds
1. Richards Boulevard/I-5 SB Ramps	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B C	18 24
2. Richards Boulevard/I-5 NB Ramps	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B C	16 20
3. Richards Boulevard/N 7th Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	C C	25 25
4. Richards Boulevard/N 10th Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B A	13 10
5. Richards Boulevard/Dos Rios Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B A	12 9
6. Richards Boulevard/Vine Street	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	A (D) A (E)	5 (27) 6 (48)
7. Richards Boulevard/N 12th Street/ N 16th Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	C D	28 53
8. Dos Rios Street/N D Street	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	A (A) A (A)	1 (4) 2 (4)
9. N 12th Street/Sunbeam Avenue/Sproule Avenue	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B B	13 11
10. N 16th Street/Sproule Avenue/ Basler Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B E	12 63
11. N 12th Street/N B Street/ Dos Rios Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B B	17 19
12. N 16th Street/N B Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	A B	7 15

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> For signalized and all-way stop controlled intersections, average intersection delay is reported in seconds per vehicle for the overall intersection. For side-street stop controlled intersections, the delay is reported in seconds per vehicle for the overall intersection and the worst movement (in parentheses).

SOURCE: Fehr & Peers, 2017.

## Existing Freeway Off-Ramp Queues

**Table 3.12-3** summarizes the maximum queues at the two study freeway off-ramps. As shown, both the I-5 Northbound and Southbound off-ramps at Richards Boulevard remain within their storage areas (measured from the intersection stop bars to the freeway gore point) during the AM and PM peak hours.



**TABLE 3.12-3  
 OFF-RAMP QUEUING – EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Location	Available Storage	Peak Hour	Maximum Queue
Interstate 5 SB Off-Ramp at Richards Boulevard	1,050 feet	AM PM	300 feet 200 feet
Interstate 5 NB Off-Ramp at Richards Boulevard	1,000 feet	AM PM	350 feet 150 feet

NOTES: Maximum queue length is based upon output from SimTraffic microsimulation software, rounded up to nearest 25 feet.

SOURCE: Fehr & Peers, 2017.

## Bicycle System

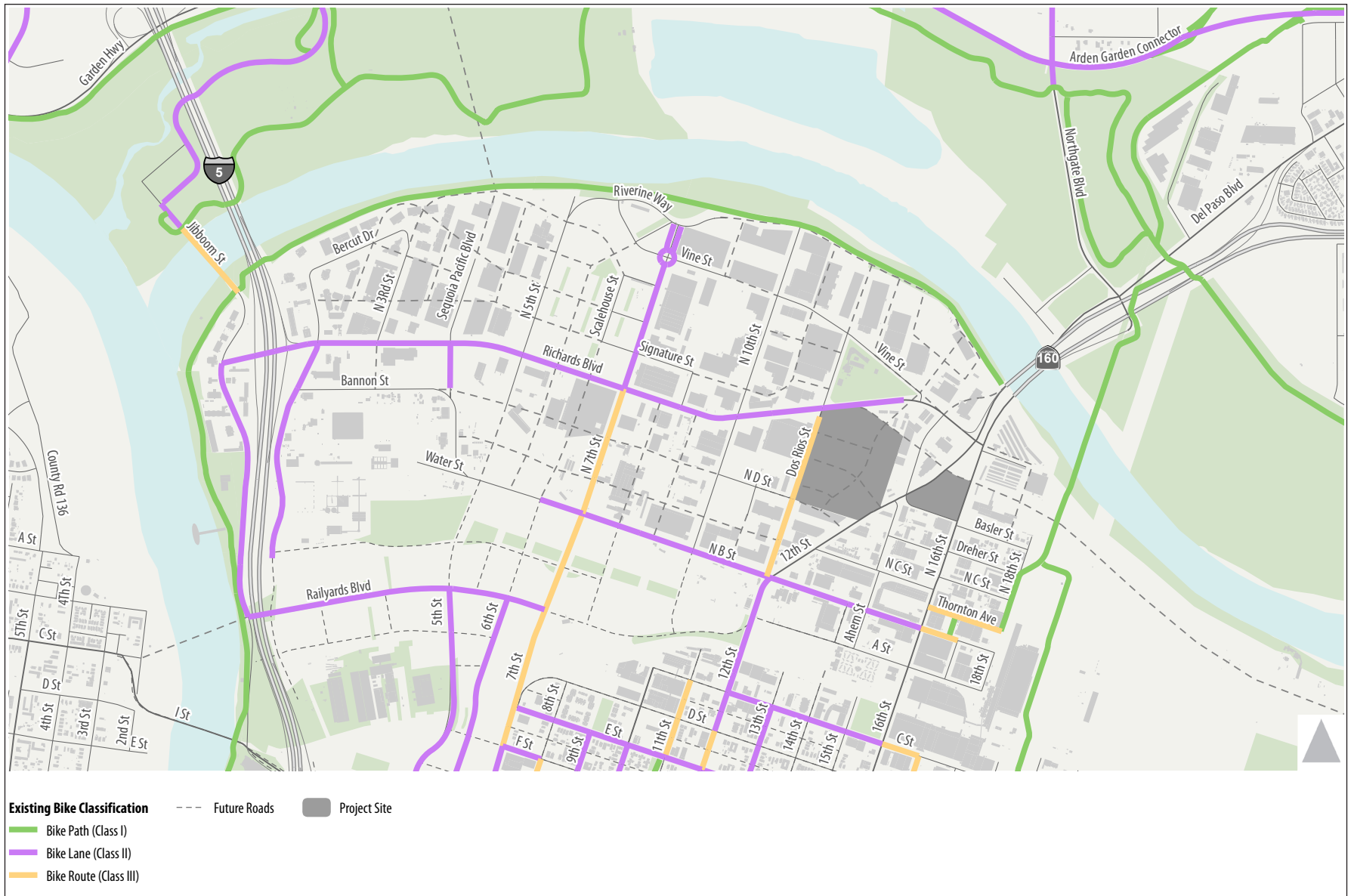
Figure 3.12-4 displays existing bicycle facilities located in the vicinity of the proposed project site based upon data provided by the City of Sacramento and field observations. Several roadways within the study area feature bicycle facilities. The following types of bicycle facilities currently exist within the study area:

- **Multi-use paths (Class I)** – are paved trails that are separated from roadways and allow for shared use by both cyclists and pedestrians.
- **On-street bike lanes (Class II)** – are designated for use by bicycles by striping, pavement legends, and signs.
- **On-street bike routes (Class III)** – are designated by signage for shared bicycle use with vehicles, but do not necessarily include any additional pavement width.

Streets with Class II bicycle lanes within the study area include Richards Boulevard and North B Street. Major Class I off-street bikeways within the study area include the Two Rivers Bike Trail, which runs along the south bank of the American River from SR 160 to the confluence of the Sacramento River, where it connects with the Sacramento River Bike Trail. The Sacramento North Bike Trail also runs north-south along the eastern edge of the study area, and provides a connection between the study area and the American River Bike Trail (Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail) via a bridge over the American River. The American River Bike Trail continues eastward along the north bank of the American River into the suburbs of Sacramento before terminating in the City of Folsom.

## Pedestrian System

Currently, there are pedestrian sidewalks on both sides of most streets within the study area, exceptions including the east side of North 12th Street (for the light rail tracks) and the north side of Sproule Avenue, or on either side of Ahern Street. There are pedestrian crossings for nearly all legs at signalized study intersections, with exceptions including the east leg of Richards Boulevard/I-5 Southbound Ramps, the east leg of Richards Boulevard/I-5 Northbound Ramps, the east leg of Richards Boulevard/North 10th Street, the north leg of Richards Boulevard/North 12th Street/North 16th Street, the southeast leg of North 12th Street/Sunbeam Avenue/Sproule Avenue, and the north leg of North B Street/North 16th Street.



SOURCE: Fehr & Peers

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**Figure 3.12-4**  
Bicycle Facilities

Although the study area has these pedestrian facilities in place, field observations and counts indicate relatively low demand for these facilities. This is due in part to surrounding land uses, which are mostly industrial and service-related.

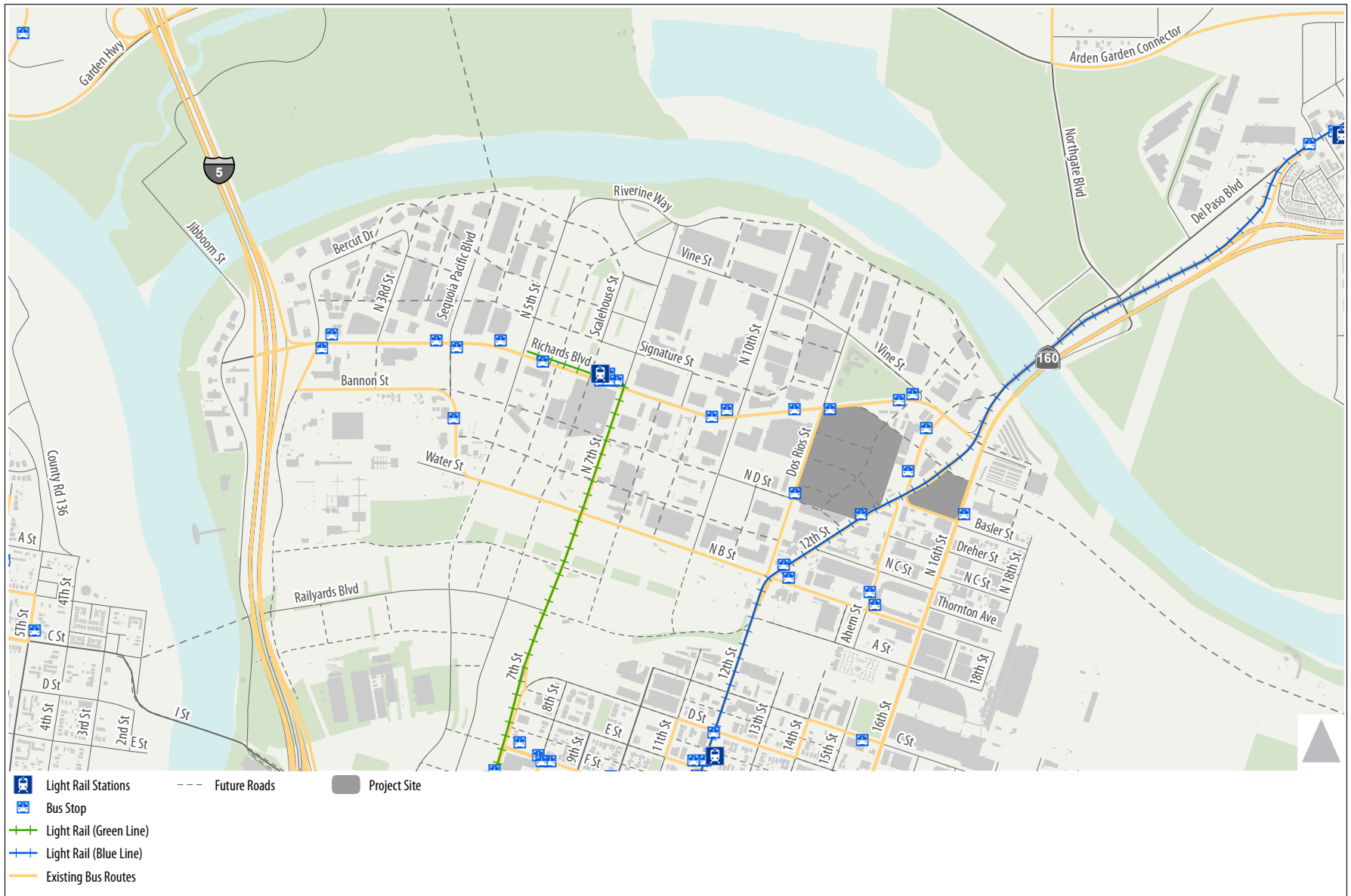
## Transit System

Local transit service within the study area is provided by Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT), which operates 69 bus routes and 42.9 miles of light rail on three lines (Blue Line, Gold Line, and Green Line) throughout a 418-square-mile service area. Buses and light rail run 365 days a year, using 87 light rail vehicles, 211 buses, and 29 shuttle vans. RT's annual ridership has steadily increased on both its bus and light rail systems from 14 million passengers in 1987 to more than 25 million passengers in Fiscal Year 2016. Currently, weekday light rail ridership averages about 34,000, and weekday bus ridership is approximately 38,500 passengers per day.

Light rail service operates on 15-minute headways during the day and 30-minute headways in the evening and on weekends and holidays. In the area of the proposed project site, the RT Blue Line operates from about 4 AM through 1:00 AM Monday through Friday, from about 4:30 AM through 1:00 AM on Saturday, and from about 5 AM through 11:00 PM on Sunday and holidays. **Figure 3.12-5** displays the locations of existing transit facilities within the study area. The project site is currently located approximately 0.7 mile from the nearest light rail station on the RT Blue Line (Alkali Flat/La Valentina Station) to the south and approximately 0.4 mile from the Township 9 Station on the RT Green Line to the west. As previously discussed, the proposed project includes construction of a new light rail station on the Blue Line at the intersection of Sproule Avenue/Sunbeam Avenue/North 12th Street. The Blue Line currently travels 1.7 miles between the Alkali Flat/La Valentina Station and the Globe Station to the north without a stop.

Multiple RT bus lines also serve the study area, including Route 11, Route 15, and Route 33. Routes 15 and 33 both have stops adjacent to the project site. Fixed-route bus service operates on headways ranging from 15 to 75 minutes, depending upon the route. These routes are described in detail below:

- **Route 11** connects Club Center Drive in Natomas to the north of the project site and Downtown Sacramento to the south. It runs along Richards Boulevard and has stops at the North 7th Street/Richards Boulevard/Township 9 Light Rail Station and the Sacramento Valley Station, all to the west of the project site. Stops along 7th Street are the closest to the site. On weekdays, Route 11 operates between 6 AM and 8 PM and on Saturdays it operates between 7 AM and 8 PM. There is no Sunday or holiday service on this route. Weekday peak headways are 30 minutes, while off-peak and Saturday headways are 60 minutes.
- **Route 15** provides connections between the Watt/I-80 Light Rail Station to the northeast and the 8th Street and O Street Light Rail Station downtown to the south. Its weekday operation runs from 5:30 AM to 9:30 PM, the Saturday operation runs from 7 AM to 9 PM, and the Sunday/holiday operation runs from 8 AM to 9:30 PM. Route 15 runs along Richards Boulevard and has a stop at the Richards Boulevard/Dos Rios Street intersection at the northwest corner of the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex (i.e., project site). Weekday headways are 30 minutes and Saturday/Sunday/holiday headways are 60 minutes.



SOURCE: Fehr & Peers

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**Figure 3.12-5**  
Existing Transit Facilities

- **Route 29** is a commuter route from Carmichael to Downtown and makes stops along North 12th Street and 16th Street. This route makes two AM and two PM trips on weekdays only.
- **Route 33** loops around much of the Downtown area and the River District, connecting the two neighborhoods via North 12th Street and Dos Rios Street. This route operates between 6:30 AM and 5:30 PM on weekdays, with no service on Saturday, Sunday, or holidays. Route 33 loops around the existing Twin Rivers site and serves a stop at Richards Boulevard/Dos Rios Street at the northwest corner of the site. Route 33 runs every 20 to 30 minutes. Route 33 was created primarily to serve the River District, and particularly the Twin Rivers neighborhood, in the absence of a light rail station on the Blue Line.

## Light Rail Crossings

Two light rail tracks run through the study area. Both tracks run at-grade in the street with traffic crossing multiple City streets. Several signalized intersections have separate traffic signal phases to facilitate light rail train movements through the intersections or to provide priority for on-coming trains. Of the 12 existing study intersections, four have light rail trains using the intersection. The intersections of North 12th Street/North B Street/Dos Rios Street, North 12th Street/Sunbeam Avenue/Sproule Avenue, and Richards Boulevard/North 7th Street are controlled using traffic signals and do not use crossing gates. The study intersection of Richards Boulevard/North 12th Street/North 16th Street includes crossing gates, in addition to traffic signals programmed to provide vehicle traffic clearing.

### 3.12.4 Applicable Policies and Regulations

#### Federal Regulations

There are no federal regulations specifically addressing transportation facilities or services which would apply to the proposed project.

#### State Regulations

According to the Guide for the Preparation of Traffic Impact Studies (Caltrans 2002), if a freeway facility currently operates at an unacceptable LOS (e.g., LOS F), then the existing LOS should be maintained. A project impact occurs if the addition of project trips exacerbates existing LOS F conditions and leads to a perceptible increase in density on freeway mainline segments or ramp junctions, or a perceptible increase in service volumes in a weaving area. In addition, a project impact occurs when the addition of project trips causes a queue on the off-ramp approach to a ramp terminal intersection to extend beyond its storage area and onto the freeway mainline.

Potential safety impacts related to freeway off-ramp queues extending from study intersections onto the freeway mainline are evaluated.

#### Regional Plans and Programs

SACOG is responsible for the preparation of, and updates to, the 2016 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS, SACOG 2016) and the corresponding

Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for the six-county Sacramento region. The MTP/SCS provides a 20-year transportation vision and corresponding list of projects. The MTIP identifies short-term projects (7-year horizon) in more detail. The current MTP/SCS was adopted by the SACOG board in 2016.

## Local Plans and Programs

### ***Sacramento 2035 General Plan***

On March 3, 2015, the City of Sacramento City Council adopted the 2035 General Plan. The Mobility Element of the City of Sacramento's 2035 General Plan outlines goals and policies that coordinate the transportation and circulation system with planned land uses. The following LOS Policy is relevant to this study:

***Policy M 1.2.2:*** The City shall implement a flexible Level of Service (LOS) standard, which will measure traffic operations against the vehicle LOS thresholds established in this policy. The City will measure vehicle LOS based on the methodology contained in the latest version of the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) published by the Transportation Research Board. The City's specific vehicle LOS thresholds have been defined based on community values with respect to modal priorities, land use context, economic development and environmental resources and constraints. As such, the City has established variable LOS thresholds appropriate for the unique characteristics of the City's diverse neighborhoods and communities. The City will strive to operate the roadway network at LOS D or better for vehicles during typical weekday conditions including the AM and PM peak hour with certain exceptions mapped on Figure M-1 (and listed in the actual General Plan document).

- a. Core Area (Central City Community Plan Area) – LOS F allowed
- b. Priority Investment Areas – LOS F allowed
- c. LOS E roadways (11 distinct segments listed). LOS E is also allowed on all roadway segments and associated intersections located within ½ mile walking distance of a light rail stations.
- d. LOS F roadways (24 distinct segments listed)
- e. If maintaining the above LOS standards would, in the City's judgment, be infeasible and/or conflict with the achievement of other goals, LOS E or F conditions may be accepted provided that provisions are made to improve the overall system, promote non-vehicular transportation and/or implement vehicle trip reduction measures as part of a development project or a city-initiated project. Additionally, the City shall not expand the physical capacity of the planned roadway network to accommodate a project beyond that identified in Figure M4 and M4A (2035 General Plan Roadway Classification and Lanes).

As shown on Figure M1 (Vehicle Level of Service Exception Areas) of the 2035 City of Sacramento General Plan, the project site is situated within one of three Tier 1 Priority Investment Areas. The project site is also located within the Core Area, which is bounded by the Sacramento River, American River, Broadway, and Alhambra Boulevard. All study intersections are located within the Core Areas as well as a Priority Investment Area.

The Mobility Element of the City of Sacramento's 2035 General Plan also includes the following policies related to connectivity, walking, biking, transit, and parking that are relevant to this study:

**Goal M 1.2.1: Multimodal System.** Increase multimodal accessibility (i.e., the ability to complete desired personal or economic transactions via a range of transportation modes and routes) throughout the city and region with an emphasis on walking, bicycling, and riding transit.

***Policy M 2.1.5: Housing and Destination Connections.*** The City shall require new subdivision and large-scale developments to include safe pedestrian walkways that provide direct links between streets and major destinations such as transit stops and stations, schools, parks, and shopping centers.

***Policy M 3.1.1: Transit for All.*** The City shall support a well-designed transit system that provides accessibility and mobility for all Sacramento residents, workers, and visitors. The City shall enhance bicycle and pedestrian access to stations.

***Policy M 3.1.14: Direct Access to Stations.*** The City shall ensure that development projects located in the Central City and within ½ mile walking distance of existing and planned light rail stations provide direct pedestrian and bicycle access to the station area, to the extent feasible.

***Policy M 3.1.18: Developer Contributions.*** Consistent with the City's established transportation impact analysis and mitigation guidelines, the City shall require developer contributions for bus facilities and services and related improvements.

**Goal M 4.3: Neighborhood Traffic.** Enhance the quality of life within existing neighborhoods through the use of neighborhood traffic management techniques, while recognizing the City's desire to provide a grid system that creates a high level of connectivity.

***Policy M 4.3.1: Neighborhood Traffic Management.*** Enhance the quality of life within existing neighborhoods through the use of neighborhood traffic management and traffic calming techniques, while recognizing the City's desire to provide a grid system that creates a high level of connectivity.

**Goal M 5.1: Integrated Bicycle System.** Create and maintain a safe, comprehensive, and integrated bicycle system and set of support facilities throughout the city that encourage bicycling that is accessible to all. Provide bicycle facilities, programs, and services and implement other transportation and land use policies as necessary to achieve the City's bicycle mode share goals as documented in the Bicycle Master Plan.

***Policy M 5.1.1: Bicycle Master Plan.*** The City shall maintain and implement a Bicycle Master Plan that carries out the goals and policies of the General Plan. All new development shall be consistent with the applicable provisions of the Bicycle Master Plan.

***Policy M 5.1.2: Appropriate Bikeway Facilities.*** The City shall provide bikeway facilities that are appropriate to the street classifications and type, number of lanes, traffic volumes, and speed on all rights-of-way.

***Policy M 5.1.5: Motorists, Bicyclists, and Pedestrian Conflicts.*** The City shall develop safe and convenient bikeways, streets, roadways, and intersections that reduce conflicts between bicyclists and motor vehicles on streets between bicyclists and pedestrians on multi-use trails and sidewalks, and between all users at intersections.

**Goal M 6.1: Managed Parking.** Provide and manage parking such that it balances the citywide goals of economic development, livable neighborhoods, sustainability, and public safety with the compact multi-modal urban environment prescribed by the General Plan.

***Policy M 6.1.1: Appropriate Parking.*** The City shall manage public parking and regulate the provision and management of private parking to support parking availability and auto access to neighborhoods across the city, with consideration for access to existing and funded transit service, mixed-use development, and shared parking opportunities.

### 3.12.5 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR

#### **2035 General Plan Master EIR**

Transportation and circulation were discussed in the Master EIR in Chapter 4.12. Various modes of travel were included in the analysis, including vehicular, transit, bicycle, pedestrian and aviation components. The analysis included consideration of roadway capacity and identification of levels of service, and effects of the 2035 General Plan on the public transportation system. Provisions of the 2035 General Plan provide substantial guidance with respect to transportation and traffic. Goals and policies applicable to the project area include the following:

***Policy M 1.2.2: Level of Service Standard.*** The City shall implement a flexible Level of Service (LOS) standards, which will measure traffic operations against the vehicle LOS thresholds established in this policy. The City will measure vehicle LOS based on the methodology contained in the latest version of the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) published by the Transportation Research Board. The City's specific vehicle LOS thresholds have been defined based on community values with respect to modal priorities, land use context, economic development and environmental resources and constraints. As such, the City has established variable LOS thresholds appropriate for the unique characteristics of the City's diverse neighborhoods and communities. The City will strive to operate the roadway network at LOS D or better for vehicles during typical weekday conditions including the AM and PM peak hour with certain exceptions mapped on Figure M-1 (and listed in the actual General Plan document).

