



**EL DORADO COUNTY PLANNING SERVICES  
2850 FAIRLANE COURT  
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM  
AND DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS**

**Project Title:** Burkett Lane - Hagstrom Parcel Map (General Plan Amendment A08-0004, Rezone Z07-0026, Parcel Map P07-0025)

**Lead Agency Name and Address:** El Dorado County, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667

**Contact Person:** Gordon Bell

**Phone Number:** (530) 647-1932

**Property Owner's Name and Address:** Wesley Hagstrom, 3215 Stagecoach Road, Placerville, CA 95667

**Project Applicant's Name and Address:** Carlton Engineering, 3883 Ponderosa Road, Shingle Springs, CA

**Project Agent's Name and Address:** Ted Woessner, 3883 Ponderosa Road, Shingle Springs, CA 95682

**Project Engineer's / Architect's Name and Address:** Carlton Engineering (see above address)

**Project Location:** North side of Rattlesnake Bar Road 100 feet north of the intersection with Burkett Lane

**Assessor's Parcel Number(s):** 104-100-67 (129.43 acres)

**Zoning:** RE-10,(Estate Residential Ten-Acres), RE-5 (Residential Five-Acres), C (Commercial), AE (Exclusive Agricultural)

**Section:** 2&11 **T:** 11N **R:** 8E

**General Plan Designation:** Rural Residential (RR)/ Commercial-Platted Lands (C-PL)

**Description of Project:** The proposed project consists of the following actions:

1. Request to change land use designation from RR (Rural Residential) & C-PL (Commercial-Platted Lands) to RR (Rural Residential)
2. Request to change zoning designation from RE-10 (Estate Residential Ten-Acres), RE-5 (Residential Five-Acres), C (Commercial) and AE (Exclusive Agricultural) to RE-10 (Estate Residential Ten-Acres)
3. Request to divide a 129.43 acre parcel into 4 parcels ranging in size from 20 to 49 acres.

**Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**

	<u>Zoning</u>	<u>General Plan</u>	<u>Land Use</u> (e.g., Single Family Residences)
Site:	RE10, RE5, C, AE	RR, C	Rural residence, Open Space, Agriculture
North:	RA40	RR	Rural residence
East:	RE10	RR	Rural residence
South:	RE10, AE	RR	Rural residence
West:	RA20, RE10	RR	Rural residences

**Briefly Describe the environmental setting:** The project site is situated between 920 and 1,440 feet elevation on property that encompasses the headwaters and both sides of an ephemeral tributary of the North Fork of the American River, which it joins approximately ¾ of a mile northwest of the project site. Slopes on-site vary from nearly flat alongside Burkett Lane to 57 percent east of the creek near the center of the parcel; slopes east of the creek average 24 percent and those west of the creek average 37 percent.

There are six seasonal drainages on the parcel that contribute water to the ephemeral tributary. There are also two small reservoirs located on the drainage, and a third water impoundment which was formed in an ATV track within a swale below the existing house.

Soils on the site are classified in the Auburn, Boomer and Sobrante series. The soil types are Auburn silt loam (AwD), Auburn very rocky silt loam (AxD and AxE), Boomer very rocky loam (BkE) and Sobrante silt loam (SuC). Boomer rocky loam is the predominant soil type; it is replaced by Auburn soils outside of the main ephemeral drainage.

Vegetation on the project site consists of three series: Mixed oak woodland, Ponderosa pine, and annual grassland. Mixed oak woodland is the predominant vegetation found on the parcel, replaced by Ponderosa pine woodland within the steepest ravines.

There is an existing residence located in the southwest corner of the parcel approximately 200 feet north of the intersection of Burkett Lane and Rattlesnake Bar Road. A dirt road bisects the parcel from south to north along the ephemeral drainage. This road provides access to residences north of the site.

**Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.):**

1. El Dorado County Building Services: Grading permit and on site road improvements
2. El Dorado County Air Quality Management District: require an approved Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan for air quality impacts during project construction.
3. El Dorado County Department of Transportation: Encroachment Permits for off-site road improvements
4. El Dorado County Fire Protection District: Approval of Fire Safe Plan

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

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

	Aesthetics		Agriculture Resources		Air Quality
<b>X</b>	Biological Resources		Cultural Resources		Geology / Soils
	Hazards & Hazardous Materials		Hydrology / Water Quality		Land Use / Planning
	Mineral Resources		Noise		Population / Housing
	Public Services		Recreation		Transportation/Traffic
	Utilities / Service Systems		Mandatory Findings of Significance		

**DETERMINATION**

**On the basis of this initial evaluation:**

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: April 30, 2008

Printed Name: Gordon Bell For: El Dorado County

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: Pierre Rivas For: El Dorado County

## **EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is a fair argument that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used, or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

<b>I. AESTHETICS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			X
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character quality of the site and its surroundings?			X
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect to Visual Resources would result in the introduction of physical features that are not characteristic of the surrounding development, substantially change the natural landscape, or obstruct an identified public scenic vista.

- a. **Scenic Vista.** The proposed project has the potential to result in the construction of additional residences, outbuildings and appurtenant structures on each of the parcels. These structures would be constructed on large lots which are surrounded by trees and located relatively distant from public roadways that may provide a scenic vista. Based on the proposed building envelopes, none of these structures would have the potential to impinge upon any scenic vistas, as they are located outside the viewshed from Rattlesnake Bar Road down the ephemeral drainage. There would be no impact.
- b. **Scenic Highways.** There are no scenic highways within the project vicinity, and thus there is no potential for damage to scenic resources. There would be no impact.
- c. **Visual Character.** As discussed in (a), the project has the potential to introduce residences, outbuildings and appurtenant structures on each of the proposed parcels. This type of development on parcels in excess of 20 acres would not degrade the existing visual quality of the site and its surroundings, as it would be in character with rural residential development on surrounding parcels. There would be no impact.
- d. **Light and Glare.** No new lighting will directly result subject of these current application requests. All future outdoor lighting for future development will be required conform to Section 17.14.170 of the El Dorado County Zoning Ordinance, and be fully shielded pursuant to the Illumination Engineering Society of North America’s (IESNA) full cut-off designation. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Finding:** The proposed project has the potential to result in the construction of future residences and other structures on large residential parcels. This development is entirely consistent with the character of surrounding rural residential development, much of which occurs on smaller lots sizes. Future building is not expected to impinge upon existing scenic vistas, and no scenic resources exist within the project vicinity. Light and glare associated with construction of new residences in previously undeveloped areas is not expected to be significant and would be required to conform to zoning ordinance requirements. For this “Aesthetics” category, impacts would be less than significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<b>II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>			
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Locally Important Farmland (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?			X
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?			X
c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?			X

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect to Agricultural Resources would occur if:

- There is a conversion of choice agricultural land to nonagricultural use, or impairment of the agricultural productivity of agricultural land;
- The amount of agricultural land in the County is substantially reduced; or
- Agricultural uses are subjected to impacts from adjacent incompatible land uses.

- a. **Conversion of Prime Farmland.** The proposed project would not convert any prime farmland, unique farmland, farmland of statewide importance, or locally important farmland to non-agricultural use. The El Dorado County Conservation District has reviewed the project and did not identify important Agricultural Preserves or Districts within the project area. There would be no impact.
- b. **Williamson Act Contract.** The project site is not currently under Williamson Act Contract. Only a small portion of the property is currently zoned for agricultural use (AE- Exclusive Agriculture), approximately 0.314 acres. The Agricultural Commission reviewed this project on August 15, 2007 and determined that the conversion of this small amount of agriculturally zoned land is insignificant given that the agricultural portion is not under Williamson Act Contract, is not fenced, and is not adjacent to other agriculturally zoned land. There would be no impact.
- c. **Non-agricultural Use.** This project is located in an area designated for rural residential use, and not agriculture. There would be no impact.

**Finding:** No impacts to agricultural land are expected and no mitigation is required. The general plan amendment, rezone request and parcel map is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. For this “Agriculture” category, there would be no impact.