- a. Core Area (Central City Community Plan Area) – LOS F allowed
- b. Priority Investment Areas – LOS F allowed
- c. LOS E roadways (11 distinct segments listed). LOS E is also allowed on all roadway segments and associated intersections located within ½ mile walking distance of a light rail station.
- d. LOS F roadways (24 distinct segments listed)
- e. If maintaining the above LOS standards would, in the City's judgment, be infeasible and/or conflict with the achievement of other goals, LOS E or F conditions may be



accepted provided that provisions are made to improve the overall system, promote non-vehicular transportation and/or implement vehicle trip reduction measures as part of a development project or a city-initiated project. Additionally, the City shall not expand the physical capacity of the planned roadway network to accommodate a project beyond that identified in Figure M4 and M4a (2035 General Plan Roadway Classification and Lanes).

According to Figure M1 (Vehicle Level of Service Exception Areas) of the 2035 City of Sacramento General Plan, the Core Area is bounded by the Sacramento River, American River, Broadway, and Alhambra Boulevard. All study intersections are located within the Core Areas as well as a Priority Investment Area.

The Mobility Element of the City of Sacramento's 2035 General Plan also includes the following policies related to connectivity, walking, biking, transit, and parking that are relevant to this study:

**Goal M 1.1: Comprehensive Transportation System.** Provide a multimodal transportation system that supports the social, economic, and environmental vision, goals, and objectives of the City, and is effectively planned, funded, managed, operated, and maintained.

***Policy M 2.1.5: Housing and Destination Connections.*** The City shall require new subdivision and large-scale developments to include safe pedestrian walkways that provide direct links between streets and major destinations such as transit stops and stations, schools, parks, and shopping centers.

***Policy M 3.1.1: Transit for All.*** The City shall support a well-designed transit system that provides accessibility and mobility for all Sacramento residents, workers, and visitors. The City shall enhance bicycle and pedestrian access to stations.

***Policy M 3.1.14: Direct Access to Stations.*** The City shall ensure that development projects located in the Central City and within ½ mile walking distance of existing and planned light rail stations provide direct pedestrian and bicycle access to the station area, to the extent feasible.

***Policy M 3.1.18: Developer Contributions.*** Consistent with the City's established transportation impact analysis and mitigation guidelines, the City shall require developer contributions for bus facilities and services and related improvements.

**Goal M 4.3: Neighborhood Traffic.** Enhance the quality of life within existing neighborhoods through the use of neighborhood traffic management techniques, while recognizing the City's desire to provide a grid system that creates a high level of connectivity.

***Policy M 4.3.1: Neighborhood Traffic Management.*** Enhance the quality of life within existing neighborhoods through the use of neighborhood traffic management and traffic calming techniques, while recognizing the City's desire to provide a grid system that creates a high level of connectivity.

**Goal M 5.1: Integrated Bicycle System.** Create and maintain a safe, comprehensive, and integrated bicycle system and set of support facilities throughout the city that encourage bicycling that is accessible to all. Provide bicycle facilities, programs, and services and

implement other transportation and land use policies as necessary to achieve the City's bicycle mode share goals as documented in the Bicycle Master Plan.

***Policy M 5.1.1: Bicycle Master Plan.*** The City shall maintain and implement a Bicycle Master Plan that carries out the goals and policies of the General Plan. All new development shall be consistent with the applicable provisions of the Bicycle Master Plan.

***Policy M 5.1.2: Appropriate Bikeway Facilities.*** The City shall provide bikeway facilities that are appropriate to the street classifications and type, number of lanes, traffic volumes, and speed on all rights-of-way.

***Policy M 5.1.5: Motorists, Bicyclists, and Pedestrian Conflicts.*** The City shall develop safe and convenient bikeways, streets, roadways, and intersections that reduce conflicts between bicyclists and motor vehicles on streets between bicyclists and pedestrians on multi-use trails and sidewalks, and between all users at intersections.

**Goal M 6.1: Managed Parking.** Provide and manage parking such that it balances the citywide goals of economic development, livable neighborhoods, sustainability, and public safety with the compact multi-modal urban environment prescribed by the General Plan.

***Policy M 6.1.1: Appropriate Parking.*** The City shall manage public parking and regulate the provision and management of private parking to support parking availability and auto access to neighborhoods across the city, with consideration for access to existing and funded transit service, mixed-use development, and shared parking opportunities.

While the General Plan includes numerous policies that direct the development of the City's transportation system, the Master EIR concluded that the General Plan development would result in significant and unavoidable effects. See Impacts 4.12-3 (roadway segments in adjacent communities, and Impact 4.12-4 (freeway segments).

## **River District Specific Plan EIR**

The River District Specific Plan (RDSP) EIR evaluated a number of transportation-related improvements that would be carried out as part of the RDSP's implementation. These included the realignment of Richards Boulevard and the construction of the proposed Dos Rios light rail station.

While the RDSP EIR included numerous policies and mitigations that direct the development of the area's transportation system, the EIR concluded that the RDSP development would result in significant and unavoidable effects. See Impact 5.10-1 (intersections in 2015), Impact 5.10-2 (roadway segments in 2015), Impact 5.10-3 (freeway mainline segments in 2015), Impact 5.10-4 (freeway interchanges in 2015), Impact 5.10-5 (freeway off-ramp queues in 2015), Impact 5.10-10 (intersections in 2035), Impact 5.10-11 (roadway segments in 2035), Impact 5.10-12 (freeway mainline segments in 2035), Impact 5.10-13 (freeway interchanges in 2035), and Impact 5.10-14 (freeway off-ramp queues in 2035).

## 3.12.6 Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

The following impact analysis is presented in two scenarios: Existing Plus Project and Cumulative Plus Project. The Existing Plus Project scenario assesses the potential impact of the project on the existing roadway network and other transportation facilities. This allows for a view of the project impacts alone without contribution of outside influences. The Cumulative Plus Project scenario assessed the project's potential impacts in the context of the future condition. This scenario includes any proposed changes to the existing roadway network and other transportation facilities, such as road realignments, new intersection controls, etc. This cumulative scenario also includes the contribution of any reasonably foreseeable projects which would also add traffic and ridership to area transportation facilities.

### **Standards of Significance**

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to transportation and traffic under CEQA are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, and thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable general plans and previous environmental documents, including the 2035 General Plan Master EIR (City of Sacramento, 2014).

The following describes the significance criteria used to identify project-specific and cumulatively considerable impacts to the transportation and circulation system for the proposed project.

#### ***Intersections***

Impacts to the roadway system are considered significant if:

- The traffic generated by the project degrades the overall roadway system operation to the extent that the project would not be consistent with General Plan Policy M 1.2.2 relating to the City's Level of Service Policy.

General Plan Mobility Element Policy M 1.2.2 sets forth definitions for what is considered an acceptable LOS. As previously discussed, Policy M 1.2.2 applies to the study area roadway facilities as follows:

- All study intersections are located in the Core Area and are governed by Policy M 1.2.2 (a). LOS F is acceptable at these locations during peak hours, provided that the project provides improvements to other parts of the citywide transportation system within the project site vicinity (or within the area affected by the project's vehicular traffic impacts) to improve transportation-system-wide roadway capacity, to make intersection improvements, or to enhance non-auto travel modes in furtherance of the General Plan goals. Road widening or other improvements to road segments are not required.

#### ***Freeway Facilities***

Impacts to the roadway system are considered significant if:

- Project traffic causes off-ramp traffic to queue back to beyond the freeway gore point, or worsens an existing/projected queuing problem on a freeway off-ramp.

### ***Bicycle Facilities***

Impacts to bicycle facilities are considered significant if the proposed project would:

- Adversely affect existing or planned bicycle facilities, or
- Fail to adequately provide for access by bicycle.

### ***Pedestrian Circulation***

Impacts to pedestrian circulation are considered significant if the proposed project would:

- Adversely affect existing or planned pedestrian facilities, or
- Fail to adequately provide for access by pedestrians.

### ***Transit***

Impacts to the transit system are considered significant if the proposed project would:

- Adversely affect public transit operations, or
- Fail to adequately provide access to transit.

### ***Construction-Related Traffic Impacts***

The project would have a temporarily significant impact during construction if it would:

- Degrade an intersection or roadway to an unacceptable level;
- Cause inconveniences to motorists due to prolonged road closures; or
- Result in increased frequency of potential conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

The first significance criterion bullet listed above under “Intersections” is the City’s interpretation of how General Plan Policy M 1.2.2 should be applied in the Core Area and Priority Investment Areas of the City. This policy allows these areas to have intersections that operate at LOS F. However, such conditions should not be detrimental toward other General Plan circulation policies (including but not limited to policies M 1.2.1, 1.2.4, 1.3.3, and 1.3.5), which pertain to providing high-quality transit, walkable neighborhoods and business districts, continuous and connected bikeways, transportation demand management, emergency response, and other circulation considerations. So, while a single intersection operating at LOS F during the peak hour may be considered acceptable, an entire roadway system that experiences severe gridlock, and hampers all modes of travel is generally not considered acceptable. To this end, the evaluation of this significance criterion focuses on the totality of system operations to assess consistency with General Plan Policy M 1.2.2.

## **Department of Housing and Urban Development Evaluation Criteria**

HUD has not promulgated specific regulatory guidance relevant to evaluation of transportation and traffic impacts.

## Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria

FTA has not promulgated specific regulatory guidance relevant to evaluation of transportation and traffic impacts.

## Methods of Analysis

This section describes the analysis techniques, assumptions, and results used to identify potential significant impacts of the proposed project on the transportation system. This section first describes the anticipated travel characteristics of the proposed project. It then presents the expected conditions of the transportation system with the addition of the proposed project.

To analyze impacts to LOS, the City has developed specific policies included in the 2035 General Plan that clearly define acceptable LOS in various areas of the City. The LOS thresholds included in General Plan policy M 1.2.2 are used to evaluate whether traffic associated with the proposed project would result in a significant impact (as stated in the Thresholds of Significance).

All study intersections are within the Core Area of the City and are governed by General Plan Policy M 1.2.2(a). In developing this policy, the City evaluated the benefits of allowing lower levels of service in order to promote infill development within an urbanized high density area of the city that reduces VMT and supports more transportation alternatives, including biking, walking, and transit, as compared to requiring a higher level of service that would accommodate more cars but may also require widening roads and would result in increased vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions. Based on this evaluation, the City determined that LOS F is considered acceptable during peak hours within the Core Area, provided that the project provides improvements to other parts of the citywide transportation system within the project site vicinity (or within the area affected by the project's vehicular traffic impacts) to improve transportation-system-wide roadway capacity, to make intersection improvements, or to enhance non-auto travel modes in furtherance of the General Plan goals. Road widening or other improvements to road segments are not required for roads within the Core Area.

The City's LOS policy was adopted to allow decreased levels of service (e.g. LOS F) in the urbanized Core Area of the City that supports more transportation alternatives and places residents proximate to employment, entertainment, retail and neighborhood centers and thus reduces overall vehicle miles travelled and results in environmental benefits (e.g., improved air quality and reduced GHG emissions).

## Trip Generation

The motor vehicle trip generation of the 218 existing public housing units on the site was measured using traffic counts of all access points to/from the site, collected during the weekday AM and PM peak periods on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. The calculated peak hour trip generation rates, based on this data, are shown in **Table 3.12-4** for the "public housing replacement" units. Note that although the table documents the trip generation of public housing replacement units, they are subtracted from the net trip generation estimate since these units exist today and all trips associated with them would not be considered "new" trips generated by the proposed project.

**TABLE 3-12.4  
PROJECT TRIP GENERATION**

Land Use	Dwelling Units	Trip Rates						AM Peak Hour Trips			PM Peak Hour Trips		
		AM	In %	Out %	PM	In %	Out %	In	Out	Total	In	Out	Total
Public Housing Replacement <sup>1</sup>	218	0.50	40%	60%	0.49	45%	55%	44	65	109	48	59	107
Townhouse (ITE 230) <sup>2</sup>	42	0.62	17%	83%	0.71	67%	33%	4	22	26	20	10	30
Apartment (ITE 220) <sup>2</sup>	250	0.50	20%	80%	0.62	65%	35%	25	101	126	101	54	155
Total External Vehicle Trips								73	188	261	169	123	292
Existing Trips To/From Project Site								-44	-65	-109	-48	-59	-107
<b>Net New External Vehicle Trips</b>								<b>29</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>185</b>

NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Trip generation for the public housing replacement units based on traffic counts conducted for the existing Twin Rivers public housing development.
- <sup>2</sup> Trip generation for the townhouses and apartments follow the methodology identified in the *Trip Generation Handbook 3rd Edition* (ITE, 2014) and from data published in *Trip Generation Manual 9th Edition* (ITE, 2012). The fitted curve equations were used to estimate trips for these residential uses.

SOURCE: Fehr & Peers, 2017.

The trip generation for the remainder of the residential units was conservatively calculated using published equations in the Trip Generation Manual, 9th Edition (Institute of Transportation Engineers, 2012) since the new units would include some market-rate rentals, which may generate trips at a higher rate than the existing public housing units. The trips for the multi-story townhouses and live-work residences were calculated using land use code 230 for Residential Condominium/Townhouse.

The garden apartments and multi-family apartments are represented in the description for land use code 220 for Apartment. Based on the methodology described in the Trip Generation Handbook, 3rd Edition (Institute of Transportation Engineers, 2014), the fitted curve equations for both land use types were used to calculate the project generated trips. As shown in Table 3.12-4, this results in rates that are higher than the measured trip rates during both peak hours, except for the townhouse housing type during the AM peak hour, which is slightly lower than the measured AM peak hour rate of 0.50. Table 3.12-4 summarizes the resulting trip generation of the proposed project.

It should be noted that the trip generation estimate in Table 3.12-4 does not include external vehicle trip adjustments to account for transit, bike, or walk trips beyond the levels that are built in to the ITE rates. Although the proposed project includes the construction of a new light rail station that would serve the residents of the project and the project would likely have higher than average transit usage, the analysis of the proposed project conservatively includes no reduction for transit trips to/from the site, but does account for train movements associated with the proposed light rail station in the intersection operations analysis.

### ***Trip Distribution/Assignment***

The distribution of project trips was estimated using a variety of sources and analytical techniques. The following lists the various sources and analytical techniques used to develop the inbound and outbound trip distribution percentages:

- Project-only traffic assignment using the base year SACMET regional travel demand model.
- Review of existing traffic count data.

**Figures 3.12-6A** and **3.12-6B** show the expected distribution of inbound and outbound project trips for Existing Plus Project conditions. It was necessary to develop separate distributions for inbound/outbound trips due to the number of one-way streets and the location of freeway on- and off-ramps within the study area. It was necessary to develop separate near-term and cumulative distributions due to planned major roadway projects within the study area (refer to Cumulative Conditions section for additional information).

## **Environmental Analysis: Project Impacts**

As noted above, this analysis has been divided into two impact scenarios. Impact questions TRA-1 through TRA-6 address effects attributable to the Existing Plus Project scenario. Impact questions TRA-7 through TRA-12 assess project effects together with future conditions in the study area (e.g., roadway improvements, other projects), referred to as the Cumulative Plus Project scenario.

### ***TRA-1. Would the project have an adverse effect on intersections?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Project trips were assigned to the existing study area intersections (i.e., Intersections 1 through 12) in accordance with the trip generation and distribution calculations discussed above. These project trips were then added to the existing volumes and proposed project driveways (i.e., Intersections 17, 18, 19). **Figure 3.12-7A** and **3.12-7B** shows the resulting volumes at the existing study intersections that represent full build-out of the proposed project.

The existing study intersection LOS were then analyzed under Existing Plus Project conditions, which includes the project, but no changes to land uses or to the transportation system within the study area other than those related to implementation of the proposed project. **Table 3.12-5** summarizes the Existing Plus Project intersection analysis results. Detailed technical calculations are presented in Appendix D.



SOURCE: Fehr & Peers

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 3.12-6A**  
Inbound Trip Distribution -  
Existing Plus Project Conditions





SOURCE: Fehr & Peers

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 3.12-6B**  
 Outbound Trip Distribution -  
 Existing Plus Project Conditions



1. Richards Blvd/I-5 SB Ramps	2. Richards Blvd/I-5 NB Ramps	3. Richards Blvd/N 7th St	4. Richards Blvd/N 10th St
<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>I-5 SB Ramps</p> <p>333 (272) 112 (69) 659 (321)</p> <p>233 (529) 282 (672)</p> <p>361 (695) 45 (53)</p>	<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>I-5 NB Ramps</p> <p>306 (798) 465 (1,142)</p> <p>156 (420) 864 (596)</p> <p>50 (59) 8 (10) 858 (439)</p>	<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>N 7th St</p> <p>26 (92) 9 (67) 6 (53)</p> <p>15 (11) 608 (1,109) 232 (114)</p> <p>137 (11) 916 (858) 112 (83)</p> <p>32 (115) 41 (8) 34 (137)</p>	<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>N 10th St</p> <p>27 (134) 8 (63) 10 (89)</p> <p>52 (18) 911 (990) 15 (7)</p> <p>134 (35) 787 (960) 35 (53)</p> <p>17 (31) 32 (5) 12 (19)</p>
5. Richards Blvd/Dos Rios St	6. Richards Blvd/Vine St	7. Richards Blvd/N 12th St/N 16th St	8. Dos Rios St/N D St
<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>Dos Rios St</p> <p>20 (26) 11 (9) 41 (30)</p> <p>27 (6) 910 (953) 46 (49)</p> <p>26 (13) 750 (1,011) 33 (44)</p> <p>48 (36) 7 (5) 88 (71)</p>	<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>Vine St</p> <p>7 (9) 19 (29)</p> <p>94 (33) 976 (999)</p> <p>9 (11) 863 (1,085)</p>	<p>Richards Blvd</p> <p>N 12th St</p> <p>955 (907) 2,333 (1,669)</p> <p>2 (8) 1 (4) 0 (0)</p> <p>789 (797) 22 (124)</p> <p>N 16th St</p> <p>73 (77) 1,095 (3,858) 3 (8)</p>	<p>Dos Rios St</p> <p>N D St</p> <p>13 (5) 64 (47)</p> <p>4 (13) 0 (0) 7 (12)</p> <p>4 (9) 31 (38)</p>
9. N 12th St/Sunbeam Ave/Sproule Ave	10. N 16th St/Sproule Ave/Basler St	11. N 12th St/N B St/Dos Rios St	12. N 16th St/N B St
<p>N 12th St</p> <p>Sunbeam Ave</p> <p>33 (65) 25 (158)</p> <p>8 (7) 2,303 (1,690) 44 (96)</p> <p>30 (55) 13 (13)</p>	<p>Sproule Ave</p> <p>N 16th St</p> <p>10 (15) 8 (5)</p> <p>58 (234) 9 (5)</p> <p>24 (66) 1,090 (3,691) 5 (5)</p>	<p>N B St</p> <p>Dos Rios St</p> <p>10 (8) 29 (34) 2 (5)</p> <p>8 (3) 47 (217) 47 (82)</p> <p>6 (2) 144 (56) 2,285 (1,626) 18 (36)</p> <p>24 (14) 85 (78) 30 (53)</p>	<p>N B St</p> <p>N 16th St</p> <p>2 (3) 6 (10)</p> <p>47 (261) 6 (3)</p> <p>121 (48) 1,130 (3,386) 6 (2)</p>

SOURCE: Fehr & Peers

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 3.12-7A**  
Peak Hour Traffic Volumes and Lane Configurations  
Existing Plus Project Conditions



17. N 12th St/Project Driveway	18. Sproule Ave/Project Driveway	19. N 16th St/Project Driveway

**Figure 3.12-7B**  
Peak Hour Traffic Volumes and Lane Configurations  
Existing Plus Project Conditions

**TABLE 3.12-5  
INTERSECTION OPERATIONS – EXISTING PLUS PROJECT CONDITIONS**

Intersection	Control	Peak Hour	Existing		Existing Plus Project	
			LOS	Average Delay	LOS <sup>1</sup>	Average Delay
1. Richards Boulevard/I-5 SB Ramps	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B C	18 24	B C	18 24
2. Richards Boulevard/I-5 NB Ramps	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B C	16 20	B C	18 20
3. Richards Boulevard/N 7th Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	C C	25 25	C C	26 27
4. Richards Boulevard/N 10th Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B A	13 10	B B	12 12
5. Richards Boulevard/Dos Rios Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B A	12 9	B B	15 14
6. Richards Boulevard/Vine Street	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	A (D) A (E)	5 (27) 6 (48)	A (D) A (F)	6 (33) 6 (66)
7. Richards Boulevard/N 12th Street/N 16th Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	C D	28 53	C D	33 55
8. Dos Rios Street/N D Street	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	A (A) A (A)	1 (4) 2 (4)	A (A) A (A)	1 (3) 2 (5)
9. N 12th Street/Sunbeam Avenue/Sproule Avenue	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B B	13 11	B C	15 20
10. N 16th Street/Sproule Avenue/Basler Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B E	12 63	B E	13 65
11. N 12th Street/N B Street/Dos Rios Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B B	17 19	B C	19 25
12. N 16th Street/N B Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	A B	7 15	A B	7 17
17. N 12th Street/Project Driveway	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	-	-	A (B) A (A)	2 (12) 2 (8)
18. Sproule Avenue/Project Driveway (Expansion Area)	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	-	-	A (A) A (A)	1 (2) 2 (3)
19. N 16th Street/Project Driveway (Expansion Area)	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	-	-	A (A) B (F)	2 (6) 14 (174)

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> For signalized and all-way stop controlled intersections, average intersection delay is reported in seconds per vehicle for the overall intersection. For side-street stop controlled intersections, the delay is reported in seconds per vehicle for the overall intersection and the worst movement (in parentheses).

SOURCE: Fehr & Peers, 2017.

As shown in Table 3.12-5, all study intersections would continue to operate with an overall intersection LOS of D or better during both peak hours with implementation of the proposed project, except for the intersection of North 16th Street/Sproule Avenue/Basler Street (Intersection 10), which operates at LOS E during the PM peak hour. It is noted that this LOS is unchanged from the existing condition. The delay at this location during the PM peak hour is primarily due to queue spillback along northbound North 16th Street from the Richards Boulevard/North 12th Street/North 16th Street intersection (Intersection 7). During the PM peak

hour, North 16th Street experiences heavy commuter traffic flow leaving Downtown Sacramento and traveling north through the study area to access SR 160.

When considered with the significance criteria for effects to intersections, the project would not degrade roadway system operation to the extent that the project would not be consistent with General Plan Policy M 1.2.2. As discussed above, the City’s policy was adopted to allow decreased levels of service (e.g. LOS F) in the urbanized Core Area of the City that supports more transportation alternatives and places residents proximate to employment, entertainment, retail and neighborhood centers and thus reduces overall vehicle miles travelled and results in environmental benefits (e.g., improved air quality and reduced GHG emissions). Based on this evaluation, the City determined that LOS F is considered acceptable during peak hours within the Core Area. Therefore, under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less-than-significant impact** with respect to this criterion.

**TRA-2. Would the project have an adverse effect on area freeway facilities?**

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Table 3.12-6 presents the maximum expected I-5 freeway off-ramp queue lengths within the study area during the AM and PM peak hours at Richards Boulevard. As shown, all study freeway off-ramp queues remain within the available storage area during both the AM and PM peak hours under Existing Plus Project conditions.

**TABLE 3.12-6  
 OFF-RAMP QUEUING – EXISTING PLUS PROJECT CONDITIONS**

Location	Available Storage	Peak Hour	Existing Maximum Queue	Existing Plus Project Maximum Queue
Interstate 5 SB Off-Ramp at Richards Boulevard	1,050 feet	AM PM	330 feet 200 feet	250 feet 225 feet
Interstate 5 NB Off-Ramp at Richards Boulevard	1,000 feet	AM PM	350 feet 150 feet	400 feet 175 feet

NOTES: Maximum queue length is based upon output from SimTraffic microsimulation software, rounded up to nearest 25 feet.  
 SOURCE: Fehr & Peers, 2017.

When considered with the significance criteria for effects to freeway facilities, the project would not cause extended vehicle queues onto the I-5 freeway deceleration lane or mainline, deteriorate the ramps’ LOS relative to the freeway LOS, or otherwise deteriorate beyond Caltrans thresholds. Therefore, under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less-than-significant impact** with respect to this criterion.

### ***TRA-3. Would the project have an adverse effect on transit operations or access to transit?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As described above, multiple transit options operate within the study area, including the RT Blue Line light rail and RT bus routes 11, 15, 29, and 33. Routes 15 and 33 have stops immediately adjacent to the project site. RT has indicated that it would likely eliminate or re-route Route 33 if the proposed Dos Rios Station opens, as the bus route and the light rail line would serve redundant functions.

The project also includes construction and operation of a new infill light rail station (Dos Rios Station) on the existing RT Blue Line and the Expansion Area site. The proposed new infill station would be located approximately 0.7 mile north of the existing Alkali Flat/La Valentina Station and approximately 1 mile south of the existing Globe Station, reducing the spacing of stations along the line to a distance that is more consistent with station spacing within downtown and mid-town areas on the remainder of the RT light rail system. Construction of the proposed new station would enhance transit access within the study area.

This station is included in the operations analysis of the Existing Plus Project scenario. Due to the proximity of the Expansion Area project driveway on Sproule Avenue (Intersection 18) to the Blue Line light rail crossing and Dos Rios Station, left-turn queuing from the driveway was evaluated to determine if the queue spill back would extend back (west on Sproule Avenue) to the light rail crossing. The distance between the driveway and the intersection of North 12th Street/Sunbeam Avenue/Sproule Avenue at the light rail crossing is approximately 260 feet. The maximum queue (rounded up to the nearest 25 feet) of the eastbound left/through movement into the project driveway from Sproule Avenue is 0 feet during the AM peak hour and 25 feet during the PM peak hour. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project is not anticipated to cause traffic queuing across the light rail tracks and interfere with light rail operations.

Addition of the new Dos Rios Station on the Blue Line would increase light rail travel times between downtown and the areas north of the American River. As a condition of a 2015 Community Design Grant, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) required, “[SACOG] Staff recommends funding [the Dos Rios Station] project as part of a contingent action that would require Regional Transit to examine ways to not increase travel times along the Blue Line (Gold Line for Horn Road) if this station is constructed. This could be achieved by closing an underperforming Blue Line rail station and/or system improvements that improve travel time along the corridor.” On February 22, 2016, the RT Board of Directors subsequently adopted Resolution 16-02-0018, which directed the RT General Manager and staff to take

necessary actions to pursue permanent closure of the St. Rose of Lima Park (7th & K) Station. The 7th & K Station was subsequently closed effective October 1, 2016, satisfying in advance the requirement to avoid increases in light rail travel times along the corridor.

Based on this analysis, the proposed project would not disrupt any existing or proposed transit service or facility, or degrade access to transit. In fact, the project would provide increase public transit options in the area with the establishment of an infill station at the project site. Therefore, under NEPA, there would be a **beneficial effect**. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less-than-significant impact** with respect to this criterion.

***TRA-4. Would the project have an adverse effect on bicycle facilities or would it fail to provide adequate access for bicycle users?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As previously documented, Class II on-street bicycle lanes are currently provided near the project frontage on North B Street and Richards Boulevard. In addition, the construction of Street W through the project site would include Class II bike lanes on both sides of the street. Implementation of the proposed project would not remove any existing bicycle facility, including the existing Class II bicycle lanes. Implementation of the proposed project would contribute facilities to the planned bicycle network identified in the City's Bicycle Master Plan. Under NEPA, there would be a **beneficial effect**. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less-than-significant impact** with respect to this criterion.

***TRA-5. Would the project adversely affect pedestrian circulation or fail to provide access for pedestrian users?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Currently, sidewalks are located on both sides of all streets surrounding the project site, except for the east side of North 12th Street and the north side of Sproule Avenue. The project would include construction of sidewalks along the project frontage, as well as on both sides of all new streets internal to the project site. Construction of the Dos Rios light rail station would also include the

construction of new sidewalks to facilitate pedestrian access to and from the station. The proposed project would not disrupt existing pedestrian facilities, but would provide improved and additional pedestrian linkages in the project area. Under NEPA, there would be a **beneficial effect**. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less-than-significant impact** with respect to this criterion.

***TRA-6. Would the project result in impacts related to construction-related activities?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Construction of the proposed project would generate truck and employee trips during demolition of existing structures on the project site and construction of the proposed project. Since the magnitude of these trips during peak hours would be less than that of the proposed project, absolute impacts (in terms of delay and queuing) when compared to Existing Plus Project operations would not be significant. Construction staging and lane closures could cause adverse effects if not carefully planned. Thus, the project could potentially cause a temporary impact due to lane closures, traffic hazards to bikes/pedestrians, damage to roadbed, or truck traffic on roadways not designated as truck routes.

For these reasons, construction of the proposed project would create temporary, but **adverse**, effects to the area's transportation facilities under NEPA. Likewise, these project impacts during construction are **potentially significant** under CEQA. **Mitigation Measure 3.12-1** is proposed requiring implementation of a Construction Management Plan to address impacts stemming from various elements of project construction. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.12-1** would reduce this impact to **less than significant** under CEQA and **no adverse effect** under NEPA.

**Environmental Analysis: Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts refer to the combined effect of project impacts with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. This cumulative impact analyses does not rely on a list of specific pending or reasonably foreseeable development proposals in the vicinity of the proposed project. As has been noted in this section, this cumulative assessment relies on existing and future development accommodated under the City's General Plan, which is included in regional travel demand modeling.

For transportation and traffic impacts, the geographic focus of the cumulative analysis is the study area and intersections previously identified in Figure 3.12-1.



Impact questions TRA-7 through TRA-12 assess project effects together with future conditions in the study area (e.g., roadway improvements, other projects).

### **Traffic Forecasts**

The most recent version of the SACMET regional travel demand model developed and maintained by SACOG was used to forecast cumulative (year 2035) traffic volumes within the study area. The cumulative version of this model accounts for planned land use growth within the City of Sacramento according to the City's 2035 General Plan, as well as within the surrounding region. The SACMET model also accounts for planned improvements to the surrounding transportation system, and incorporates the current MTP/SCS for the Sacramento region. The version of the model used to develop the forecasts was modified to include the most recent planned land uses and transportation projects within the City of Sacramento.

For the project, the model has been modified to include additional transportation network and land use detail within the study area to improve accuracy. Previous modifications to the model involving similar enhancements within the City surrounding major land development and transportation projects were also incorporated. These projects include the Entertainment Sports Center (ESC), the Railyards Specific Plan Update (RPSU), and the McKinley Village land development projects, as well as the I Street Bridge Replacement and the re-alignment and installation of a two-way cycle track along North 12th Street.

A forecasting procedure known as the "difference method" was utilized to develop the cumulative background forecasts. This method accounts for potential differences between the base year model and existing traffic counts that could otherwise transfer to the future year model and traffic forecast. This forecasting procedure is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Cumulative Traffic Forecast} = \text{Existing Volume} + (\text{Cumulative TDM Forecast} - \text{Base Year TDM Forecast})$$

Trips associated with the proposed project were then layered on top of the cumulative forecasts using the same trip generation, distribution, and assignment procedures described in the Methods of Analysis. **Figures 3.12-8A** and **3.12-8B** show the expected distribution of inbound and outbound project trips under Cumulative Plus Project conditions. It was necessary to develop separate cumulative trip distributions than under near-term due to planned major roadway projects within the study area. **Figures 3.12-9A** and **3.12-9B** display shows the resulting Cumulative Plus Project peak-hour traffic forecasts at the study intersections.

### ***TRA-7. Would the project have an adverse cumulative effect on intersections?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.



SOURCE: Fehr & Peers

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

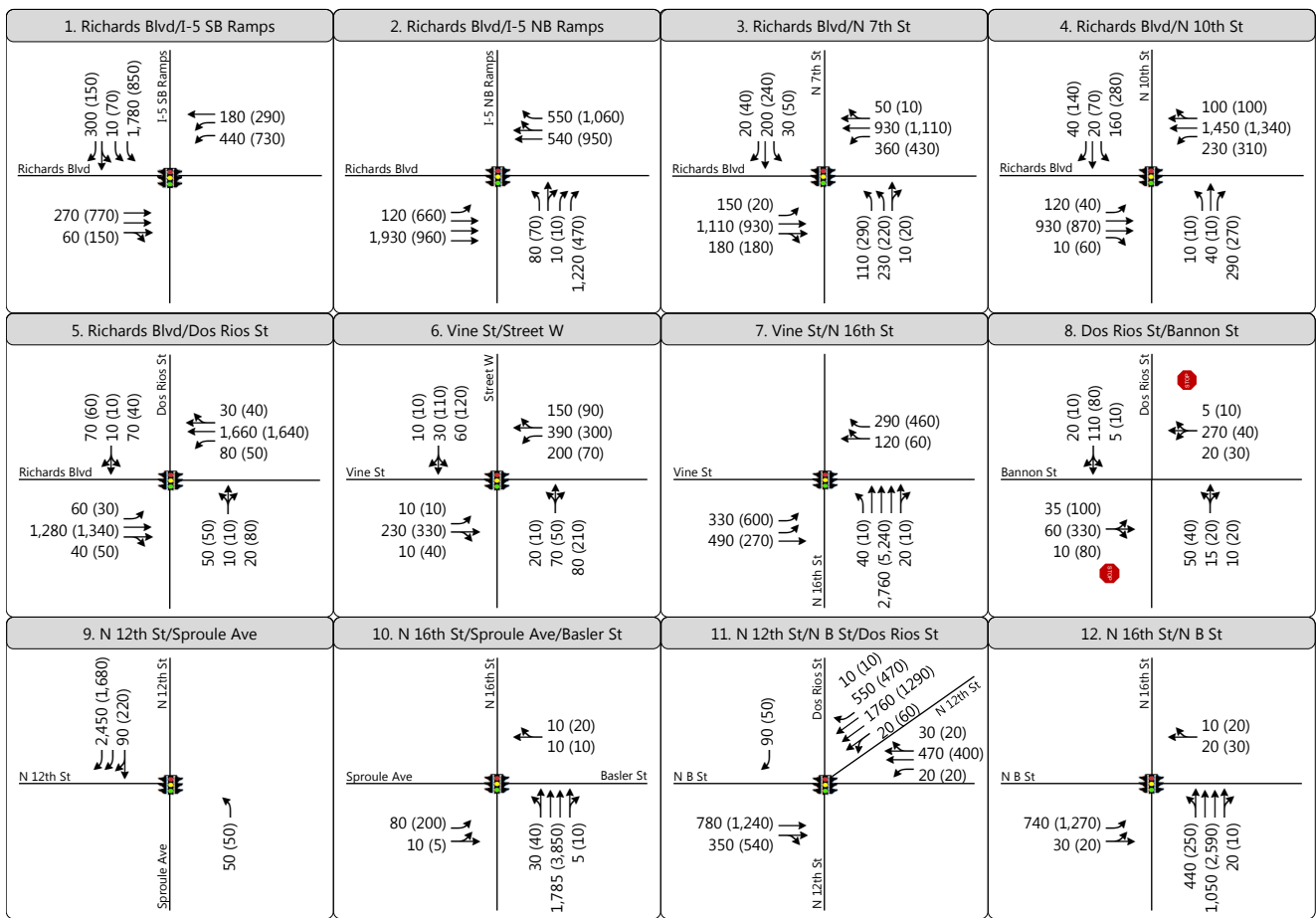
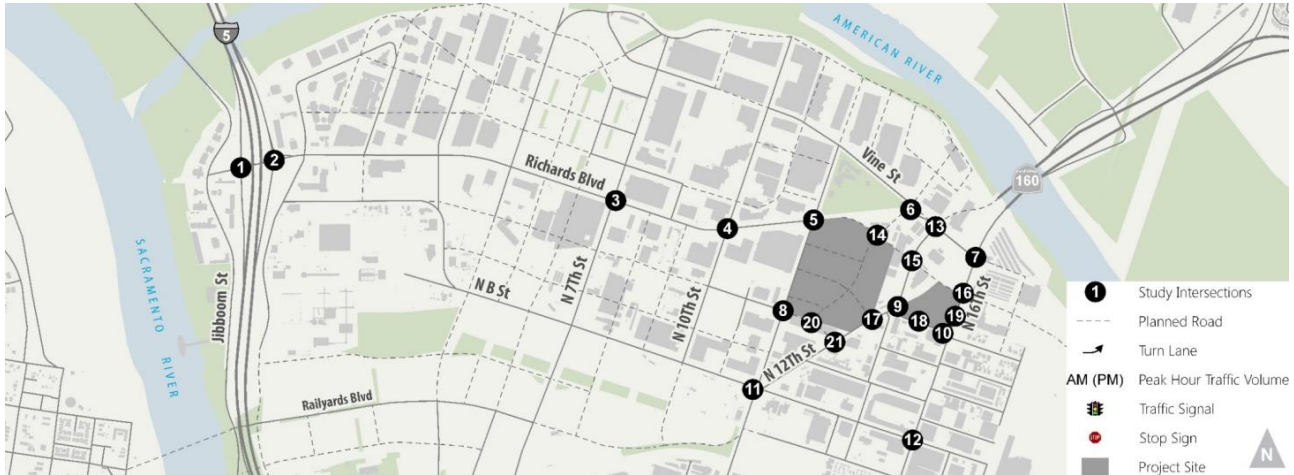
**Figure 3.12-8A**  
 Inbound Trip Distribution -  
 Cumulative Plus Project Conditions



SOURCE: Fehr & Peers

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

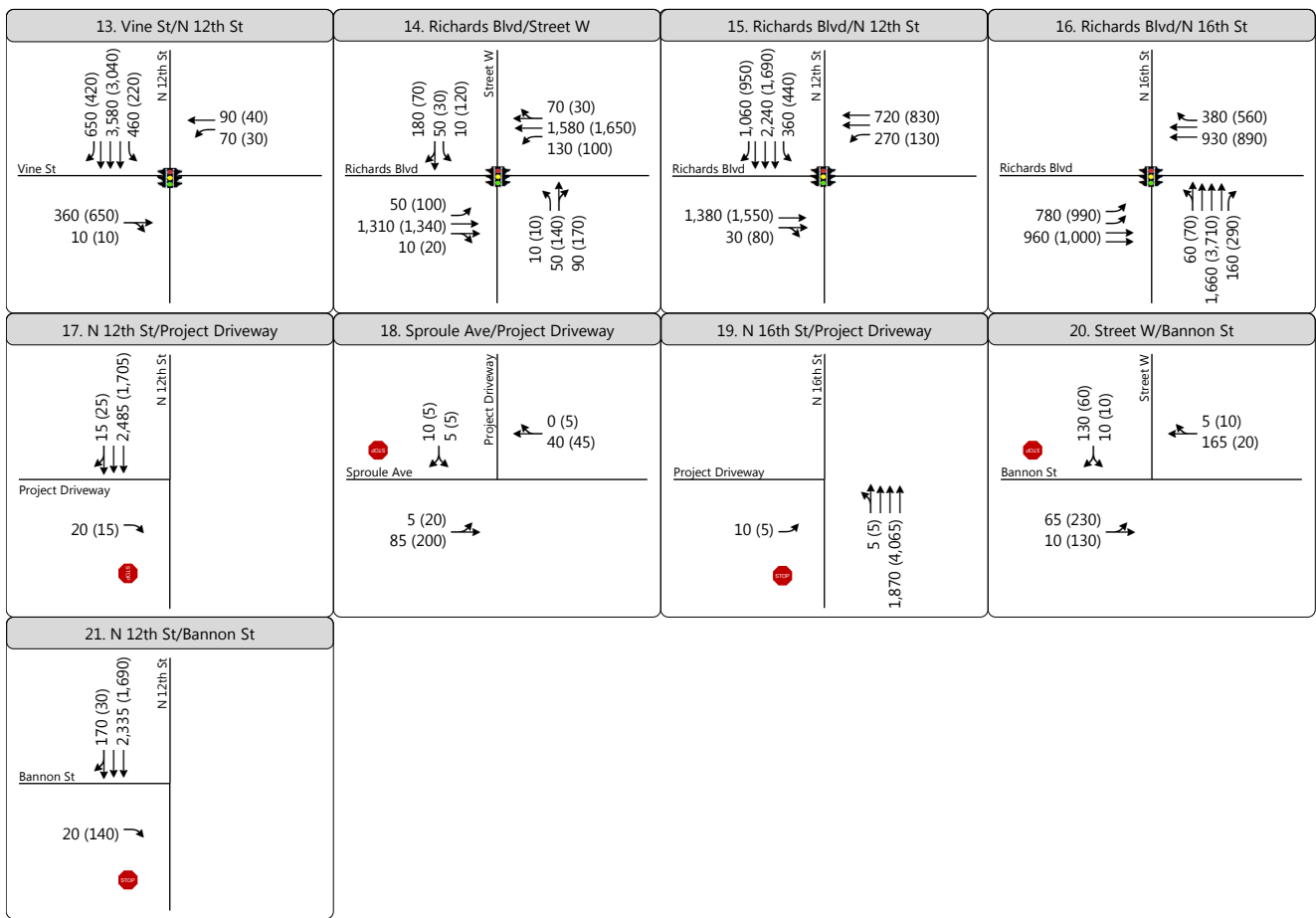
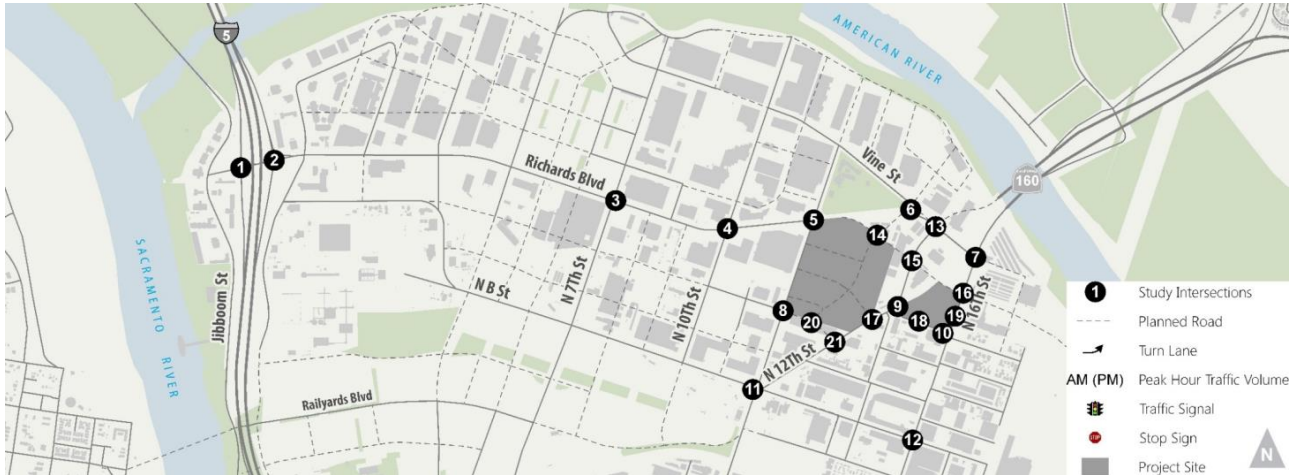
**Figure 3.12-8B**  
 Outbound Trip Distribution -  
 Cumulative Plus Project Conditions



SOURCE: Fehr & Peers

Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project . 140202

**Figure 3.12-9A**  
Peak Hour Traffic Volumes and Lane Configurations  
Cumulative Plus Project Conditions



**Figure 3.12-9B**  
 Peak Hour Traffic Volumes and Lane Configurations  
 Cumulative Plus Project Conditions

## **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

**Table 3.12-7** summarizes the Cumulative Plus Project intersection analysis results. Detailed technical calculations are presented in Appendix D. As shown in Table 3.12-7, during the AM peak hour, two intersections operate at LOS E (Intersections 2 and 16) and two intersections operate at LOS F (Intersections 1 and 13). These intersections include the Richards Boulevard/Interstate 5 ramp terminal intersections. Furthermore, excessive queueing occurs in both directions of Richards Boulevard between Dos Rios Street.

During the PM peak hour, two intersections operate at LOS E (Intersections 1 and 14) and five intersections operate at LOS F (Intersections 6, 10, 12, 13, and 16). The study intersection that experiences the highest average level of delay under Cumulative Plus Project conditions is the North 12th Street/Vine Street intersection (Intersection 13). Substantial queueing occurs along both directions of Richards Boulevard, as well as southbound on North 12th Street and northbound on North 16th Street.

Although a number of intersections have been found to operate at LOS E or F, implementation of the proposed project under the Cumulative Plus Project condition would not result in unacceptable intersection operations. As noted above, the 2035 General Plan Policy M 1.2.2 allows LOS F at intersections located within the Core Area and/or a Priority Investment Area. All affected intersections fall under this policy. Further, the project would construct improvements to non-auto travel modes within the study area to enhance the transportation system also in furtherance of 2035 General Plan goals, including a new light rail station and new sidewalks improving pedestrian linkages.

Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not result in unacceptable intersection operations under the Cumulative Plus Project condition. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less-than-significant impact** with respect to this criterion.

### ***TRA-8. Would the project have an adverse cumulative effect on area freeway facilities?***

#### **Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

#### **Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

**Table 3.12-8** presents the maximum expected freeway off-ramp queue lengths within the study area during the AM and PM peak hours at Richards Boulevard. As shown, during the AM peak hour, the maximum queue for the Interstate 5 Southbound Off-Ramp and Interstate 5 Northbound Off-Ramp extend farther than the available storage length under Cumulative Plus Project conditions.

**TABLE 3.12-7  
 INTERSECTION OPERATIONS – CUMULATIVE PLUS PROJECT CONDITIONS**

Intersection	Control	Peak Hour	Level of Service	Average Delay <sup>1</sup> in seconds
1. Richards Boulevard/I-5 SB Ramps	Traffic Signal	AM PM	F E	141 59
2. Richards Boulevard/I-5 NB Ramps	Traffic Signal	AM PM	E B	72 19
3. Richards Boulevard/N 7th Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	D D	41 47
4. Richards Boulevard/N 10th Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	C D	23 37
5. Richards Boulevard/Dos Rios Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	D D	38 46
6. Vine Street/Street W2	Traffic Signal	AM PM	D F	54 131
7. Vine Street/N 16th Street <sup>3</sup>	Traffic Signal	AM PM	C D	24 43
8. Dos Rios Street/Bannon Street <sup>4</sup>	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	A (A) A (B)	5 (8) 9 (12)
9. N 12th Street/Sproule Avenue <sup>5</sup>	Traffic Signal	AM PM	A B	9 13
10. N 16th Street/Sproule Avenue/ Basler Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	A F	8 144
11. N 12th Street/N B Street/Dos Rios Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	C D	26 54
12. N 16th Street/N B Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	B F	18 86
13. N 12th Street/Vine Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	F F	152 203
14. Richards Blvd/Street W	Traffic Signal	AM PM	D E	41 71
15. Richards Blvd/N 12th Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	D D	44 50
16. Richards Blvd/N 16th Street	Traffic Signal	AM PM	E F	64 81
17. N 12th Street/Project Driveway	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	A (C) A (A)	1 (17) 1 (6)
18. Sproule Avenue/Project Driveway	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	A (A) A (A)	1 (3) 2 (7)
19. N 16th Street/Project Driveway	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	B (F) C (F)	12 (60) 23 (292)
20. Street W/Bannon Street	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	A (A) A (A)	3 (5) 4 (6)
21. N 12th Street/Bannon Street	Side-Street Stop	AM PM	A (B) A (B)	4 (13) 3 (12)

NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> For signalized and all-way stop controlled intersections, average intersection delay is reported in seconds per vehicle for the overall intersection. For side-street stop controlled intersections, the delay is reported in seconds per vehicle for the overall intersection and the worst movement (in parentheses).
- <sup>2</sup> Formerly Richards Boulevard/Vine Street
- <sup>3</sup> Formerly Richards Boulevard/N 12th Street/N 16th Street
- <sup>4</sup> Formerly Dos Rios Street/N D Street
- <sup>5</sup> Formerly N 12th Street/Sunbeam Avenue/Sproule Avenue

SOURCE: Fehr & Peers, 2017.

**TABLE 3.12-8  
OFF-RAMP QUEUING – CUMULATIVE PLUS PROJECT CONDITIONS**

Location	Available Storage	Peak Hour	Maximum Queue <sup>1</sup>
Interstate 5 SB Off-Ramp at Richards Boulevard	1,050 feet	AM PM	1,450 feet 350 feet
Interstate 5 NB Off-Ramp at Richards Boulevard	1,000 feet	AM PM	1,125 feet 150 feet

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Maximum queue length is based upon output from SimTraffic microsimulation software, rounded up to nearest 25 feet.

SOURCE: Fehr & Peers, 2017.

Table 3.12-8 shows that queues for both the southbound and northbound ramps extend back to the mainline from the study ramp terminal intersections during the AM peak period. This would be a **potentially significant impact** under CEQA and an **adverse effect** under NEPA. On April 5, 2016, the City approved the I-5 Subregional Corridor Mitigation Fee Program (SCMP) and certified its Supplemental EIR (SCH #2011012081). The SCMP would increase ridesharing during peak periods and add ramp meters and auxiliary and transition lanes on I-5 to improve traffic operations. The SCMP provides the option for development projects to monetarily contribute to the program, which would constitute mitigation for a project’s impacts to the area’s freeway system. To reduce the project’s queuing impacts shown in Table 3.12-8, the project would participate in the SCMP through **Mitigation Measure 3.12-2**. Therefore, the project would not have cumulatively considerable impacts to freeway facilities in the area. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.12-2** would reduce this impact to **less than significant** under CEQA and **no adverse effect** under NEPA.

***TRA-9. Would the project have an adverse cumulative effect on transit operations or access to transit?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As noted above, multiple transit options operate within the study area, including the RT Blue Line light rail and RT bus routes 11, 15, and 33. Routes 15 and 33 have stops immediately adjacent to the project site.

The project also includes construction and operation of a new infill light rail station (Dos Rios Station) on the existing RT Blue Line and the Expansion Area site. The proposed new infill station would be located approximately 0.7 mile north of the existing Alkali Flat/La Valentina



Station and 1 mile south of the existing Globe Station, reducing the spacing of stations along the line to a distance that is more consistent with station spacing within downtown and mid-town areas on the remainder of the RT light rail system. Construction of the proposed new station would enhance transit access within the study area.

This station is included in the operations analysis of the Cumulative scenario. Due to the proximity of the Expansion Area project driveway located on Sproule Avenue (Intersection 20) to the Blue Line light rail crossing and Dos Rios Station, left-turn queuing from the driveway was evaluated to determine if the queue spill back would extend back (west on Sproule Avenue) to the light rail crossing. The distance between the driveway and the intersection of North 12th Street/Sunbeam Avenue/Sproule Avenue at the light rail crossing is approximately 260 feet. There would be no queue for the eastbound left/through movement into the project driveway from Sproule Avenue during the AM and PM peak hours. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project is not anticipated to cause queuing across the light rail tracks and interfere with light rail operations.

Based on this analysis, the proposed project would not disrupt any existing or proposed transit service or facility, or degrade access to transit. In fact, the project would provide increased public transit options in the area with the establishment of an infill station at the project site. Therefore, the project would not have cumulatively considerable impacts to transit services or facilities in the area. Under NEPA, there would be a **beneficial effect**. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less-than-significant impact** with respect to this criterion.

***TRA-10. Would the project have an adverse cumulative effect on bicycle facilities or would it fail to provide adequate access for bicycle users?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

As previously documented, Class II on-street bicycle lanes are currently provided along the project frontage on North B Street and Richards Boulevard. Under cumulative conditions, the realignment of North 12th Street includes the construction of a separated, two-way cycle track (Class I bike facility). In addition, the construction of Street W through the project site would include Class II bike lanes on both sides of the street. Implementation of the proposed project would not remove any existing bicycle facilities, including the existing Class II bicycle lanes, or interfere with the construction of any planned bicycle facilities. Implementation of the proposed project would contribute facilities to the planned bicycle network identified in the City's Bicycle Master Plan. Therefore, the project would not have cumulatively considerable impacts to bicycle facilities in the area. Under NEPA, there would be a **beneficial effect** on bicycle facilities or impede user access to such facilities. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less-than-significant impact** with respect to this criterion.

***TRA-11. Would the project result in an adverse cumulative effect on pedestrian circulation or fail to provide access for pedestrian users?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Currently, sidewalks are located on both sides of all streets surrounding the project site, except for the east side of North 12th Street and the north side of Sproule Avenue. The project would include construction of sidewalks along the project frontage, as well as on both sides of all new streets internal to the project site. Construction of the Dos Rios light rail station would also include the construction of new sidewalks to facilitate pedestrian access to and from the station. Furthermore, a new sidewalk would be constructed on the east side of North 12th Street from North B Street to Richards Boulevard as a part of the North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements Project. The proposed project would not disrupt existing or planned pedestrian facilities, or conflict with adopted City pedestrian plans, guidelines, policies, or standards. Therefore, the project would not have cumulatively considerable impacts to pedestrian facilities in the area. Under NEPA, there would be **a beneficial effect**. Under CEQA, the impact would be **less-than-significant impact** with respect to this criterion.

***TRA-12. Would the project result in adverse cumulative impacts related to construction activities?***

**Alternative 1 – No Project**

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

**Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project**

Project construction is anticipated to occur over a seven-year period, which would coincide with the implementation of other projects in the area and potentially contribute cumulatively to widespread construction-related impacts. Construction of these projects would generate a variety of truck and employee trips. Since the magnitude of these trips during peak hours would be less than that of the proposed project, absolute impacts (in terms of delay and queuing) when compared to Plus Project operations would not be significant. Construction staging and lane closures could cause adverse effects if not carefully planned. Thus, the project could potentially

cause a temporary impact due to lane closures, traffic hazards to bikes/pedestrians, damage to roadbed, or truck traffic on roadways not designated as truck routes.

For these reasons, construction of the proposed project concurrently with other area projects would create temporary but **adverse** effects to the area's transportation facilities under NEPA. Likewise, these project impacts during construction would be **potentially significant** under CEQA. **Mitigation Measure 3.12-1** is proposed requiring implementation of a project-specific Construction Traffic Management Plan to address impacts stemming from various elements of project construction. Implementation of this mitigation would reduce the project's contribution to cumulative impacts due to construction of other area projects on parallel construction schedules. Therefore, implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.12-1** would reduce this impact to **less than significant with mitigation** under CEQA and **no adverse effect** under NEPA.

## Mitigation Measures

**Mitigation Measure 3.12-1: Construction Traffic Management Plan.** The City shall require the project applicant to develop a Construction Traffic Management Plan. The plan shall ensure that acceptable operating conditions on local roadways and freeway facilities are maintained. At a minimum, the plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- Description of trucks including: number and size of trucks per day, expected arrival/departure times, truck circulation patterns.
- Description of staging area including: location, maximum number of trucks simultaneously permitted in staging area, use of traffic control personnel, specific signage.
- Description of street closures and/or transit, bicycle and pedestrian facility closures including: duration, advance warning and posted signage, safe and efficient access routes for emergency vehicles, use of manual traffic control, and roadway detours.
- Description of driveway access plan including: provisions for safe vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle travel, minimum distance from any open trench, special signage, and private vehicle accesses.

Pursuant to City code, the management plan shall be reviewed by the City's Traffic Engineer and any affected agencies, incorporate any requested revisions, and then approved by the City's Traffic Engineer prior to the commencement of project construction. This management plan shall be distribute and implemented by all contractors and subcontractors involved in any project construction activity.

**Mitigation Measure 3.12-2: I-5 Freeway Subregional Corridor Mitigation Program (SCMP).** To mitigate the freeway mainline and off-ramp queuing impacts under the Cumulative Plus Project scenario, the project proponent shall remit monetary payment to the I-5 Freeway Subregional Corridor Mitigation Program (SCMP), This remittance shall be completed prior to the commencement of construction.

## References

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## 3.13 Utilities

### 3.13.1 Introduction

This section discusses the utility systems that would service the project site, and the potential impacts of the project on those systems. This analysis describes the effects on water supply, sewer and storm drainage, solid waste, electricity and natural gas, and telecommunications (telephone and cable television).

### 3.13.2 Environmental Setting

#### Water Supply

The City has surface water rights to divert both Sacramento and American River water. In addition, the City and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) have a contract that controls the amount of water that can be diverted from the two rivers. In return, the contract requires the USBR to make enough water available in the two rivers for the agreed-upon diversions by the City. The City's water rights in conjunction with the USBR contract provide the City with a reliable and secure water supply (City of Sacramento, 2015).

On average, groundwater use has consisted of 15 to 20 percent of the city's supply between 2006 and 2012 (City of Sacramento, 2015). The City is signatory to two groundwater management plans that commit to not exceed the long-term sustainable yield of the groundwater basins. There are no municipal wells within the River District Specific Plan (RDSP) area, of which the project site is a part (City of Sacramento, 2010).

The City has two water treatment plants. The Sacramento River Water Treatment Plant (SRWTP) serves the project area and is located within the RDSP area on Bercut Drive, approximately one mile west of the project site. Water from the Sacramento River is diverted to the plant. The capacity of the plant is 160 million gallons per day (mgd). In 2011-2012, the SRWTP treated an average of approximately 64 mgd (City of Sacramento, 2015).

The City of Sacramento complies with the California Water Code, which requires urban water suppliers to prepare and adopt Urban Water Management Plan (UWMPs) every five years. The most recent UWMP was adopted in June 2016, and includes an analysis of water demand sufficiency under normal, single dry year, and multiple dry year scenarios. Water supply and demand projections include future planned development until 2045. Based, in part, on these projections, the City's water entitlements are sufficient to serve the entire city (including future expansions of the city limits) and also provide water to other local water purveyors in need of additional water supply (City of Sacramento, 2016).

## **Wastewater and Stormwater**

As identified in section 3.8 Hydrology, the public wastewater collection system within the City is composed of two systems: it includes a combined sewer system (CSS) that extends throughout the older central region of the City including partially within the River District area, and a newer separated sewer system (sanitary sewer) in the remaining areas of the City (City of Sacramento, 2004).

The CSS is an underground pipe network system that conveys both storm drain flows and sanitary sewer flows through a single pipe. Currently stormwater from the CSS region enters a series of stormdrain pipes and is delivered to Sump 11, near the northerly terminus of North 5th Street, from where it is discharged into the American River. Meanwhile, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) and the Sacramento Area Sewer District (SASD) provide both collection and treatment services within their service area for the portions of the city served by the separated sewer system. The Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is located just south of the city limits in Elk Grove and is owned and operated by SRCSD. The plant provides sewage treatment for the entire 2035 General Plan Policy Area (City of Sacramento, 2015).

## **Solid Waste Disposal**

As discussed in the City's 2035 General Plan Background Report, multifamily residences with five units or more are considered commercial and thus served by private haulers franchised by the Sacramento Solid Waste Authority (SWA).

The Sacramento County Kiefer Landfill is the primary location for the disposal of waste in the City of Sacramento. The landfill accepts municipal waste and industrial waste and is permitted to accept up to 10,815 tons per day, averaging 6,300 tons per day. This is further limited, however, by Section 17, Condition 26 and Table 2 of Kiefer's Solid Waste Permit, which limits the 2013 peak to 5,928 TPD and average to 3,487 TPD (CalRecycle, 2013). It is the only landfill facility in Sacramento County permitted to accept household waste from the public. Current peak and average daily disposal is much lower than the current permitted amounts. As of 2012, 305 acres of the 660 acres contain waste. The landfill facility sits on 1,084 acres. As a result, the Kiefer Landfill should be able to serve the area until the year 2065 (City of Sacramento, 2015).

## **Electricity and Natural Gas**

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is responsible for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electrical power to its 900 square mile service area, which includes most of Sacramento County and a small portion of Placer County. SMUD buys and sells energy and capacity on a short-term basis to meet load requirements and reduce costs. The Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) provides natural gas service to residents and businesses within the City of Sacramento.

### 3.13.3 Applicable Policies and Regulations

#### **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System**

Federal and state laws relating to wastewater primarily focus on the regulation of pollutant discharges that could contaminate surface waters or groundwater. As such, the Federal Clean Water Act and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act regulate wastewater treatment and the discharge of treated effluent.

#### **California Senate Bill 610 and Senate Bill 221**

Senate Bill 610 (SB 610) and Senate Bill 221 (SB 221) precludes projects from being approved without specific evaluations being performed and documented by the local water provider that indicate that water is available to serve the project. The provisions of SB 610 amend the Water Code sections 10910 through 10915, and SB 221 is incorporated in the Subdivision Map Act.

SB 610 requires the preparation of a Water Supply Assessment (WSA) for large-scale development projects.<sup>1</sup> The WSA evaluates the water supply available for new development based on anticipated demand.

SB 221 requires the local water provider to provide “written verification” of “sufficient water supplies” to serve the Project. Sufficiency under SB 221 differs from SB 610 in that it is determined by considering the availability of water over the past 20 years; the applicability of any urban water shortage contingency analysis prepared per Water Code Section 10632; the reduction in water supply allocated to a specific use by an adopted ordinance; and the amount of water that can be reasonably relied upon from other water supply projects, such as conjunctive use, reclaimed water, water conservation, and water transfer. In most cases, the WSA prepared under SB 610 would meet the requirement for proof of water supply under SB 221.

#### **Senate Bill 365**

Existing provisions of the California Water Code declare that the use of potable water for certain non-potable uses “is a waste or an unreasonable use of water.” SB 365 amends and expands the Water Code to strengthen the provision that the use of potable water for the irrigation of residential landscaping, floor-trap priming, cooling towers, or air-conditioning devices is wasteful and unsound if reclaimed water suitable for these purposes is available. SB 365 also gives the power to any public agency—including a state agency, city, county, district, or any other political

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<sup>1</sup> All projects that meet any of the following criteria require a WSA: 1) a proposed residential development of more than 500 dwelling units; 2) a proposed shopping center or business establishment employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 500,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of floor space; 3) a proposed commercial office building employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 250,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of floor space; 4) a proposed hotel or motel, or both, having more than 500 rooms; 5) a proposed industrial, manufacturing, or processing plant, or industrial park planned to house more than 1,000 persons, occupying more than 40 acres of land, or having more than 650,000 square feet of floor area; 6) a mixed-use project that includes one or more of the projects specified in this subdivision; or 7) a project that would demand an amount of water equivalent to, or greater than, the amount of water required by a 500 dwelling unit project.



subdivision of the state—to require the use of reclaimed water for these purposes if certain conditions are met. The conditions that must be met are:

- Reclaimed water meeting the requirements of existing law (Section 13550 of the Water Code) is available to the user.
- The use of reclaimed water does not cause any loss or diminution of any existing water right.
- Public health concerns regarding exposure to mist or spray must be addressed, if appropriate.
- The water user must prepare an engineering report pursuant to Title 22 regulations governing the use of reclaimed water.

The requirements of the law are applicable to all new industrial facilities and subdivisions for which the Department of Health Services has approved the use of reclaimed water, and for which a building permit is issued on or after March 15, 1994; or, if a building permit is not required, new structures for which construction begins on or after this date.

### **Assembly Bill 1881**

In September 2009 the state adopted Assembly Bill 1881 (AB 1881), the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006, which directs local governments to require the use of low-flow plumbing fixtures and the installation of drought-tolerant landscaping in all new development. As of January 2010 all jurisdictions were required to implement this law.

### **State Health and Safety Code Section 64562**

Section 64562 of the California Health and Safety Code requires each public water system to have sufficient water available from its water sources and distribution reservoirs to supply adequately, dependably, and safely the total requirements of all its users under maximum demand conditions before an agreement can be made to permit additional service connections to that system.

### **Water Code Sections 10608 et seq. (“SB 7” or “SB X7 7”)**

Water Code Sections 10608 require urban retail water suppliers to set and achieve water use targets that will help the state achieve 20 percent per capita urban water use reduction by 2020.

### **California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 and SB 1016**

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, or Assembly Bill (AB) 939, established the Integrated Waste Management Board, required the implementation of integrated waste management plans and also mandated that local jurisdictions divert at least 50 percent of all solid waste generated away from landfills, through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities beginning January 1, 2000. In 2006, SB 1016 updated the requirements. The new per capita disposal and goal measurement system moves the emphasis from an estimated diversion measurement number to using an actual disposal measurement number as a factor, along with evaluating program implementation efforts. These two factors will help determine each

jurisdiction's progress toward achieving its Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939) diversion goals. The CalRecycle works with municipalities to help improve recycling programs. The State generally places the burden of responsibility for waste stream reduction on local municipalities (i.e., cities and counties).

## **California Code of Regulations Title 24**

The California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 11, or the California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) is designed to reduce impacts by providing guidelines and requirements on the following categories: planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resource efficiency, and environmental quality.

With regards to solid waste, CALGreen requires that at least 50 percent of weight of non-hazardous job site debris generated by new construction be recycled, reused, or otherwise diverted from landfill disposal. CalGreen requires submission of plans and verifiable post-project documentation to demonstrate compliance.

Title 24, Part 6, Building Energy Efficiency Standards were developed by the California Energy Commission (CEC) and apply to energy consumed for heating, cooling, ventilation, water heating, and lighting in new residential and non-residential buildings. The CEC updates these standards periodically and adopted the latest standards in 2008; 2013 standards went into effect in July 1, 2014 (CEC, 2016). A new development project is required to incorporate the most recent Title 24 standards in effect at the time the building permit application is submitted.

## **Urban Water Management Planning Act**

In 1983, the California Legislature enacted the Urban Water Management Planning Act (Water Code Sections 10610 – 10656). The Act requires that every urban water supplier that provides water to 3,000 or more customers or that provides over 3,000 acre-feet of water annually shall prepare and adopt an urban water management plan. Water suppliers are to prepare an urban water management plan within a year of becoming an urban water supplier and update the plan at least once every five years. The Act also specifies the content that is to be included in an urban water management plan.

It is the intention of the Legislature to permit levels of water management planning commensurate with the number of customers served and the volume of water supplied. The Act states that urban water suppliers should make every effort to ensure the appropriate level of reliability in its water service sufficient to meet the needs of its various categories of customers during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. The Act also states that the management of urban water demands and the efficient use of water shall be actively pursued to protect both the people of the State and their water resources.

The State Department of Water Resources (DWR) has designed its urban planning assistance program to assist urban water suppliers to meet the requirements of the Act. Program staff assists urban water suppliers with preparing comprehensive and useful water management plans, implementing water conservation programs, and understanding the requirements of the Act.

DWR staff reviews all of the urban water management plans that are submitted to DWR in accordance with the Act. Results are provided to local and regional water suppliers through a review letter and compiled into a Legislative Report provided to the California Legislature one year after plans are due to DWR.

## **20x2020 Water Conservation Plan**

In February 2010, the 20x2020 Water Conservation Plan was released as part of an effort to reduce stress on the environment of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The plan sets forth a statewide road map to maximize the state's urban water efficiency and conservation opportunities. The draft of this plan served as the basis for Senate Bill X7-7, which set a goal to achieve a 20 percent reduction in urban per capita water use in California by the year 2020. The law requires urban water suppliers to establish water conservation targets for the years 2015 and 2020.

The plan recommends nine categories of action to contribute to a statewide strategic approach of achieving the goals of the plan. These categories are (1) to establish a foundation for a statewide conservation strategy, (2) reduce landscape irrigation demand, (3) reduce water waste, (4) reinforce efficiency codes and related best management practices, (5) provide financial incentives, (6) implement a statewide conservation public information and outreach campaign, (7) provide new or exercise existing enforcement mechanisms to facilitate water conservation, (8) investigate potential flexible implementation measures, and (9) increase the use of recycled water and non-traditional sources of water.

The 20x2020 Plan was developed through a collaborative effort consisting of state and federal agencies including the Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, California Energy Commission, Department of Public Health, California Public Utilities Commission, Air Resources Board, California Bay-Delta Authority, and the US Bureau of Reclamation (State of California, 2010).

## **Assembly Bill 1465**

In 2009, the State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1465 requiring urban water suppliers to include their water demand management measures in the Urban Water Management Plan. Suppliers are required to describe opportunities to offset potable water use by utilizing water that is already available through stormwater recapture or recycled water use.

## **Sacramento City Code, Chapter 13.08**

Sacramento City Code, Chapter 13.08 outlines the requirements for permitted discharges to the sewer service system. Article V of the chapter establishes charges and fees for customers receiving sewer service and storm service from the City.

## **Combined Sewer System Development Fee**

The City of Sacramento adopted a sewer ordinance for the CSS in 2005, which requires payment of a development fee for projects that add sewer flows within the CSS service boundary. Key

aspects of the CSS development fee include: a fee per equivalent single-family dwelling unit that will be subject to periodic adjustments; CSS development fees may be fully or partially offset by constructing or cost sharing in the construction of a mitigation project approved by the City Department of Utilities; the fee approximates the cost to construct local storage to mitigate downstream impacts; and fees will be collected and deposited in a fund for the City to construct larger projects to mitigate multiple developments.

## **Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Sacramento Area Sewer District**

The SRCSD and the SASD are both separate political subdivisions of the State of California formed under the State of California Health and Safety Code. As such, the districts' policies must conform to the statutes of the State Health and Safety Code. Additionally, the Districts are separately-funded entities that do not depend upon Sacramento County for funding capital improvements, maintenance, or operations. User fees provide for the systems' operation and maintenance, while hookup fees provide most of the funding for new trunks and interceptors.

The SRCSD requires a regional connection fee be paid to the District for any users connecting to or expanding sewer collection systems (SRCSD Ordinance No. SRCSD-0043).

## **Stormwater Quality/Urban Runoff Management**

The County of Sacramento and the Cities of Sacramento, Folsom, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, and Galt have a joint NPDES permit (No. CAS082597) that was originally granted in 1990, and was most recently reissued in 2008. The permittees listed under the joint permit have the authority to develop, administer, implement, and enforce storm water management programs within their own jurisdiction. The permit is intended to implement the Basin Plan through the effective implementation of BMPs to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges to the maximum extent practicable (MEP).

## **City Code Chapter 15.92 Water Efficient Landscape Requirements**

New landscape projects and rehabilitated landscape projects with a landscape area equal to or greater than two thousand five hundred (2,500) square feet are required to install water-efficient landscapes.

## **City of Sacramento Design Standards**

Section 13 of the City's Design Standards sets forth requirements regarding the design and operation of water distribution facilities. Those requirements include standards for pipe design, fire hydrants, and specific requirements for residential, commercial, and industrial water service.

## **City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan**

The City of Sacramento adopted its 2035 General Plan on March 3, 2015. The General Plan includes policies and implementation measures relevant to the provision of water, wastewater,

and storm drainage service. For wastewater and storm drainage services, policies relevant to the proposed project include provision of adequately sized sewer and drainage facilities, developing plans for sewer line extensions to developed areas where service is lacking, and developing and implementing appropriate funding mechanisms.

The General Plan includes redevelopment of the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and the construction of the proposed Dos Rios LRT Station in its long range plans. A summary of General Plan EIR, and specific policies relevant to the proposed project is provided below.

### **River District Specific Plan**

The River District Specific Plan (RDSP) was adopted in 2011 and established planning and design standards for the redevelopment of approximately 773 acres of land (City of Sacramento, 2010). The RDSP area includes the entirety of the proposed project area under consideration in this IS/EA, and includes utility related elements that are directly applicable to the proposed project.

#### 3.13.4 Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and River District Specific Plan EIR

##### **2035 General Plan Master EIR**

The Master EIR evaluated the effects of development under the 2035 General Plan on water supply, sewer and storm drainage, solid waste, electricity, natural gas and telecommunications. See Chapter 4.11 of the Master EIR.

The Master EIR evaluated the impacts of increased demand for water that would occur with development under the 2035 General Plan. Policies in the general plan would reduce the impact generally to a less-than-significant level (see Impact 4.11-1) but the Master EIR concluded that the potential increase in demand for potable water in excess of the City's existing diversion and treatment capacity, and which could require construction of new water supply facilities, would result in a significant and unavoidable effect (Impact 4.11-2). The potential need for expansion of wastewater treatment facilities was identified as having a less-than-significant effect (Impact 4.11-4). Impacts on solid waste facilities were less than significant (Impact 4.11-5). Implementation of energy efficient standards as set forth in Titles 20 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations for residential and non-residential buildings, would reduce effects for energy to a less-than-significant level.

Utility related policies applicable to the project area include the following:

**Goal U 1.1: High-Quality Infrastructure and Services.** Provide and maintain efficient, high- quality public infrastructure facilities and services throughout the city.

***Policy U 1.1.1: Provision of Adequate Utilities.*** The City shall continue to provide and maintain adequate water, wastewater, and stormwater drainage utility services to areas in the city, and shall provide and maintain adequate water, wastewater, and stormwater

drainage utility services to areas in the city that do not currently receive these City services upon funding and construction of necessary infrastructure.

***Policy U 1.1.2: Citywide Level of Service Standards.*** The City shall establish and maintain service standards [Levels of Service (LOS)] for water, wastewater, stormwater drainage, and solid waste services.

***Policy U 1.1.3: Sustainable Facilities and Services.*** The City shall continue to provide sustainable utility services and infrastructure in a cost-efficient manner.

***Policy U 1.1.4: Timing of Urban Expansion.*** The City shall assure that new public facilities and services are phased in conjunction with the approved urban development they are intended to serve.

***Policy U 1.1.6: Growth and Level of Service.*** The City shall require new development to provide adequate facilities or pay its fair share of the cost for facilities needed to provide services to accommodate growth without adversely impacting current service levels.

***Policy U 1.1.7: Infrastructure Finance.*** The City shall develop and implement a financing strategy and assess fees to construct needed water, wastewater, stormwater drainage, and solid waste facilities to maintain established service levels and to mitigate development impacts to these systems (e.g., pay capital costs associated with existing infrastructure that has inadequate capacity to serve new development). The City shall also assist developers in identifying funding mechanisms to cover the cost of providing utility services in infill areas.

***Policy U 1.1.8: Infill Areas.*** The City shall identify and prioritize infill areas for infrastructure improvements.

***Policy U 1.1.9: Joint-Use Facilities.*** The City shall support the development of joint-use water, drainage, and other utility facilities as appropriate in conjunction with schools, parks, golf courses, and other suitable uses to achieve economy and efficiency in the provision of services and facilities.

***Policy U 1.1.10: Safe, Attractive, and Compatible Utility Design.*** The City shall ensure that public utility facilities are designed to be safe, aesthetically pleasing, and compatible with adjacent uses.

***Policy U 1.1.11: Underground Utilities.*** The City shall require undergrounding of all new publicly-owned utility lines, encourage undergrounding of all privately-owned utility lines in new developments, and work with electricity and telecommunications providers to underground existing overhead lines.

***Policy U 1.1.12: Impacts to Environmentally Sensitive Lands.*** The City shall locate and design utilities to avoid or minimize impacts to environmentally-sensitive areas and habitats.

**Goal U 2.1: High-Quality and Reliable Water Supply.** Provide water supply facilities to meet future growth within the City's Place of Use and assure a high-quality and reliable supply of water to existing and future residents.

***Policy U 2.1.1: Exercise and Protect Water Rights.*** The City shall exercise and protect its water rights and entitlements in perpetuity.

***Policy U 2.1.2: Increase Water Supply Sustainability.*** The City shall maintain a surface water/groundwater conjunctive use program, which uses more surface water when it is available and more groundwater when surface water is limited.

***Policy U 2.1.3: Water Treatment Capacity and Infrastructure.*** The City shall plan, secure funding for, and procure sufficient water treatment capacity and infrastructure to meet projected water demands.

***Policy U 2.1.4: Priority for Water Infrastructure.*** The City shall give high priority in capital improvement programming to funding rehabilitation or replacement of critical infrastructure that has reached the end of its useful life.

***Policy U 2.1.5: Comprehensive Water Supply Plans.*** The City shall prepare, implement, and maintain long-term, comprehensive water supply plans.

***Policy U 2.1.6: High-Quality Service Provision.*** The City shall provide water service that meets or exceeds State and Federal drinking water standards.

***Policy U 2.1.7: Water Supply During Emergencies.*** The City shall, to the extent feasible, maintain adequate water supply during emergencies.

***Policy U 2.1.8: Emergency Water Conservation.*** The City shall reduce water use during periods of water shortages and emergencies.

***Policy U 2.1.9: New Development.*** The City shall ensure that water supply capacity is in place prior to granting building permits for new development.

***Policy U 2.1.15: Landscaping.*** The City shall continue to require the use of water-efficient and river-friendly landscaping in all new development, and shall use water conservation gardens (e.g., Glen Ellen Water Conservation Office) to demonstrate and promote water conserving landscapes.

***Policy U 2.1.16: River-Friendly Landscaping.*** The City shall promote “River Friendly Landscaping” techniques which include the use of native and climate appropriate plants; sustainable design and maintenance; underground (water-efficient) irrigation; and yard waste reduction practices.

***Policy U 3.1.4:*** In keeping with its Combined Sewer System (CSS) Long Term Control Plan (LTCP), the City will continue to rehabilitate the CSS to decrease flooding, CSS outflows and CSOs. Through these improvements and new development requirements the City will also insure that development in the CSS does not result in increased flooding, CSS outflows or CSOs.

***Policy U 4.1.1: Adequate Drainage Facilities.*** The City shall ensure that all new drainage facilities are adequately sized and constructed to accommodate stormwater runoff in urbanized areas.

***Policy U 4.1.4: Watershed Drainage Plans.*** The City shall require developers to prepare watershed drainage plans for proposed developments that define needed drainage

improvements per City standards, estimate construction costs for these improvements, and comply with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

***Policy U 4.1.5: Green Stormwater Infrastructure.*** The City shall encourage “green infrastructure” design and Low Impact Development (LID) techniques for stormwater facilities (i.e., using vegetation and soil to manage stormwater) to achieve multiple benefits (e.g., preserving and creating open space, improving runoff water quality).

***Policy U 4.1.6: New Development.*** The City shall require proponents of new development to submit drainage studies that adhere to City stormwater design requirements and incorporate measures, including “green infrastructure” and Low Impact Development (LID) techniques, to prevent on- or off-site flooding.

**Goal ER 1.1: Water Quality Protection.** Protect local watersheds, water bodies and groundwater resources, including creeks, reservoirs, the Sacramento and American Rivers and their shorelines.

***Policy ER 1.1.3: Stormwater Quality.*** The City shall control sources of pollutants and improve and maintain urban runoff water quality through storm water protection measures consistent with the City's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

***Policy ER 1.1.4: New Development.*** The City shall require new development to protect the quality of water bodies and natural drainage systems through site design (e.g., cluster development), source controls, storm water treatment, runoff reduction measures, best management practices (BMPs) and Low Impact Development (LID), and hydromodification strategies consistent with the City's NPDES Permit.

***Policy ER 1.1.5: Limit Stormwater Peak Flows.*** The City shall require all new development to contribute no net increase in stormwater runoff peak flows over existing conditions associated with a 100-year storm event.

***Policy ER 1.1.6: Post-Development Runoff.*** The City shall impose requirements to control the volume, frequency, duration, and peak flow rates and velocities of runoff from development projects to prevent or reduce downstream erosion and protect stream habitat.

***Policy ER 1.1.7: Construction Site Impacts.*** The City shall minimize disturbances of natural water bodies and natural drainage systems caused by development, implement measures to protect areas from erosion and sediment loss, and continue to require construction contractors to comply with the City's erosion and sediment control ordinance and stormwater management and discharge control ordinance.

**Goal U 5.1: Solid Waste Facilities.** Provide adequate solid waste facilities, meet or exceed State law requirements, and utilize innovative strategies for economic and efficient collection, transfer, recycling, storage, and disposal of refuse.

***Policy U 5.1.1: Zero Waste.*** The City shall achieve zero waste to landfills by 2040 through reusing, reducing, and recycling solid waste; and using conversion technology if appropriate. In the interim, the City shall achieve a waste reduction goal of 75 percent diversion from the waste stream over 2005 levels by 2020 and 90 percent diversion over



2005 levels by 2030, and shall support the Solid Waste Authority in increasing commercial solid waste diversion rates to 30 percent.

***Policy U 5.1.8: Diversion of Waste.*** The City shall encourage recycling, composting, and waste separation to reduce the volume and toxicity of solid wastes sent to landfill facilities.

***Policy U 5.1.14: Recycled Materials in New Construction.*** The City shall encourage the use of recycled materials in new construction.

***Policy U 5.1.15: Recycling and Reuse of Construction Wastes.*** The City shall require recycling and reuse of construction wastes, including recycling materials generated by the demolition and remodeling of buildings, with the objective of diverting 85 percent to a certified recycling processor.

***Policy U 5.1.20: Multi-family Recycling Ordinance.*** The City shall support the Solid Waste Authority to inform and advise multifamily rental property owners and managers of the recycling requirements contained in the Multi-family Recycling Ordinance (SWA Ordinance 21).

***Policy U 6.1.5: Energy Consumption per Capita.*** The City shall encourage residents and businesses to consume 25 percent less energy by 2030 compared to the baseline year of 2005.

***Policy U 6.1.7: Solar Access.*** The City shall ensure, to the extent feasible, that sites, subdivisions, landscaping, and buildings are configured and designed to maximize passive solar access.

***Policy U 6.1.8: Other Energy Generation Systems.*** The City shall promote the use of locally shared solar, wind, and other energy generation systems as part of new planned developments.

***Policy U 6.1.11: Energy Efficiency Improvements.*** The City shall develop and implement energy efficiency standards for existing buildings, and provide incentives for property owners to make improvements necessary to meet minimum energy efficiency standards.

***Policy U 6.1.13: Energy Efficient Incentives.*** The City shall develop incentives to encourage the use of energy efficient vehicles, equipment, and lighting.

***Policy U 6.1.16: Energy Efficiency Appliances.*** The City shall encourage builders to supply Energy STAR appliances and HVAC systems in all new residential developments, and shall encourage builders to install high-efficiency boilers where applicable, in all new non-residential developments.

***Policy U 7.1.7: Household Telecommunication Systems.*** The City shall encourage the installation of telecommunications systems (e.g., internet) in every city household to facilitate resident access to information about public services, transit, emergencies, and other information.

***Policy U 7.1.8: City Operations/Public Services.*** The City shall continue to use telecommunications to enhance the performance of internal City operations and the delivery of public services.

## River District Specific Plan EIR

The RDSP EIR considered the effects of the buildout of the proposed RDSP on public utilities. Chapter 5.9 of the RDSP Draft EIR evaluated the potential effects of the RDSP on the demand for potable water and the capacity of the existing potable water system to supply this need, as well as the capacities' of the wastewater and storm drainage systems to provide adequate collection (Impacts 5.9-1 through -5). The RDSP Draft EIR concluded all impacts to public would be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures as identified in the previous 2030 General Plan EIR.

Utility related policies applicable to the project area include the following:

***Policy I 1a:*** Encourage the installation of techniques such as bio-swales, permeable pavement and greywater systems to reduce stormwater runoff.

***Policy I 1b:*** Encourage the installation of techniques such as water conserving appliances and low-flow fixtures in buildings to reduce water consumption.

***Policy I 1c:*** Require water conservative irrigation methods in all landscaping plans.

***Policy I 1d:*** Encourage landscaping plans to limit the use of turf and utilize drought resistant plantings.

### 3.13.5 Impact Assessment and Mitigation

#### City of Sacramento Standards of Significance

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to utilities are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable general plans and previous environmental documents, and professional judgment. The standards also incorporate appropriate HUD or FTA criteria, where applicable. The project alternatives would have a significant adverse effect if they would:

- Result in the determination that adequate capacity is not available to serve the project's demand in addition to existing commitments, or;
- Require or result in either the construction of new utilities or the expansion of existing utilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

#### Department of Housing and Urban Development Evaluation Criteria

HUD regulations provide a listing of federal laws, regulations, and executive orders against which all HUD-assisted projects must be evaluated. The online HUD Exchange provides additional guidance documents for considering context and intensity impacts associated with energy consumption, solid waste disposal/ recycling, waste water/ sanitary sewers, and water supply (HUD, 2013). Specific factors to consider include energy efficiency design measures, proximity to mass transit, and energy efficient building design, as well as the availability of

landfill space for solid waste and disposal authority, the availability of adequate wastewater disposal service, and the adequacy and security of clean water to serve the project.

## Other Applicable Evaluation Criteria

There are no other criteria that would be applicable to the proposed project.

## Environmental Analysis

***UTL-1. Would the project result in the determination that adequate capacity is not available to serve the project's demand in addition to existing commitments such that the project would require or result in either the construction of new utilities or the expansion of existing utilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts?***

### Alternative 1 – No Project

The No Project alternative would result in the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project not being constructed or operated. The project area would remain in its existing condition. Any existing activities in or around the project area would remain unchanged. Under NEPA, there would be **no adverse effect**. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact** with respect to this criterion.

### Alternative 2 – Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project

#### Water Supply

The proposed project's on-site water conveyance system would connect to the City's water supply from ancillary water pipes that draw water from a 36-inch main in North B Street and the 42-inch main in 18th Street. Proposed domestic water and irrigation water services would be metered services protected with City- approved backflow devices in accordance with City of Sacramento cross control policies.

The projected water demand from the proposed project was accounted for in the City's 2035 General Plan and Master EIR, as the project is consistent with the General Plan land use designation. The Master EIR concluded that the City's existing water right permits and United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) contract are sufficient to meet the total water demand projected for buildout of the proposed 2035 General Plan, including the proposed project site. In addition, according to the 2015 Sacramento Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), the City's available water supply would be well below the City's water demand during a multiple-dry year in 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, and 2040. During a drought year in 2040, the City's water yearly supply is expected to be 294,419 acre feet-per-year (AFY), while the City's yearly water demand would be 162,029 AFY; it is anticipated that there would be a 132,390 AFY surplus of water supply in the year 2040 during drought. Because the City would have adequate capacity of water supply at buildout of the 2035 General Plan (as well as through to 2045 as projected in the UWMP), and the proposed project is consistent with the General Plan, the project would have a less-than-significant impact related to water supply and would not trigger a need to generate

additional water sources or infrastructure development. As such, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact**.

### Wastewater and Stormwater

Onsite wastewater and stormwater conveyance under Alternative 2 would be provided by both the Combined Storm-Sewer System (CSS) and sanitary sewer mains, managed by the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD). The portion of Alternative 2 located at the existing Housing Complex portion of the site would be served by the existing public sanitary sewer main lines ranging in size from 6-inch to 12-inch diameter adjacent to the project site. The proposed project improvements would utilize existing sanitary sewer services where feasible, and abandon all existing sanitary sewer services determined to be inadequate for the proposed project's needs. New sanitary sewer services would be provided in accordance with the City of Sacramento standards, and served by the aforementioned existing public sanitary sewer mainlines adjacent the project site.

The Expansion Area of the project site would be served by the CSS. Existing CSS mainlines are located within Sproule Avenue and North 16<sup>th</sup> Street, ranging in size from 8-inch to 12-inch diameter pipes. Within the CSS, the City standards require on-site sanitary sewer and on-site storm drain systems to be separated, with separate service connections to the City CSS mainlines. While the specific locations of the proposed storm and sewer services are not yet determined, the proposed project storm drain and sanitary sewer services would likely be provided from the existing CSS mainlines located within Sproule Avenue and North 16th Street.

The SRCSD has a program in place to continually evaluate demand/capacity needs, and the master planning effort provides the flexibility to respond to changes in demand that can be anticipated in advance of planned improvements so that capacity issues are addressed in a timely and cost-effective manner. Master planning efforts that would identify necessary improvement in capacity to accommodate city growth beyond the 2020 Master Plan timeframe would be initiated well in advance of 2035. To fund expansions to the conveyance systems, the SRCSD requires a regional connection fee be paid to the District for any users connecting to or expanding sewer collection systems (SRCSD Ordinance No. SRCSD-0043).

The City requires all infill developments to comply with the City's "Do No Harm" policy, which requires that all existing affected storm drainage systems function as well, or better, as a result of the new construction, and that there is no increase in flooding or in water surface elevation with negative impacts to individuals, streets, structures, infrastructure, or property. In order to comply with this standard, underground storage facilities through the use of oversized pipes, storm vaults, or similar methods, would be incorporated into the project design. A storm drain study would be submitted to the City Department of Utilities demonstrating compliance with the City's "Do No Harm" policy at time of improvement plan review.

Development under the proposed 2035 General Plan would also increase the demand for conveyance capacity in the local City-maintained sewer lines that connect to major trunk lines and interceptors in the separate sewer system. For the areas in the city that are served by the CSS, including the proposed project, there would not be a substantial increase in sewage flows to the

system because it is already limited in capacity, and flows must currently be mitigated in accordance with the Combined System Development Fee (see Section 3.8, Hydrology and Water Quality for a discussion related to the Combined System Development and SRCSD Regional Connection fees).

Therefore, because there are established plans and fee programs in place as well as enacted policies to increase conveyance capacity in response to demand, the project would be provided with adequate storm and wastewater systems and would not require new or expanded facilities. As such, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact**.

#### Solid Waste Disposal

The City's 2035 General Plan Master EIR examined impacts of buildout of the General Plan on solid waste facilities. The analysis determined that the remaining capacity and anticipated lifespans of City's primary landfill, the Sacramento Kiefer Landfill, to accept the City's solid waste is sufficient to accept the solid waste anticipated at full buildout of the City's General Plan through 2065. Furthermore, continued implementation of the Solid Waste Authority and Sacramento recycling requirements would continue to significantly reduce potential cumulative impacts on landfill capacity. The project would be required to adhere to all construction and operation diversion standards as outlined above.

Because the project was accounted for in the City's General Plan and Master EIR, and the project is consistent with the General Plan land use designation, this increase in solid waste production would not exhaust the remaining landfill capacity. As such, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact**.

#### Electricity and Natural Gas

Construction of the project would result in increased use of electricity and natural gas to support the multi-family residential units, road improvements, and light rail station. Both utility providers would install new distribution facilities, as needed, according to California Public Utilities Commission rules. Because the increased demand in energy is evaluated in the 2035 General Plan Master EIR, and because PG&E and SMUD would ensure their capability of providing an adequate level of service to the project site, this impact would be less than significant. Furthermore, because the proposed project would be required to adhere to the California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 6, Building Energy Efficiency, as well as the 2035 General Plan, the proposed project under Alternative 2 would not result in a wasteful consumption of energy. As such, there would be **no adverse effect** under NEPA. Under CEQA, there would be **no impact**.

### Mitigation Measures

None required.

## References

- California Energy Commission (CEC). 2016. 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards. Available at: [www.energy.ca.gov/title24/2013standards/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/2013standards/). Accessed January 23, 2016. Updated 2016.
- CalRecycle, 2013. Solid Waste Facility Permit 34-AA-0001, updated June 2013.
- City of Sacramento, 2004. Combined Sewer System Map. Available at: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Images/DOU/Combined-Sewer-Map.jpg?la=en>.
- City of Sacramento, 2010 (July). River District Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report. Page 5.9-2.
- City of Sacramento, 2015. City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan Background Report. Page 4-25, 44-45, Adopted March 3, 2015.
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- Regional San, 2015. Sacramento Regional Sanitation District Impact Fees. Available: <http://www.regionalsan.com/impact-fees>. Accessed January 29, 2016.
- State of California, February 2010. 20x2020 Water Conservation Plan. Available: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/hot\\_topics/20x2020/docs/20x2020plan.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/hot_topics/20x2020/docs/20x2020plan.pdf). Accessed January 23, 2017.

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## 3.14 Issues Not Subject to Further Evaluation

### 3.14.1 Introduction

A number of topical issue areas are not evaluated in detail in this IS/EA, generally because the identified environmental resources are not present within or around the project area or because implementation of the project would clearly have no effect with respect to the topic issue area. These issue areas are described in this section with an explanation of why they are not evaluated further in this IS/EA.

### 3.14.2 Agricultural and Forestry Resources

The project site is classified as “Urban and Built-up” by the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (California Department of Conservation, 2014), which is a classification used for lands that present constraints for agricultural use. The site is not zoned for agricultural uses, and there are no Williamson Act contracts that affect any portion of the project site. No existing agricultural or timber-harvest uses are located on or in the vicinity of the project site. Development of the site would result in no impacts to agricultural resources.

### 3.14.3 Energy

Structures built would be subject to Titles 20 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations, which reduce demand for electrical energy by implementing energy-efficient standards for residential and non-residential buildings. The 2035 General Plan includes goals (see 2035 General Plan Energy Resources Goal U 6.1.1) and related policies to encourage energy-efficient technology by offering rebates and other incentives to commercial and residential developers, coordination with local utility providers and recruitment of businesses that research and promote energy conservation and efficiency.

The Master EIR discussed energy conservation and relevant General Plan policies in Section 6.3 (page 6-3). The discussion concluded that with implementation of the General Plan policies and applicable energy regulations (e.g., Title 24), development allowed in the General Plan would not result in the inefficient, wasteful or unnecessary consumption of energy.

### 3.14.4 Section 4(f) Properties

There are no Section 4(f) resources within the limits of the proposed project, and no parklands would be affected by construction of the project. There would therefore be no effect to Section 4(f) resources.

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## References

California Department of Conservation. 2014. *Sacramento County Important Farmland. 2014.*



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# CHAPTER 4.0

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## Additional Considerations

### 4.1 Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

Section 21100(b)(2)(A) of CEQA requires the identification of any significant environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the project were implemented. As discussed in the various topical sections contained in Chapter 3 of this IS/EA, there are no issues that have been identified with either alternative that would result in an environmental effect that could not be mitigated to below a level of significance. Therefore, there would be no significant and unavoidable impacts associated with either of the project alternatives.

### 4.2 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

Section 21100(b)(2)(B) of CEQA requires that any significant irreversible changes that would result from implementing the project be identified. Actions that may be considered significant and irreversible include uses of non-renewable resources during the construction and operational phases of a project; primary and secondary impacts that will commit future generations to similar use; and irreversible damage due to environmental accidents.

Under Alternative 2, the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project, the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex would be redeveloped to accommodate additional residential units. Ultimately, however, the existing use would generally remain unchanged, since the area would still be occupied by a residential housing complex and its associated amenities, albeit at a higher density that is present currently. The Expansion Area parcel east of North 12th Street is currently vacant, and constructing new residential units and a light rail station at that location would essentially permanently commit the parcel to those uses. However, the development of the site for residential uses and a light rail station has been envisioned for many years, as evidenced by the inclusion of those uses in the City 2035 General Plan, the River District Specific Plan (RDSP), and numerous community visioning efforts for the area. So while conversion of the currently vacant parcel to the proposed uses would signify a change that would for all intents and purposes be permanent and irreversible, the proposed use would not be adverse. Further, and as discussed in the various topical sections contained in Chapter 3 of this IS/EA, no significant and unavoidable impacts to the environment would occur as part of the project's implementation.

Implementation of Alternative 2 would require a commitment of construction materials, such as concrete, steel, lumber, and fabricated materials. This commitment would be considered

irretrievable. However, due to the relatively small scale of the proposed project and the identified environmental benefits of the project, it would not be considered adverse or significant.

Alternative 2 would also involve the use of potentially hazardous materials normally required for construction, operation, and maintenance of transit systems, transit vehicles, and day-to-day residential uses. Environmental accidents stemming from the inadvertent release of these materials are not considered to be adverse or significant because of the minimal volumes and concentrations that would be used with implementation of the project. In addition, federal and state regulations regulate the transport, storage, and use of these materials. Federal and state regulations also regulate specific actions to be taken in the event of an inadvertent release of these materials. Therefore, while environmental accidents may occur, they are not expected to result in irreversible damage to the public or to the environment.

### **4.3 Growth-Inducing Impacts**

Section 15126.2(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that an environmental document discuss "...the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment." NEPA regulations (40 CFR Section 1508.8) require the consideration of secondary and/or indirect effects that may include growth-inducing effects. Growth can be induced in a number of ways, including through the extension of urban services or transportation facilities into previously unserved or underserved areas, the elimination of obstacles to growth, or through the stimulation of economic activity within an area.

Under Alternative 2, the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project, approximately 292 additional residential units would be constructed in the area, and a new light rail station would also be constructed along RT's existing light rail transit line. However, as determined in the City's 2035 General Plan Master EIR and the RDSP EIR, these improvements would not induce unplanned growth in the area, and would be supportive of coherent and efficient land use patterns in the RDSP area. Therefore, implementation of Alternative 2 would not induce growth beyond that which has been projected and planned for by the City and regional planning organizations.

### **4.4 Short Term Environmental Goals vs. Long Term Environmental Goals**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15065(a)(2) requires lead agencies to make a mandatory finding concerning a project's potential to achieve short term environmental goals at the expense of long term environmental goals. This question is closely related to the findings outlined above concerning significant and irreversible environmental changes and growth-inducing impacts. In the case of the proposed project, the long term environmental goals associated with the proposed project have been evaluated in the City's 2035 General Plan Master EIR and the RDSP EIR, and have also been considered as part of long term community visioning processes for the area. Each of those efforts has determined that the proposed project would meet a number of long term

environmental goals, including: 1) provision of affordable housing to disadvantaged populations; 2) development of housing in an infill setting in proximity to employment opportunities and other amenities; and 3) provision of enhanced access to regional transit and thus to employment and lifestyle opportunities throughout the region. Therefore, the proposed project would help the region meet many of its long term goals associated with housing, socio-economic advancement, and access to transit and opportunity.

## 4.5 Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Habitat, and Elimination of Examples of California’s History or Prehistory

CEQA Guidelines Section 15065 requires lead agencies to make mandatory findings concerning a proposed project’s impacts to fish and wildlife and also to cultural resources. As specified in Section 15065(a)(1), lead agencies must determine if the project would

“...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 a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?”

As discussed in Section 3.3 of this IS/EA, one sensitive species, the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, has the potential to occur in low quality habitat on the Expansion Area site. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has issued a Biological Opinion stating that with implementation of identified conservation measures, the proposed project would not be “likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the beetle” (USFWS, 2016). Therefore, the impact to sensitive biological resources and habitats would not be adverse.

With respect to cultural and historic resources, Section 3.4 of this IS/EA describes the efforts that were made to determine the presence of these resources on the site. The analysis determined that no resources eligible for listing in either the National or California Register are present, and the California Office of Historic Preservation has concurred with that determination (see Appendix F of this IS/EA). In the event that previously unknown resources are discovered during project construction, mitigation requirements already in effect per the requirements of the RDSP EIR would reduce the potential impact to a less than significant level. Therefore, the impact of project implementation on important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory would not occur, and there would be no adverse effect.

## 4.6 Cumulative Impacts

CEQA Guidelines (Section 15355) define “cumulative impacts” as “...two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.” NEPA defines cumulative effects as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and

reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR Section 1508.7).

The proposed project has already been considered and evaluated as part of the City’s 2035 General Plan Master EIR, which considered the proposed project within the context of the many other long-term improvements and developments that are anticipated to occur throughout the region over the next 20 or so years. Because the Master EIR anticipated and evaluated development across a large geographical area (the 102-square-mile General Plan Policy Area), and also considered effects that would be expected to occur over a relatively long period of time (20 or more years), the EIR’s environmental analysis was inherently cumulative in nature. The Master EIR found significant and unavoidable impacts for the following areas:

- Potential to result in long-term operational emissions of ozone precursors and particulate matter that could contribute to a violation of air quality standards;
- Contribution to regional loss of special-status plant or wildlife species or their habitat;
- Change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5;
- Change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5;
- Increase in exterior noise levels above the upper value of the normally acceptable category for various land uses (per General Plan Table EC-1);
- Increase in residential interior noise levels of  $L_{dn}$  45 dB or greater;
- Exposure of existing and/or planned residential and commercial areas to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to construction;
- Potential adverse effects to roadway segments located in adjacent jurisdictions resulting from planned development under the 2035 General Plan, such that the jurisdictions minimum acceptable level-of-service thresholds are not met; and
- Potential impacts to freeway segments.

Based on a review of the identified cumulative impacts associated with implementation of the City’s 2035 General Plan, it can be determined that many of these identified impacts would not apply to the proposed project because the analysis contained in this IS/EA project would have no effect on those particular issues. Cumulative impacts identified in the General Plan EIR to which the proposed project would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution would include the following:

**Ozone Precursors and Particulate Matter Emissions.** The analysis contained in Section 3.2 of this IS/EA found that the all of the project’s emissions levels would be effectively mitigated to less-than-significant levels. Further, the proposed project would offset those effects based on identified benefits associated with the project’s implementation. These benefits include overall reduced emissions based on the project’s transit and infill-oriented characteristics and its associated reductions in vehicular trip generation and increased access to regional transit and

public mobility. In fact, *without* the proposed project, a number of adverse cumulative impacts and effects could result, most notably impacts to air quality and traffic brought about by non-infill and non-transit-oriented development that would presumably be constructed elsewhere. Based on these considerations, the project's impacts to air emissions would not be cumulatively considerable.

**Special Status Species.** The analysis contained in Section 3.3 of this IS/EA included the determination by the USFWS that with implementation of specified conservation measures, the proposed project and its cumulative effects would not be likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and that there would be no adverse effect on the species. The USFWS's evaluation (USFWS, 2016) was cumulative in nature since it considered the incremental and cumulative effects of the proposed project within the context of other projects that are occurring or will occur throughout the range of the beetle. Based on these considerations, the project's effect on the beetle would not be cumulatively considerable. No other special status species have the potential to occur on the project site, so the project's effects on any other special status species would also not be cumulatively considerable.

**Historic and Archaeological Resources.** The analysis contained in Section 3.4 of this IS/EA determined that there are no National Register or California Register-eligible historic or archaeological resources likely to be present on the project site. The California Office of Historic Preservation has concurred with that determination (see Appendix F of this IS/EA). Since eligible historic or archaeological resources are unlikely to be present on the project site, and since measures are in place to adequately mitigate any impacts if such resources are inadvertently discovered during construction, the project's impacts to these resources would not be cumulatively considerable.

**Exterior and Interior Noise Levels, and Construction-Related Vibration.** The analysis contained in Section 3.10 of this IS/EA determined that the project-specific noise and vibration effects of the proposed project would be non-adverse, with implementation of mitigation. The project's cumulative contribution to noise and vibration levels in the larger area would be restricted to its incremental contribution of additional traffic noise created by the project's generation of additional vehicular trips. Based on the small scale of the project, and the insubstantial increase in vehicular trips that would be brought about by the proposed project, the project's effects on regional noise and vibration would not be cumulatively considerable. Further, implementation of the noise and vibration mitigations contained in the General Plan Master EIR and project-specific mitigation measures proposed in this IS/EA would reduce the project's impacts to a **less-than-significant** level, further reducing the project's contribution to environmental impacts to less than cumulatively considerable.

**Impacts to Roadway Segments and Freeway Segments.** The analysis contained in Section 3.12 of this IS/EA determined that although a number of intersections have been found to currently operate at LOS E or F, implementation of the proposed project under the Cumulative Plus Project condition would not result in unacceptable intersection operations. As noted in Section 3.12, the 2035 General Plan Policy M 1.2.2 allows LOS F at intersections located within the Core Area and/or a Priority Investment Area. All affected intersections fall under this policy. Further, the

project would construct improvements to non-auto travel modes within the study area to enhance the transportation system also in furtherance of 2035 General Plan goals, including a new light rail station and new sidewalks improving pedestrian linkages. As such, the project's impact in this regard would not be cumulatively considerable.

Concerning the project's cumulative effect on freeway segments, on April 5, 2016, the City approved the I-5 Subregional Corridor Mitigation Fee Program (SCMP) and certified its Supplemental EIR (SCH #2011012081). The SCMP would increase ridesharing during peak periods and add ramp meters and auxiliary and transition lanes on I-5 to improve traffic operations. The SCMP provides the option for development projects to monetarily contribute to the program, which would constitute mitigation for a project's impacts to the area's freeway system. To reduce the project's queuing impacts, the project would participate in the SCMP through implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.12-2. CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(a)(3) provides that "a project's contribution [to a significant cumulative impact] is less than cumulatively considerable if the project is required to implement and fund its fair share of a mitigation measure or measures designed to alleviate the cumulative impact." Therefore, the project would not have cumulatively considerable impacts to freeway facilities in the area.

Based on each of these considerations, implementation of the proposed project would not result in cumulatively adverse or significant impacts.

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## References

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2016. Formal Consultation on the Proposed Twin Rivers Transit Oriented Development Project. Sacramento County, California. Reference Code: 08ESMF00-2016-F-2198-1. December 28, 2016.

# CHAPTER 5.0

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## Coordination and Comments

### 5.1 Introduction

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review processes are intended to ensure public awareness and to inform decision makers and the public of any potential environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed project. The process also requires coordination with appropriate agencies, jurisdictions, and organizations to receive their input on the environmental review process.

This section outlines the coordination and public outreach efforts that have been undertaken to date by the participating entities. These entities include the City of Sacramento, acting in accordance with its role as lead agency for purposes of CEQA compliance and its role as Responsible Entity under applicable U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. Other participating entities include the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT), the Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento, and the Housing Authority of the City of Sacramento.

### 5.2 Public Outreach Efforts Prior to Release of the Draft IS/EA

Section 2.3 of this IS/EA outlines the various environmental planning efforts that have taken place in the project vicinity over the last several years, each of which have considered and evaluated the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project (proposed project). These planning efforts included a substantial public outreach component, during which time members of the public were provided the opportunity to learn about and provide input on the various project elements. Details of these efforts are included in Section 2.3, but are summarized as follows:

- **City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan and Master EIR.** The proposed project was incorporated into the City's General Plan and was evaluated in the Master EIR. Development of the General Plan was the result of numerous rounds of stakeholder and public engagement throughout the City over the course of several years. The Master EIR was released for public circulation in August, 2014. The Final Master EIR was certified and the General Plan was adopted by the Sacramento City Council in March, 2015.
- **River District Specific Plan and EIR.** The proposed project was incorporated into the City's River District Specific Plan (RDSP) and Program EIR. The RDSP and the EIR considered the



addition of expanded housing at the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex and also the construction of the Dos Rio light rail transit station. Development of the RDSP involved numerous rounds of stakeholder and public engagement throughout the River District planning area over the course of several years. The environmental effects of the RDSP were analyzed in a Draft EIR that was released for public circulation in July, 2010. The Final EIR was certified and the Specific Plan was adopted by the Sacramento City Council in February, 2011.

In addition to the broad planning and community outreach efforts outlined above, a number of community engagement efforts have been undertaken that have specifically focused on the proposed project. These efforts are described in detail in Chapter 1 of this IS/EA, but are summarized as follows:

- **Choice Neighborhoods Initiative.** The two-year CNI planning process built on previous planning efforts undertaken during the City's work on the RDSP and nearby Railyards Specific Plans and included a substantial public involvement component. The CNI planning process culminated in the River District-Railyards Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan (NTP) submitted to HUD in January 2014, which essentially outlined the parameters of the proposed project, including redevelopment and expansion of the existing Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex with a new light rail station at its center. Development of the NTP included numerous planning sessions and charrettes with area residents and other area stakeholders.
- **Regional Transit Planning.** RT conducted an alternatives analysis in 2005 to determine the location for a new station in the River District that would maximize opportunities for existing area ridership and eventually provide opportunities for increased ridership as the area undergoes transformation. The proposed location for the new Dos Rios site was chosen to meet these goals, and was chosen after a number of community engagement sessions with area residents and other area stakeholders.
- **Regional Transit Station Design.** RT conducted an open house and design charrette on April 16, 2015 to solicit community members' priorities and input into the design of the proposed Dos Rios light rail station. RT plans further such sessions as the station moves into final design.

## 5.3 Agency Consultation

As the CEQA Lead Agency and the HUD-designated Responsible Entity for environmental review as specified in 24 CFR 58.4, the City of Sacramento undertook appropriate coordination efforts with applicable agencies with oversight over environmental issues associated with components of the project.

### 5.3.1 Consultations Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act

Acting in its role as the Responsible Entity for the project as specified in 24 CFR 58.5, the City contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to determine whether federally listed threatened or endangered species under its jurisdiction would be likely to occur in the project area. The Service's response was received on April 29, 2016, and identified a total of eight listed species

that are known to occur in the general project vicinity. Biological resources surveys conducted at the project site determined that only one Federally listed species has the potential to occur on the project site and could be affected by implementing the project: the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). The beetle is Federally listed as threatened. Accordingly, in conjunction with SHRA, the City prepared a Biological Assessment (BA) for the project area that considered the likelihood of occurrence for the beetle, and the potential effects that could occur from implementation of the proposed project.

The findings of the BA are discussed in Section 3.3 of this IS/EA, and the BA and associated correspondence with USFWS is also included with this IS/EA in **Appendix A**. The BA was forwarded to USFWS on September 6, 2016 for its review, together with a request that USFWS concur with the BA's finding that with implementation of applicable conservation measures, the project would be unlikely to adversely affect the beetle. The USFWS emailed the City on October 12, 2016 requesting additional information on the City's proposed conservation measures for the beetle, and on December 13, 2016 the USFWS received an email from the City clarifying the proposed measures. The USFWS issued a Biological Opinion (BO) on December 28, 2016, in which it found that with implementation of specified conservation measures, the proposed project and its cumulative effects would not be likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the beetle. Accordingly, the City has satisfied its consultation requirements with USFWS, and further consultation is not necessary.

### 5.3.2 Consultations Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Acting in its role as the Responsible Entity for the project as specified in 24 CFR 58.5, the City initiated consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), to determine the potential effects of the proposed project on historic resources.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, an area of potential effect (APE) was delineated around the project area, to encompass potential direct and indirect effects on cultural resources that could occur from implementation of the project. Two APEs, one for archaeological resources and another for historic and architectural resources, were delineated. Due to the defined nature of the project and its minimal potential for indirect effects, the APE for archaeological and architectural resources is the same. Required records searches and surveys were taken for both APEs, and a Cultural Resources Survey and Inventory Report (CRSIR) was prepared and submitted to SHPO with a request for concurrence of a Finding of No Effect. On April 6, 2017, SHPO issued its concurrence with the findings. SHPO's concurrence is provided in Appendix F of this IS/EA.

In January 2016 the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted to conduct a search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) and a list of Native American representatives who may have interest in the project. The NAHC reply indicated that the SLF has no record of any cultural resources in the APE, and also included a contact list of Native American representatives. In June 2016, SHRA sent letters with project information to Native American contacts provided by the NAHC to solicit comments and concerns regarding potential project impacts to cultural resources

and invite the contacts to consultation for purposes of Section 106 and California Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52). In July 2016, SHRA made follow-up phone calls to the same contacts. From these initial outreach efforts, SHRA received replies from the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (Shingle Springs) and Wilton Rancheria (Wilton), both of whom asked for additional information on the project and copies of the records search and draft CRSIR conducted for the project. In preparation of the Extended Phase 1 (XPI) subsurface investigation, SHRA contacted Shingle Springs and Wilton to inform them of the proposed fieldwork and request if they had any concerns. Both tribes showed concern regarding cultural resources in the APE. On February 6, 2017, representatives from SHRA, ESA, Shingle Springs, and Wilton met on-site to discuss the XPI and the tribes' concerns. Both tribes provided a monitor during the XPI fieldwork. Documentation of the project correspondence with the NAHC and other Native American representatives is included in **Appendix E** of this IS/EA.

## **5.4 Public Review of the Draft IS/EA**

### **5.4.1 Draft IS/EA**

The City of Sacramento has prepared this IS/EA to identify potential effects of the proposed project. The analysis describes potential temporary (construction) and long-term (operational) effects, as well as potential cumulative effects. As appropriate, mitigation measures have been proposed that would be implemented to reduce the identified potential adverse effects.

The Draft IS/EA was released for public review on June 12, 2017. The Notice of Availability (NOA) was distributed to the State Clearinghouse and the agencies, organizations, and individuals identified below in Section 5.6. A copy of the NOA seeking input from agency and non-agency recipients is provided in Appendix G of this IS/EA. The NOA was also distributed via certified mail to affected property owners.

## **5.5 Responses to Comments Received on the Draft IS/EA**

The public review period for the Draft IS/EA began on June 12, 2017 and concluded on July 12, 2017. During that time, three comment submittals were received from public agencies. No comments were received from members of the general public. Each of the comments are reproduced below, followed by a summary of the comment(s) and a response. The comments are presented in the order they were received. As can be seen in the responses, none of the comments presented significant new information, nor does the information and resultant minor revisions to the IS/EA ultimately change the findings made in the Draft IS/EA. Therefore, the IS/EA is not subject to recirculation, nor does any clarification or supplemental information trigger a requirement for recirculation.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

5 July 2017

Dana Mahaffey  
City of Sacramento  
300 Richard Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811

CERTIFIED MAIL  
91 7199 9991 7036 7027 1977

### COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, TWIN RIVERS TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AND LIGHT RAIL STATION PROJECT, SCH# 2017062021, SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 12 June 2017 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Mitigated Negative Declaration* for the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project, located in Sacramento 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 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/](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](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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml).

### **Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits<sup>1</sup>**

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/](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](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](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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml).

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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](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](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](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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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](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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit3.shtml)

5 July 2017

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



Stephanie Tadlock  
Environmental Scientist

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

### **Comment Number 1: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**Summary:** The letter contains general information that is not specific to the proposed project. The letter provides information regarding the project's need to comply with storm water discharge requirements, Best Management Practices (BMPs), Section 401 and Section 404 permits, and waste discharge regulations.

**Response:** The comment is informational in nature and does not require a specific response. In Section 3.1-8 *Hydrology and Water Quality*, and Section 3.13 *Utilities and Service Systems*, the Draft IS/EA noted the regulatory requirements governing the proposed project, including those noted in RWQCB's letter. Since the comment does not raise any concerns with the analysis in the Draft IS/EA nor any new environmental issues that have not already been thoroughly analyzed and/or disclosed in the Draft IS/EA, no further response is needed.



***Sent Via E-Mail***

July 12, 2017

Dana Mahaffey  
City of Sacramento  
Community Development Department  
300 Richards Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
[dmahaffey@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:dmahaffey@cityofsacramento.org)

Subject: Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station  
Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Dear Ms. Mahaffey:

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). SMUD is the primary energy provider for Sacramento County and the proposed Project area. SMUD's vision is to empower our customers with solutions and options that increase energy efficiency, protect the environment, reduce global warming, and lower the cost to serve our region. As a Responsible Agency, SMUD aims to ensure that the proposed Project limits the potential for significant environmental effects on SMUD facilities, employees, and customers.

It is our desire that the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project IS/MND will acknowledge any Project impacts related to the following:

- Overhead and or underground transmission and distribution line easements. Please view the following links on [smud.org](http://smud.org) for more information regarding transmission encroachment:
  - <https://www.smud.org/en/business/customer-service/support-and-services/design-construction-services.htm>
  - <https://www.smud.org/en/do-business-with-smud/real-estate-services/transmission-right-of-way.htm>
- Utility line routing
- Electrical load needs/requirements
- Energy Efficiency
- Climate Change

- Cumulative impacts related to the need for increased electrical delivery

Based on our review of the Initial Study and our understanding of the proposed Project, SMUD requests that the following issues be considered during the Project design and planning and any associated impacts be considered in the IS/MND:

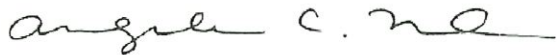
1. In the event the Applicant requires the relocation or removal of existing SMUD facilities on or adjacent to the subject property, the Applicant shall coordinate with SMUD. The Applicant shall be responsible for the cost of relocation or removal.
2. SMUD reserves the right to use any portion of its easements on or adjacent to the subject property that it reasonably needs and shall not be responsible for any damages to the developed property within said easement that unreasonably interferes with those needs.
3. The Applicant shall not place any building foundations within 5-feet of any SMUD trench to maintain adequate trench integrity. The Applicant shall verify specific clearance requirements for other utilities (e.g., Gas, Telephone, etc.).
4. The Applicant shall dedicate a 7.5-foot public utility easement (PUE) for underground facilities and appurtenances adjacent to all public street rights-of-ways and Irrevocable Offers of Dedication, with the exception of Lot 6. For Lot 6, the Applicant shall dedicate a 12.5-foot PUE adjacent to all public street rights-of-way. The PUE shall be free from any building foundations, patios, porches, and/or any permanent structures requiring a foundation.
5. The Applicant shall dedicate and provide all-weather vehicular access for service vehicles that are up to 26,000 pounds. At a minimum: (a) the drivable surface shall be 20-feet wide; and (b) all SMUD underground equipment and appurtenances shall be within 15-feet from the drivable surface.
6. The Applicant shall dedicate space for SMUD facilities located on its property. Information regarding SMUD siting requirements can be found at: <https://www.smud.org/en/business/customer-service/support-and-services/design-construction-services.htm>.

SMUD would like to be involved with discussing the above areas of interest as well as discussing any other potential issues. We aim to be partners in the efficient and sustainable delivery of the proposed Project. Please ensure that the information

included in this response is conveyed to the Project planners and the appropriate Project proponents.

Environmental leadership is a core value of SMUD and we look forward to collaborating with you on this Project. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this IS/MND. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Rob Ferrera at [rob.ferrera@smud.org](mailto:rob.ferrera@smud.org) or (916)732-6676.

Sincerely,



Angela C. McIntire  
Regional & Local Government Affairs  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
6301 S Street, Mail Stop A313  
Sacramento, CA 95817  
[angela.mcintire@smud.org](mailto:angela.mcintire@smud.org)

Cc: Rob Ferrera, SMUD

## **Comment Number 2: Sacramento Municipal Utilities District**

**Summary:** The letter contains general information that is not specific to the proposed project. The letter provides information regarding the project's need to coordinate with SMUD concerning utility planning.

**Response:** The comment is informational in nature and does not require a specific response. In Section 3.13 *Utilities and Service Systems*, the Draft IS/EA noted the regulatory requirements governing the proposed project, including those noted in SMUD's letter. Since the comment does not raise any concerns with the analysis in the Draft IS/EA nor any new environmental issues that have not already been thoroughly analyzed and/or disclosed in the Draft IS/EA, no further response is needed.

## Dana Mahaffey

---

**From:** Traci Canfield <TCanfield@sacrt.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2017 4:10 PM  
**To:** Dana Mahaffey  
**Cc:** Michael Hanebutt; David Solomon; sgreen@shra.org  
**Subject:** Re: comments on Twin Rivers IS/MND/EA/FONSI

Hello - Our Director of Civil & Track reviewed item #3 and confirmed that northbound trains will be entering the station at 20 mph within 150' of residential uses. Here is the explanation:

While the speed of southbound trains are limited by the 15 mph curve entering the station from the north, northbound trains are limited by the 20 mph curve entering the station from the south. As a result, northbound trains will travel at ~20 mph through the southern half of the station platform, before the start decelerating in the last 160' or so before stopping. The northbound trains will be within 150' of residential uses and traveling at 20 mph appears likely to generate vibration in excess of the 72 VdB FTA threshold for frequent events.

The IS/EA needs to determine the likely vibration generated in this area and what mitigation measures, if any, will be required. The area in question is about 500 feet of the track at track stationing #100+00 to 105+00 (let me know if you need a copy of the track plan). If mitigation is required, RT prefers vibration mats rather than speed limits.

Please let Darryl or me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. Thanks!  
- David

David M. Solomon, AIA, CASp  
Senior Architect  
Sacramento Regional Transit District  
P.O. Box 2110, Sacramento, CA 95812-2110  
2811 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95816  
Tel (916) 557-4682, Cell (916) 439-5139, Fax (916) 454-6016  
dsolomon@sacrt.com

>>> Traci Canfield 7/12/2017 11:45 AM >>>

Hello Dana – Below are Sacramento Regional Transit's comments on the Twin Rivers TOD and Light Rail Station Project IS/MND/EA/FONSI:

1. Page S-10: HAZ-1 – Who will be implementing Mitigation Measure 3.7-1 for Block F?
2. Global correction (noticed on Page S-12 Mitigation Measure 3.10-2): TPSS stands for *traction* power substation
3. Page S-14: NV-9 – RT is validating the assumption that the speed of trains will be 15 MPH the entire length of Block F.



4. Page 2-6: Please add “a new light rail station at 7<sup>th</sup> and Railyards Boulevard” to the last paragraph describing what is planned in the RSPU and add “streetcar” to what will be in the SITF.
  
5. Figures 2-4 and 2-5 should identify the light rail station in Block F on the diagrams.
  
6. Figures 2-8 and 2-9 should reflect the landscaped areas and trees for Block F and the light rail station area.
  
7. Page 3.10-19: 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph – RT does not expect to begin construction on the tracks and station project any sooner than the fall of 2019. Suggest reordering projects listed in the first sentence of this paragraph to reflect which elements will actually begin construction first.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I will send you validation information for #3 as soon as I have it.

Thank you,  
Traci

*Traci Canfield*  
*Senior Strategic Planner*  
*Sacramento Regional Transit*  
916-556-0513  
tcanfield@sacrt.com

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Download **RT Mobile Fare App** today! Available in the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

**Comment Number 3: Sacramento Regional Transit District**

**Summary:** The email contains additional information concerning RT's projected train speeds within the project vicinity and the likely effects with respect to vibration impacts. The email also provided a number of clarifying comments, as noted individually below.

**Response to Comment 3-1:** The City has considered the additional information provided by RT with respect to the speed of trains approaching and leaving the proposed Dos Rios Station and the potential for vibration effects on future residents adjacent to the station. Minor revisions have been made to the IS/EA on page 3.10-24 to incorporate this information and to reflect the resultant analysis. As discussed in the IS/EA text, the expected vibration generated by trains approaching and departing the proposed station would be 69 VdB, which is below the FTA impact threshold of 72 VdB for frequent transit vibration events. As such, the determination provided in the Draft IS/EA (no adverse effect) remains unchanged, and no mitigation would be required.

**Response to Comment 3-2:** It is the intent of SHRA to perform the required assessments and resultant remediation on the Expansion Area parcels. This would include those portions of the Expansion Area upon which RT's light rail station would be located.

**Response to Comment 3-3:** The requested minor revisions have been made at identified locations in the IS/EA.

**Response to Comment 3-4:** This comment concerning train speeds and resultant vibration impacts is addressed in Response to Comment 3-1, above.

**Response to Comment 3-5:** The requested minor revisions have been made on page 2-6 of the IS/EA.

**Response to Comment 3-6:** The requested updates have been made to Figures 2-4 and 2-5, and also to Figures 2-7 and 2-8.

**Response to Comment 3-7:** The City has not been provided with detailed landscaping plans for the Expansion Area where the Dos Rios light rail station would be located. As such, Figures 2-8 and 2-9 cannot accurately convey the landscape treatments that could be proposed in the future. However, the City has adopted design guidelines for the River District Specific Plan area where the project would be located. Compliance with those design guidelines, as enforced during project review by the City's Building Division, would ensure that the project would be consistent with the applicable landscaping requirements. The design guidelines are discussed in Section 3.1, *Aesthetics and Visual Resources*, of the IS/EA. Additional information to that effect has been added to page 2-24 of the IS/EA.

**Response to Comment 3-8:** The additional information concerning RT's likely construction timelines has been added on page 3.10-19, and also at appropriate locations within Chapter 2, *Alternatives*.

## 5.6 Distribution List

The following agencies, organizations, and individuals will receive a copy of the Notice of Availability (NOA) for this IS/EA. Copies of the IS/EA will be forwarded to all agencies, organizations, and individuals who request it. Notices will be posted in area newspapers, and with the County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse. The NOA will be posted at appropriate locations in and around the project site, and notices will be delivered to all residences within the Twin Rivers Community Housing Complex, and also to affected property owners within the project area. In addition, the IS/EA will be available for download and review on the City's website, SHRA's website, and RT's website.

### 5.6.1 Federal Agencies

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Federal Transit Administration  
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Environmental Clearance Officer  
Department of Housing & Urban Development  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2800 Cottage Way W-2605  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

### 5.6.2 State Agencies

California Air Resources Board  
PO Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Caltrans District 3 Planning  
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95833

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1701 Nimbus Road, Ste. A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Native American Heritage Commission  
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364  
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Department of Parks and Recreation  
PO Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296

Caltrans District 3 Office of Local Assistance  
703 B Street, P.O. Box 911  
Marysville, CA 95901

California Department of Water Resources  
PO Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236

Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
3310 El Camino Ave, Room 151  
Sacramento, CA 95821

California Public Utilities Commission  
770 L Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sacramento Air Quality Management District  
777 12th Street, 3rd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Governor's Office of Planning and  
Research State Clearinghouse  
1400 10th Street, Rm 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23rd Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Central Valley Regional Water Quality  
Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

### 5.6.3 Regional and/or Local Agencies

Sacramento City Fire Department  
5770 Freeport Blvd., Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95822

Sacramento County Environmental Coordinator  
827 7th Street, Room 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sacramento City Police Department  
5770 Freeport Blvd., Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95822

Sacramento County Planning Department  
827 7th Street, Room 230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sacramento City Unified School District  
5735 47th Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95824

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation  
District  
10060 Goethe Road  
Sacramento CA 95827

Sacramento County Environmental  
Management Dept.  
10590 Armstrong Avenue, Suite A  
Mather CA 95655

Sacramento Public Library  
828 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sacramento County Department of  
Transportation  
906 G Street, Ste. 510  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Twin Rivers Unified School District  
3222 Winona Way  
North Highlands, CA 95660

### 5.6.4 Elected Officials

Phil Serna  
Supervisor  
Sacramento County  
700 H Street, Suite 2450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Darrell Steinberg  
Mayor  
City of Sacramento  
915 'I' Street, Room 205, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Angelique Ashby  
Council Member  
City of Sacramento  
915 'I' Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Larry Carr  
Council Member  
City of Sacramento  
915 'I' Street, Room 205, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Eric Guerra  
Council Member  
City of Sacramento  
915 'I' Street, Room 205, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Steve Hansen  
Chief of Staff to Mayor Johnson  
City of Sacramento  
915 'I' Street, Room 205, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Jeff Harris  
Council Member  
City of Sacramento  
915 'I' Street, Room 205, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Jay Schenirer  
Council Member  
City of Sacramento  
915 'I' Street, Room 205, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Allen Warren  
Council Member  
City of Sacramento  
915 'I' Street, Room 205, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## 5.6.5 Organizations and Individuals

Environmental Council of Sacramento  
(ECOS)  
P.O. Box 1526  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Sacramento Housing Alliance  
1800 21st Street, Ste. 100  
Sacramento, CA 95818

River District Board of Directors  
P.O. Box 630  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Sacramento Transportation Management  
Association  
PO Box 19520  
Sacramento, CA 95819

Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA)  
909 12th Street, Ste. 116  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Walk Sacramento  
909 12th Street, Ste. 122  
Sacramento, CA 95822

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# CHAPTER 6.0

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## List of Preparers

### 6.1 Lead Agency

#### **City of Sacramento – Local Lead Agency (CEQA) and Responsible Entity (NEPA)**

- Tom Buford, Senior Planner
- Dana Mahaffey, Associate Planner

### 6.2 Other Participating Agencies

#### **Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency – Participating Agency**

- Geoffrey Ross, Assistant Director, Development and Federal Programs
- Celia Yniguez, Senior Management Analyst
- Stephanie Green, Environmental Coordinator
- Brad Satterwhite, Community Development Analyst

#### **Sacramento Regional Transit District – Participating Agency**

- Jeff Damon, Director, Long Range Planning
- Traci Canfield, Senior Strategic Planner
- Jenny Niello, Principal Civil Engineer
- David Solomon, Senior Architect

### 6.3 Environmental Planning Consultants

#### **Environmental Science Associates, Sacramento, California**

Responsible for overall technical coordination and technical analyses of all issue areas.

- Brian Boxer, AICP, B.A., History; M.P.A.-U.R.P., Public Affairs and Urban Planning – 30+ years of experience. Project Director responsible for overall technical review and coordination.

- Luke Evans, B.A., History and Religious Studies; M.S., Environmental and Natural Resources Policy – 19 years of experience. Project Manager responsible for compilation of environmental document and technical studies.
- Chris Fitzer, B.A., Geography; M.S., Environmental Planning – 19 years of experience. Oversaw biological resources analysis and Section 7 consultation.
- Sarah Cannon, B.S. Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation – 7 years of experience. Prepared biological resources evaluation and Biological Assessment for Section 7 consultation.
- Dana McGowan, RPA, B.A., Anthropology; M.A., Anthropology – 30+ years of experience. Oversaw cultural resources analysis and Section 106 consultation.
- Amber Grady, B.A., Interior Design; M.A. Historic Preservation – 16 years of experience. Prepared built environment/historic architectural evaluation.
- Robin Hoffman, RPA, B.A. Anthropology; M.A. Latin American and Iberian Studies – 13 years of experience. Prepared archaeological resources evaluation, oversaw subsurface survey work, and coordinated tribal consultation.
- Chris Sanchez, B.S., Environmental Science – 23 years of experience. Oversaw preparation of air quality/greenhouse gas and noise and vibration analysis.
- Rachael Larson, B.S., Physics; M.S., Mechanical Engineering – 3 years of experience. Prepared air quality/greenhouse gas evaluation.
- Stan Armstrong, B.A. Civil Engineering – 6 years of experience. Conducted noise measurements and prepared noise and vibration analysis.
- Michael Burns, CHG, CEG, PG, B.S., Geology – 30+ years of experience. Prepared geological resources and hazardous materials evaluation, prepared Explosive Hazards Evaluation.
- Cori Resha, B.A., Environmental Economics; J.D., Law – 11 years of experience. Prepared public services analysis.
- Dave Davis, B.S., Geography; M.S. Geography – 28 years of experience. Prepared environmental justice, land use/population and housing/socioeconomics, public services and recreation evaluations.
- Jennifer Brown, B.A., Environmental Studies and Political Science – 5 years of experience. Prepared aesthetics, hydrology and water quality, and utilities evaluation.
- Frank (Eryn) Pimentel, GISP, B.A., Geography; B.A., Art – 8 years of experience. Prepared GIS-related analysis.
- Ron Teitel, B.A., Geography – 28 years of experience. Prepared document graphics and figures.
- Kristine Olsen, A.S., Natural Science – 15 years of experience. Oversaw word processing and production.



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## **Fehr & Peers, Sacramento, California**

Responsible for transportation analysis.

- David Carter, AICP; Senior Associate; Master of City and Regional Planning – 9 years of experience. Project manager/oversaw preparation of transportation analysis.
- Jimmy Fong, P.E.; Transportation Engineer; B.S., Civil Engineering – 3 years of experience. Project engineer/lead analyst preparing transportation analysis.
- Rebecca Shafer, EIT; Transportation Engineer; B.S., Civil Engineering; M.S., Transportation Engineering; Master of City and Regional Planning – 2 years of experience. Project engineer/assisted with preparation of transportation analysis.

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# MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

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## Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project

### Introduction

Section 15097 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines requires public agencies to establish monitoring or reporting programs for projects approved by a public agency whenever approval involves the adoption of either a “mitigated negative declaration” or specified environmental findings related to environmental impact reports.

The following is the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station. The intent of the MMRP is to prescribe and enforce a means for properly and successfully implementing the mitigation measures identified within the Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) for this project.

### Mitigation Measures

The project’s mitigation measures are derived from two sources: 1) applicable measures from the River District Specific Plan EIR; and 2) measures from the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station IS/EA. All identified measures apply to the proposed project. The document from which each measure originated (River District EIR or the IS/EA) is identified, and each measure uses the same number originally assigned to it. The MMRP describes the actions that must take place to implement each mitigation measure, the timing of those actions, and the entities responsible for implementing and monitoring the actions.

### MMRP Components

The components of the attached table, which contains applicable mitigation measures, are addressed briefly, below.

**Impact:** This column summarizes the impact stated in the Draft IS/EA.

**Mitigation Measure:** All mitigation measures that were identified in the Draft IS/EA are presented, and numbered accordingly.

**Action:** For every mitigation measure, one or more actions are described. The actions delineate the means by which the mitigation measures will be implemented, and in some instances, the criteria for determining whether a measure has been successfully implemented. Where mitigation measures are particularly detailed, the action may refer back to the measure.

**Implementing Party:** This item identifies the entity that will undertake the required action, typically the project applicant or its designee.

**Timing:** Implementation of the action must occur prior to or during some part of project approval, project design or construction or on an ongoing basis. The timing for each measure is identified.

**Monitoring Party:** The City of Sacramento is primarily responsible for ensuring that mitigation measures are successfully implemented. Within the City, a number of departments and divisions would have responsibility for monitoring some aspect of the overall project.

**TWIN RIVERS TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AND LIGHT RAIL STATION MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Actions(s)	Implementing Party	Timing	Monitoring Party
<b>Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b>					
<p><b>AQ-1.</b> Would the project produce construction emissions of NOX, ROG, PM10 or PM2.5 that would exceed the SMAQMD's construction significance thresholds?</p>	<p><b>IS/EA Mitigation Measure 3.2-1:</b> City approval of any grading or improvement plans shall include the following SMAQMD Basic Construction Emission Control Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All exposed surfaces shall be watered two times daily. Exposed surfaces include, but are not limited to soil piles, graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads.</li> <li>• Cover or maintain at least two feet of free board space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Any haul trucks that would be traveling along freeways or major roadways shall be covered.</li> <li>• Use wet power vacuum street sweepers to remove any visible trackout mud or dirt onto adjacent public roads at least once a day. Use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.</li> <li>• Limit vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour.</li> <li>• All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots shall be paved as soon as possible. In addition, building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.</li> <li>• Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes (as required by the state airborne toxics control measure [Title 13, Section 2485 of the California Code of Regulations]). Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site.</li> <li>• Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determine to be running in proper condition before it is operated.</li> </ul>	<p>Provide Dust Abatement Plan that meets the requirements of the mitigation measure to the City Building Division for review and approval.</p>	<p>Project applicant or designee</p>	<p>Prior to issuance of demolition and/or building permits.</p>	<p>City of Sacramento</p>
<b>Biological Resources</b>					
<p><b>BIO-1.</b> Would the project 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?</p>	<p><b>IS/EA Mitigation Measure 3.3-1:</b> Prior to the issuance of any grading or building permit for the proposed project, the City or its designated cooperator shall purchase compensatory mitigation credits as specified in the project's Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated December 28, 2016. Credits shall be purchased at the ratios prescribed therein. In addition, the following conditions shall apply, as prescribed in the Biological Opinion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The City or its designated cooperator will include full implementation and adherence to the conservation measure as a condition of any permit or contract issued for the proposed project;</li> <li>2. The City or its designated cooperator will provide a completed bill of sale and payment receipt to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service upon purchase of the beetle conservation credits;</li> <li>3. In order to monitor whether the amount or extent of incidental take anticipated from implementation of the proposed project is approached or exceeded, the City will adhere to the following reporting requirements. Should this anticipated amount or extent of incidental take be exceeded, the City must immediately reinstate formal consultation, as per 50 CFR 402.16.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. For those components of the action that will result in habitat degradation or modification whereby incidental take in the form of harm is anticipated, the City will provide a precise accounting of the elderberry plants impacted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after completion of construction. This report will also include any information about changes in project implementation that result in habitat disturbance not described in the Description of the Action presented in the project Biological Opinion dated December 28, 2016 and not analyzed therein.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>IS/EA Mitigation Measure 3.3-2:</b> The City or its designated cooperator shall require construction contractors to conduct tree removal activities outside of the migratory bird and raptor breeding season (defined here as February 1 through August 31), where feasible. For any construction activities that occur between February 1 and August 31, the City or its designated cooperator shall conduct preconstruction surveys in suitable nesting habitat within 500 feet of the construction area for migratory birds and raptor species. In addition, all trees slated for removal during the nesting season shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist no more than 48 hours before removal to ensure that no nesting birds are occupying the tree.</p> <p>If active nests are found during the survey, the construction contractor shall implement mitigation measures to ensure that the species will not be adversely affected, which will include establishing a no-work buffer zone, around the active nest. Avoidance measures will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintaining a 500-foot buffer around each active raptor nest. No construction activities shall be permitted within this buffer. For other migratory birds, a 250-foot no-work buffer zone shall be established, around the active nest. The no-work buffer may vary depending on species and site</li> </ol>	<p><b>Measure 3.3-1:</b> Provide documentation of purchase of compensatory mitigation credits as specified in the project's Biological Opinion.</p> <p><b>Measure 3.3-2:</b> Submittal of documentation demonstrating compliance with the mitigation measure.</p>	<p><b>Measure 3.3-1:</b> Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency</p> <p><b>Measure 3.3-2:</b> Project applicant or designee</p>	<p>Prior to issuance of demolition and/or building permits.</p>	<p>City of Sacramento</p>

**TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)  
TWIN RIVERS TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AND LIGHT RAIL STATION MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Actions(s)	Implementing Party	Timing	Monitoring Party
	<p>specific conditions. No project-related activity shall occur within the no-work buffer until a qualified wildlife biologist confirms that the nest is no longer active, or unless otherwise permitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.</p> <p>2. If an appropriate no-disturbance buffer is infeasible, a qualified biologist shall be present during construction activities for the entire duration of activities within the buffer to monitor the behavior of the potentially affected nesting bird. The biologist shall have the authority to stop-work within the buffer area if the bird(s) exhibit distress and/or abnormal nesting behavior (swooping/stooping, excessive vocalization [distress calls], agitation, failure to remain on nest, failure to deliver prey items for an extended time period, failure to maintain nest, etc.) which may cause reproductive failure (nest abandonment and loss of eggs or young). Work shall not resume in the buffer area until bird's behavior has normalized. Completion of the nesting cycle shall be determined by a qualified biologist.</p>				
<b>Cultural and Paleontological Resources</b>					
<p><b>CR-1.</b> Would the project have the potential to affect historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended, or cause a substantial change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?</p>	<p><b>River District Specific Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 5.3-2:</b></p> <p>a) Prior to any excavation, grading or other construction on the project site, and in consultation with Native American Tribes and the City's Preservation Director: a qualified archaeologist will prepare a testing plan for testing areas proposed for excavation or any other ground-disturbing activities as part of future projects, which plan shall be approved by the City's Preservation Director. Testing in accordance with that plan will then ensue by the qualified archaeologist, who will prepare a report on findings, and an evaluation of those findings, from those tests and present that report to the City's Preservation Director. Should any findings be considered as potentially significant, further archaeological investigations shall ensue, by the qualified archaeologist, and the archaeologist shall prepare reports on those investigations and evaluations relative to eligibility of the findings to the Sacramento, California or National Registers of Historic &amp; Cultural Resources/ Places and submit that report to the City's Preservation Director and SHPO with recommendations for treatment, disposition, or reburials of significant findings, as appropriate. Also, at the conclusion of the pre-construction testing, evaluation and reports and recommendations, a decision will be made by the City's Preservation Director as to whether on-site monitoring during any project-related excavation or ground-disturbing activities by a qualified archaeologist will be required.</p> <p>b) Discoveries during construction: For those projects where no on-site archaeological monitoring was required, in the event that any prehistoric subsurface archaeological features or deposits, including locally darkened soil ("midden"), that could conceal cultural deposits, animal bone, obsidian and/or mortars are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities, all work within 50 meters of the resources shall be halted, and a qualified archaeologist will be consulted to assess the significance of the find. Archaeological test excavations shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist to aid in determining the nature and integrity of the find. If the find is determined to be significant by the qualified archaeologist, representatives of the City and the qualified archaeologist shall coordinate to determine the appropriate course of action. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis and professional museum curation. In addition, a report shall be prepared by the qualified archaeologist according to current professional standards.</p> <p>c) If a Native American site is discovered, the evaluation process shall include consultation with the appropriate Native American representatives.</p> <p>d) If Native American archaeological, ethnographic, or spiritual resources are involved, all identification and treatment shall be conducted by qualified archaeologists, who are certified by the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA) and/or meet the federal standards as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 61), and Native American representatives, who are approved by the local Native American community as scholars of the cultural traditions.</p> <p>e) In the event that no such Native American is available, persons who represent tribal governments and/or organizations in the locale in which resources could be affected shall be consulted. If historic archaeological sites are involved, all identified treatment is to be carried out by qualified historical archaeologists, who shall meet either Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), or 36 CFR 61 requirements.</p> <p>f) If a human bone or bone of unknown origin is found during construction, all work shall stop in the vicinity of the find, and the County Coroner, and City's Preservation Director, shall be contacted immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who shall notify the person most likely believed to be a descendant. The most likely descendant shall work with the contractor to develop a program for re-interment of the human remains and any associated artifacts. No additional work is to take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until the identified appropriate actions have taken place. Work can continue on other parts of the project site while the unique archaeological resource mitigation takes place.</p>	<p>Provide proof of retention of a qualified archaeologist and Native American representative(s) to be available on an on-call basis in the event that previously-unknown cultural resources are discovered during construction.</p>	<p>Project applicant or designee</p>	<p>Prior to issuance of grading permits.</p>	<p>City of Sacramento</p>

**TABLE S-2 (CONTINUED)  
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure(s)</b>	<b>Actions(s)</b>	<b>Implementing Party</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Monitoring Party</b>
<b>CR-2.</b> Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource?	<b>River District Specific Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 5.3-2</b> (see above)	Provide proof of retention of a qualified archaeologist and Native American representative(s) to be available on an on-call basis in the event that previously-unknown cultural resources are discovered during construction.	Project applicant or designee	Prior to issuance of grading permits.	City of Sacramento
<b>CR-3.</b> Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<b>River District Specific Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 5.3-2</b> (see above)	Provide proof of retention of a qualified archaeologist and Native American representative(s) to be available on an on-call basis in the event that previously-unknown cultural resources are discovered during construction.	Project applicant or designee	Prior to issuance of grading permits.	City of Sacramento
<b>CR-4:</b> Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, as defined in PRC Section 21074?	<b>River District Specific Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 5.3-2</b> (see above)	Provide proof of retention of a qualified archaeologist and Native American representative(s) to be available on an on-call basis in the event that previously-unknown cultural resources are discovered during construction.	Project applicant or designee	Prior to issuance of grading permits.	City of Sacramento
<b>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</b>					
<b>HAZ-1.</b> Would the project expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated soil during construction activities?	<b>IS/EA Mitigation Measure 3.7-1: Phase II Assessment.</b> Prior to construction or development of the proposed project, a Phase II assessment and subsurface geophysical investigation shall be conducted. If the Phase II assessment concludes that site remediation would be necessary to protect human health and the environment, the site shall not be developed until the site is remediated to levels that would be protective of the most sensitive population for the planned use, as prescribed in applicable regulations.	Provide Phase II Assessment showing compliance with the measure, and proof of completed remediation, if required.	Project applicant or designee	Prior to issuance of grading permits.	City of Sacramento
<b>HAZ-2.</b> Would the project expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to asbestos-containing materials, or other hazardous materials or situations?	<b>River District Specific Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 5.4-1(b):</b> Prior to demolition or renovation of structures, the project applicant shall provide written documentation to the City that either there is no asbestos-containing materials and/or lead-based paint in the structures or that such materials have been abated and that any remaining hazardous substances and/or waste have been removed in compliance with application State and local laws.	Provide evidence of compliance with the measure, as specified in the measure.	Project applicant or designee	Prior to issuance of demolition and/or building permits.	City of Sacramento
<b>Noise and Vibration</b>					
<b>NV-1.</b> Would the project result in exterior noise levels in the project area that are above the upper value of the normally acceptable category for various land uses due to the project's noise level increases?	<b>IS/EA Mitigation Measure 3.10-1:</b> During the design and construction of exterior residential elements in the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area, the project applicant shall consult with a certified acoustical professional to design and implement appropriate noise attenuation elements that are of sufficient effectiveness to reduce noise levels to below the City exterior noise standard as shown in General Plan Table EC-1 for residential land uses. The effectiveness of these measures shall be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the City Community Development Department prior to the issuance of occupancy permits.  <b>IS/EA Mitigation Measure 3.10-2:</b> If traction power substation (TPSS) units are placed nearer than 110 feet from proposed residential uses, the applicant shall submit engineering and acoustical specifications for project air conditioning equipment to the City prior to the issuance of building permits. The engineering and acoustical specification shall demonstrate to the City's satisfaction that the air conditioning equipment design (types, location, enclosure, specification) will control noise from the equipment to at least 10 dBA below existing ambient levels at nearby residential and other noise sensitive receptors.	<b>Measure 3.10-1:</b> Provide applicable acoustical analysis and design documentation; demonstrate that identified construction requirements are included within the project plans.  <b>Measure 3.10-2:</b> Provide applicable acoustical analysis and design documentation; demonstrate that identified construction requirements are included within the project plans.	<b>Measure 3.10-1:</b> Project applicant or designee  <b>Measure 3.10-2:</b> Sacramento Regional Transit District	Prior to issuance of construction contracts and/or construction bid solicitation.	City of Sacramento
<b>NV-2.</b> Would the project result in residential interior noise levels of 45 dBA L <sub>dn</sub> or greater caused by noise level increases due to the project?	<b>IS/EA Mitigation Measure 3.10-3:</b> Prior to the issuance of building permits for residential projects within the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area, the City shall require project applicants for residential development to submit a detailed noise analysis, prepared by a qualified acoustical professional, to identify design measures to be implemented to achieve the City interior standard of 45 L <sub>dn</sub> in the proposed new residences. The resulting study shall be submitted to the City for review and approval. Design measures such as the following could be required, depending on the specific findings of the noise study: double-paned glass windows facing noise sources; solid-core doors; increased sound insulation of exterior walls (such as through staggered-or double-studs, multiple layers of gypsum board, and incorporation of resilient channels); weather-tight seals for doors and windows; or sealed windows with an air conditioning system installed for ventilation. The building plans submitted for building permit approval shall be accompanied by certification of a licensed engineer that the plans include the identified noise-attenuating design measures and satisfy the requirements of City standards.	Provide applicable acoustical analysis and design documentation; demonstrate that identified construction requirements are included within the project plans.	Project applicant or designee	Prior to issuance of construction contracts and/or construction bid solicitation.	City of Sacramento
<b>NV-3.</b> Would the project result in construction noise levels that exceed the standards in the City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance?	<b>IS/EA Mitigation Measure 3.10-4:</b> The City of Sacramento and the project contractor(s) shall implement the following measures as feasible and appropriate during all phases of project construction:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whenever construction occurs within 130 feet of occupied residences (on- or off-site), temporary barriers shall be constructed around the construction sites to shield the ground floor of the noise-</li> </ul>	Placement of specified mitigation requirements within the project plans for each phase of project development; provide construction specifications to City Building Division for review prior to construction bid solicitation and/or contract finalization.	Project applicant or designee	Prior to issuance of construction contracts and/or construction bid solicitation.	City of Sacramento

**TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)  
TWIN RIVERS TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AND LIGHT RAIL STATION MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Actions(s)	Implementing Party	Timing	Monitoring Party
	<p>sensitive uses. These barriers shall be of 3/4-inch Medium Density Overlay (MDO) plywood sheeting, or other material of equivalent utility and appearance, and shall achieve a Sound Transmission Class of STC-30, or greater, based on certified sound transmission loss data taken according to ASTM Test Method E90 or as approved by the City of Sacramento Building Official.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction equipment staging areas shall be located as far as feasible from residential areas while still serving the needs of construction contractors.</li> <li>Use of auger displacement installation techniques for installation of foundation piles shall be used, if feasible. If impact pile driving is required, sonic pile drivers shall be used, unless engineering studies are submitted to the City that show this is not feasible, based on geotechnical considerations.</li> </ul>				
<b>NV-7:</b> Would the project exceed applicable noise impact criteria as established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development?	<b>IS/EA Mitigation Measures 3.10-1 and 3.10-2</b> (see above)	<p><b>Measure 3.10-1:</b> Provide applicable acoustical analysis and design documentation; demonstrate that identified construction requirements are included within the project plans.</p> <p><b>Measure 3.10-2:</b> Provide applicable acoustical analysis and design documentation; demonstrate that identified construction requirements are included within the project plans.</p>	<p><b>Measure 3.10-1:</b> Project applicant or designee</p> <p><b>Measure 3.10-2:</b> Sacramento Regional Transit District</p>	Prior to issuance of construction contracts and/or construction bid solicitation.	City of Sacramento
<b>NV-8:</b> Would the project exceed the Moderate or Severe noise impact criteria as defined by the Federal Transit Administration?	<b>IS/EA Mitigation Measures 3.10-1 and 3.10-2</b> (see above)	<p><b>Measure 3.10-1:</b> Provide applicable acoustical analysis and design documentation; demonstrate that identified construction requirements are included within the project plans.</p> <p><b>Measure 3.10-2:</b> Provide applicable acoustical analysis and design documentation; demonstrate that identified construction requirements are included within the project plans.</p>	<p><b>Measure 3.10-1:</b> Project applicant or designee</p> <p><b>Measure 3.10-2:</b> Sacramento Regional Transit District</p>	Prior to issuance of construction contracts and/or construction bid solicitation.	City of Sacramento
<b>Transportation and Traffic</b>					
<b>TRA-6:</b> Would the project result in impacts related to construction-related activities?	<p><b>IS/EA Mitigation Measure 3.12-1:</b> <i>Construction Traffic Management Plan.</i> The City shall require the project applicant to develop a Construction Traffic Management Plan. The plan shall ensure that acceptable operating conditions on local roadways and freeway facilities are maintained. At a minimum, the plan shall include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of trucks including: number and size of trucks per day, expected arrival/departure times, truck circulation patterns.</li> <li>Description of staging area including: location, maximum number of trucks simultaneously permitted in staging area, use of traffic control personnel, specific signage.</li> <li>Description of street closures and/or bicycle and pedestrian facility closures including: duration, advance warning and posted signage, safe and efficient access routes for emergency vehicles, use of manual traffic control, and roadway detours.</li> <li>Description of driveway access plan including: provisions for safe vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle travel, minimum distance from any open trench, special signage, and private vehicle accesses.</li> <li>Pursuant to City code, the management plan shall be reviewed by the City's Traffic Engineer and any affected agencies, incorporate any requested revisions, and then approved by the City's Traffic Engineer prior to the commencement of project construction. This management plan shall be distributed and implemented by all contractors and subcontractors involved in any project construction activity.</li> </ul>	<p>Submission of Construction Management Plan to satisfaction of City Department of Public Works Transportation Division; demonstrate that identified construction traffic management requirements are included within the project plans.</p>	Project applicant or designee	Prior to issuance of construction contracts and/or construction bid solicitation.	City of Sacramento
<b>TRA-8:</b> Would the project have an adverse cumulative effect on area freeway facilities?	<p><b>IS/EA Mitigation Measure 3.12-2:</b> <i>I-5 Freeway Subregional Corridor Mitigation Program (SCMP).</i> To mitigate the freeway mainline and off-ramp queuing impacts under the Cumulative Plus Project scenario, the Twin Rivers development shall remit monetary payment to the I-5 Freeway Subregional Corridor Mitigation Program (SCMP), This remittance shall be completed prior to the commencement of construction.</p>	<p>Submit proof of payment of required fees.</p>	Project applicant or designee	Prior to issuance of demolition and/or building permits.	City of Sacramento
<b>TRA-12:</b> Would the project result in adverse cumulative impacts related to construction activities?	<b>IS/EA Mitigation Measure 3.12-1</b> (see above)	<p>Submission of Construction Management Plan to satisfaction of City Department of Public Works Transportation Division; demonstrate that identified construction traffic management requirements are included within the project plans.</p>	Project applicant or designee	Prior to issuance of construction contracts and/or construction bid solicitation.	City of Sacramento



RESOLUTION NO. 17-11-\_\_\_\_\_

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Regional Transit District on this date:

November 13, 2017

**ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE DOS RIOS LIGHT RAIL STATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment was prepared by the City of Sacramento to ascertain whether the Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project (Project) would have a significant effect on the environment and to identify any project changes and/or mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any such impacts to a less than significant level; and

WHEREAS, SacRT, acting as a Responsible Agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15381, possesses discretionary authority to approve its portion of the aforesaid Project and may thereby use the aforesaid Initial Study/Environmental Assessment to make its own environmental findings for those portions of the Project over which it has discretionary authority; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study identified less than significant impacts with mitigation on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, noise and vibration, and transportation and traffic; and

WHEREAS, comments were requested on the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment from Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and other federal, state and local agencies in compliance with CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, and a Mitigated Negative Declaration were provided to the public, transportation planning agencies, other Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, federal agencies, and the County Clerk in compliance with CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigated Negative Declaration were sent to designated parties, published in local newspapers, and sent to owners and occupants of properties contiguous to the project; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, and a Mitigated Negative Declaration were forwarded to the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, and

WHEREAS, the County Clerk posted the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for at least 20 days; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration was submitted to the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines; and

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:**

THAT, this Board does hereby adopt the following findings, which this Board finds are supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record:

- A. THAT, an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment has been prepared pursuant to CEQA;
- B. THAT, the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment identified less than significant impacts with mitigation on the environment from the proposed modifications to the Project;
- C. THAT, the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment identified mitigation measures that would avoid or mitigate the effects to a point where no significant impacts would occur;
- D. THAT, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration incorporates mitigation measures into the Project that would avoid or mitigate the effects to a point where no significant impacts would occur;
- E. THAT, the Board certifies the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed and circulated in compliance with CEQA and is consistent with state and SacRT guidelines implementing CEQA;
- F. THAT, the Board has reviewed and considered the subject Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, all comments received during the public review period, as well as written and oral comments and other evidence presented by all persons, including members of the public and staff members, who appeared and addressed the Board;
- G. THAT, the Board has before it all of the necessary environmental information required by CEQA to properly analyze and evaluate any and all of the potential environmental effects of the proposed modifications to the Project;
- H. THAT, the Board has reviewed and considered the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment and Mitigated Negative Declaration and related Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, which reflects the Board's independent judgment;
- I. THAT, the Board finds that there is no substantial evidence in the record that the Project modifications, as mitigated, will have a significant effect on the environment. Mitigation measures for air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, noise and vibration, and transportation and traffic have been incorporated into the Project to reduce impacts to a less than significant level; and
- J. THAT, based on the evidence presented and the records and files herein, the Board determines that the proposed modifications to the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment if the mitigation measures listed and identified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration are implemented.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, the Board approves and adopts a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Dos Rios Light Rail Station Project, set out as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference; and

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, the Board approves the construction of the Dos Rios Light Rail Station Project, and directs staff to file a Notice of Determination within five working days of this approval; and

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, the Board designates the Vice President, Engineering and Facilities, or his/her designee, located at 1400 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA, 95816, as the custodian of the records in this matter.

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ANDREW J. MORIN, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Brooks, Assistant Secretary

## PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: Dos Rios Light Rail Station Project

Lead Agency: Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT)

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would include construction and operation of the proposed SacRT Dos Rios Light Rail Station on the existing SacRT light rail Blue Line on and adjacent to North 12th Street.

### FINDINGS

An Initial Study has been prepared by the City of Sacramento, as the Lead Agency, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to ascertain whether the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. Under CEQA, SacRT is a Responsible Agency for the light rail station portion of the City's larger Twin Rivers Transit-Oriented Development and Light Rail Station Project, and is ultimately responsible for the station implementation. On the basis of this study, it is determined that the proposed action will have:

*No impact or a less-than significant impact* on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, and utilities and service systems.

*A less-than-significant impact with mitigation* on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, noise and vibration, transportation and traffic, with incorporation of the following mitigation measures:

### **3.2 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

#### **Mitigation Measure 3.2-1:**

City approval of any grading or improvement plans will include the following Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) Basic Construction Emission Control Practices:

- All exposed surfaces must be watered two times daily. Exposed surfaces include, but are not limited to soil piles, graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads.
- Cover or maintain at least two feet of free board space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Any haul trucks that would be traveling along freeways or major roadways must be covered.
- Use wet power vacuum street sweepers to remove any visible trackout mud or dirt onto adjacent public roads at least once a day. Use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.
- Limit vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour.
- All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots must be paved as soon as possible. In addition, building pads must be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.
- Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of

idling to 5 minutes (as required by the state airborne toxics control measure [Title 13, Section 2485 of the California Code of Regulations]). Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site.

- Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment must be checked by a certified mechanic and determine to be running in proper condition before it is operated.

### **3.3 Biological Resources**

#### **Mitigation Measure 3.3-1:**

Prior to the issuance of any grading or building permit for the proposed project, the City or its designated cooperator must purchase compensatory mitigation credits as specified in the project's Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated December 28, 2016. Credits must be purchased at the ratios prescribed therein. In addition, the following conditions will apply, as prescribed in the Biological Opinion:

1. The City or its designated cooperator will include full implementation and adherence to the conservation measure as a condition of any permit or contract issued for the proposed project;
2. The City or its designated cooperator will provide a completed bill of sale and payment receipt to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service upon purchase of the beetle conservation credits;
3. In order to monitor whether the amount or extent of incidental take anticipated from implementation of the proposed project is approached or exceeded, the City will adhere to the following reporting requirements. If this anticipated amount or extent of incidental take be exceeded, the City must immediately reinstate formal consultation, as per 50 CFR 402.16. a. For those components of the action that will result in habitat degradation or modification whereby incidental take in the form of harm is anticipated, the City will provide a precise accounting of the elderberry plants impacted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after completion of construction. This report will also include any information about changes in project implementation that result in habitat disturbance not described in the Description of the Action presented in the project Biological Opinion dated December 28, 2016 and not analyzed therein.

#### **Mitigation Measure 3.3-2:**

The City or its designated cooperator will require construction contractors to conduct tree removal activities outside of the migratory bird and raptor breeding season (defined here as February 1 through August 31), where feasible. For any construction activities that occur between February 1 and August 31, the City or its designated cooperator must conduct preconstruction surveys in suitable nesting habitat within 500 feet of the construction area for migratory birds and raptor species. In addition, all trees slated for removal during the nesting season must be surveyed by a qualified biologist no more than 48 hours before removal to ensure that no nesting birds are occupying the tree.

If active nests are found during the survey, the construction contractor must implement mitigation measures to ensure that the species will not be adversely affected, which will include establishing a no-work buffer zone, around the active nest. Avoidance measures will include:

1. Maintaining a 500-foot buffer around each active raptor nest. No construction activities will be permitted within this buffer. For other migratory birds, a 250-foot no-work buffer zone must be established, around the active nest. The no-work buffer may vary depending on species and site specific conditions. No project-related activity may occur within the no-work buffer until a qualified wildlife biologist confirms that the nest is no longer active, or unless otherwise permitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

2. If an appropriate no-disturbance buffer is infeasible, a qualified biologist must be present during construction activities for the entire duration of activities within the buffer to monitor the behavior of the potentially affected nesting bird. The biologist must have the authority to stop-work within the buffer area if the bird(s) exhibit distress and/or abnormal nesting behavior (swooping/stooping, excessive vocalization [distress calls], agitation, failure to remain on nest, failure to deliver prey items for an extended time period, failure to maintain nest, etc.) which may cause reproductive failure (nest abandonment and loss of eggs or young). Work may not resume in the buffer area until bird's behavior has normalized. Completion of the nesting cycle must be determined by a qualified biologist.

### **3.4 Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

#### **River District Specific Plan Mitigation Measure 5.3-2:**

- a) Prior to any excavation, grading or other construction on the project site, and in consultation with Native American Tribes and the City's Preservation Director: a qualified archaeologist will prepare a testing plan for testing areas proposed for excavation or any other ground-disturbing activities as part of future projects, which plan must be approved by the City's Preservation Director. Testing in accordance with that plan will then ensue by the qualified archaeologist, who will prepare a report on findings, and an evaluation of those findings, from those tests and present that report to the City's Preservation Director. Should any findings be considered as potentially significant, further archaeological investigations will ensue, by the qualified archaeologist, and the archaeologist will prepare reports on those investigations and evaluations relative to eligibility of the findings to the Sacramento, California or National Registers of Historic & Cultural Resources/ Places and submit that report to the City's Preservation Director and SHPO with recommendations for treatment, disposition, or reburials of significant findings, as appropriate. Also, at the conclusion of the pre-construction testing, evaluation and reports and recommendations, a decision will be made by the City's Preservation Director as to whether on-site monitoring during any project-related excavation or ground-disturbing activities by a qualified archaeologist will be required.
- b) Discoveries during construction: For those projects where no on-site archaeological monitoring was required, in the event that any prehistoric subsurface archaeological features or deposits, including locally darkened soil ("midden"), that could conceal cultural deposits, animal bone, obsidian and/or mortars are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities, all work within 50 meters of the resources must be halted, and a qualified archaeologist will be consulted to assess the significance of the find. Archaeological test excavations must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist to aid in determining the nature and integrity of the find. If the find is determined to be significant by the qualified archaeologist, representatives of the City and the qualified archaeologist will coordinate to determine the appropriate course of action. All significant cultural materials recovered will be subject to scientific analysis and professional museum curation. In addition, a report will be prepared by the qualified archaeologist according to current professional standards.
- c) If a Native American site is discovered, the evaluation process will include consultation with the appropriate Native American representatives.
- d) If Native American archaeological, ethnographic, or spiritual resources are involved, all identification and treatment must be conducted by qualified archaeologists, who are certified by the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA) and/or meet the federal standards as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 61), and Native American representatives, who are approved by the local Native American community as scholars of the cultural traditions.
- e) In the event that no such Native American is available, persons who represent tribal

governments and/or organizations in the locale in which resources could be affected must be consulted. If historic archaeological sites are involved, all identified treatment is to be carried out by qualified historical archaeologists, who must meet either Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), or 36 CFR 61 requirements.

- f) If a human bone or bone of unknown origin is found during construction, all work must stop in the vicinity of the find, and the County Coroner, and City's Preservation Director, must be contacted immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who will notify the person most likely believed to be a descendant. The most likely descendant will work with the contractor to develop a program for re-interment of the human remains and any associated artifacts. No additional work is to take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until the identified appropriate actions have taken place. Work can continue on other parts of the project site while the unique archaeological resource mitigation takes place.

### **3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

#### **Mitigation Measure 3.7-1:**

Phase II Assessment. Prior to construction or development of the proposed project, a Phase II assessment and subsurface geophysical investigation will be conducted. If the Phase II assessment concludes that site remediation would be necessary to protect human health and the environment, the site must not be developed until the site is remediated to levels that would be protective of the most sensitive population for the planned use, as prescribed in applicable regulations.

### **3.10 Noise and Vibration**

#### **Mitigation Measure 3.10-1:**

During the design and construction of exterior residential elements in the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area, the project applicant must consult with a certified acoustical professional to design and implement appropriate noise attenuation elements that are of sufficient effectiveness to reduce noise levels to below the City exterior noise standard as shown in General Plan Table EC-1 for residential land uses. The effectiveness of these measures must be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the City Community Development Department prior to the issuance of occupancy permits. Mitigation Measure 3.10-2: If transfer power substation (TPSS) units are placed nearer than 110 feet from proposed residential uses, the applicant must submit engineering and acoustical specifications for project air conditioning equipment to the City prior to the issuance of building permits. The engineering and acoustical specification must demonstrate to the City's satisfaction that the air conditioning equipment design (types, location, enclosure, specification) will control noise from the equipment to at least 10 dBA below existing ambient levels at nearby residential and other noise sensitive receptors.

#### **Mitigation Measure 3.10-3:**

Prior to the issuance of building permits for residential projects within the Twin Rivers Community Housing Expansion Area, the City will require project applicants for residential development to submit a detailed noise analysis, prepared by a qualified acoustical professional, to identify design measures to be implemented to achieve the City interior standard of 45 Ldn in the proposed new residences. The resulting study will be submitted to the City for review and approval. Design measures such as the following could be required, depending on the specific findings of the noise study: double-paned glass windows facing noise sources; solid-core doors; increased sound insulation of exterior walls (such as through staggered-or double-studs, multiple layers of gypsum board, and incorporation of resilient channels); weather-tight seals for doors and windows; or sealed windows with an air conditioning system installed for ventilation. The building plans submitted for building permit

approval must be accompanied by certification of a licensed engineer that the plans include the identified noise-attenuating design measures and satisfy the requirements of City standards.

**Mitigation Measure 3.10-4:**

The City of Sacramento and the project contractor(s) must implement the following measures as feasible and appropriate during all phases of project construction:

- Whenever construction occurs within 130 feet of occupied residences (on- or off-site), temporary barriers must be constructed around the construction sites to shield the ground floor of the noise-sensitive uses. These barriers must be of ¾-inch Medium Density Overlay (MDO) plywood sheeting, or other material of equivalent utility and appearance, and must achieve a Sound Transmission Class of STC-30, or greater, based on certified sound transmission loss data taken according to ASTM Test Method E90 or as approved by the City of Sacramento Building Official.
- Construction equipment staging areas must be located as far as feasible from residential areas while still serving the needs of construction contractors.
- Use of auger displacement installation techniques for installation of foundation piles must be used, if feasible. If impact pile driving is required, sonic pile drivers must be used, unless engineering studies are submitted to the City that show this is not feasible, based on geotechnical considerations.

**3.12 Transportation and Traffic**

**Mitigation Measure 3.12-1:**

Construction Traffic Management Plan. The City will require the project applicant to develop a Construction Traffic Management Plan. The plan must ensure that acceptable operating conditions on local roadways and freeway facilities are maintained. At a minimum, the plan must include, but not be limited to:

- Description of trucks including: number and size of trucks per day, expected arrival/departure times, truck circulation patterns.
- Description of staging area including: location, maximum number of trucks simultaneously permitted in staging area, use of traffic control personnel, specific signage.
- Description of street closures and/or bicycle and pedestrian facility closures including: duration, advance warning and posted signage, safe and efficient access routes for emergency vehicles, use of manual traffic control, and roadway detours.
- Description of driveway access plan including: provisions for safe vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle travel, minimum distance from any open trench, special signage, and private vehicle accesses. Pursuant to City code, the management plan will be reviewed by the City's Traffic Engineer and any affected agencies, incorporate any requested revisions, and then approved by the City's Traffic Engineer prior to the commencement of project construction. This management plan will be distributed and implemented by all contractors



**Finding:** The SacRT Board finds, on the basis of the whole record before it, that there is no substantial evidence showing that the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment, with incorporation of the mitigation measures recommended herein. This Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the Board's independent judgment and analysis.

Sacramento Regional Transit District

November 13, 2017

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Andrew J. Morin, Chair, RT Board of Directors