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

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect on Air Quality would occur if:

- Emissions of ROG and No<sub>x</sub>, will result in construction or operation emissions greater than 82lbs/day (See Table 5.2, of the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District – CEQA Guide);
- Emissions of PM<sub>10</sub>, CO, SO<sub>2</sub> and No<sub>x</sub>, as a result of construction or operation emissions, will result in ambient pollutant concentrations in excess of the applicable National or State Ambient Air Quality Standard (AAQS). Special standards for ozone, CO, and visibility apply in the Lake Tahoe Air Basin portion of the County; or
- Emissions of toxic air contaminants cause cancer risk greater than 1 in 1 million (10 in 1 million if best available control technology for toxics is used) or a non-cancer Hazard Index greater than 1. In addition, the project must demonstrate compliance with all applicable District, State and U.S. EPA regulations governing toxic and hazardous emissions.

a. **Air Quality Plan.** The El Dorado County/California Clean Air Act Plan has set a schedule for implementing and funding Transportation Control Measures to limit mobile source emissions. The proposed project will not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of this plan. Impacts would be less than significant.

b.c. **Air Quality Standards.** Currently, El Dorado County is classed as being in "severe non-attainment" status for Federal and State ambient air quality standards for ozone (O<sub>3</sub>). Additionally, the County is classified as being in "non-attainment" status for particulate matter (PM10) under the State's standards. The California Clean Air Act of 1988 requires the County's air pollution control program to meet the State's ambient air quality standards. The El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District (EDCAPCD) administers standard practices for stationary and point source air pollution control. Projected related air quality impacts are divided into two categories:

- Short-term impacts related to construction activities; and
- Long-term impacts related to the project operation.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Short-term, superficial, minor grading and excavation activities that could be associated with grading associated with roadway/driveway development and building pads, but that type of construction typically would only last a few days and intermittently at that.

Mobile emission sources such as automobiles, trucks, buses, and other internal combustion vehicles are responsible for more than 70 percent of the air pollution within the County, and more than one-half of California’s air pollution. In addition to pollution generated by mobile emissions sources, additional vehicle emission pollutants are carried into the western slope portion of El Dorado County from the greater Sacramento metropolitan area by prevailing winds. Future grading would potentially emit minor, temporary and intermittent criteria air pollutant emissions from vehicle exhaust and would be subject to El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District standards at that time. Impacts would be less than significant with adherence to APCD Rules and Regulations.

- d. **Sensitive Receptors.** The El Dorado County AQMD has reviewed the project and sensitive receptors were not identified in the area and thus no such receptors would be affected by this project. Impacts would be less than significant.
- e. **Odors.** Residential development is not classified as an odor generating facility within Table 3.1 of the El Dorado County AQMD CEQA Guide. The parcel map would create a less than significant impact onto the environment from odors.

**Finding:** Standard County conditions of approval have been included as part of the project permit to maintain a less than significant level of impact in the ‘Air Quality’ category. Impacts would be less than significant.

<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X	
b. 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			X
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?		X	
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state			X

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>			
habitat conservation plan?			

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect on Biological Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Substantially reduce or diminish habitat for native fish, wildlife or plants;
- Cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels;
- Threaten to eliminate a native plant or animal community;
- Reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal;
- Substantially affect a rare or endangered species of animal or plant or the habitat of the species; or
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species.

a. **Special Status Species and Sensitive Natural Communities.** The applicant has prepared a biological study that evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed project to candidate, sensitive, or special status species (*Biological Resources Evaluation Report for Hagstrom Parcel Map*, Ruth A. Wilson – Consulting Biologist, May 2007). The report concluded that potential habitat exists on site for four state- or federal-listed species, which included one invertebrate, two amphibians, and one plant species. Specifically, these species included Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiease*), California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) and Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepala*) during searches of the site in April 2007. Potential habitat was also found for thirty-six species of concern.

The introduction of human activities associated with proposed development and ongoing habitation of the proposed parcels has the potential to result in incidental take of state- and/or federally-listed species, although none of the above referenced species were observed onsite. Proposed mitigation including the establishment of building envelopes to preclude development in sensitive habitat areas and the inclusion of notes on recorded maps to make contractors aware of potential state and federal regulations should mitigate impacts to less than significant levels.

- b. **Riparian Habitat.** The biological study identified an ephemeral drainage to the American River (bisects the project site from south to north) and six seasonal drainages on the property that flow into this ephemeral drainage. All drainages were dry during April and May surveys. While all of these drainages on site carry water seasonally, none of the drainages (including the main ephemeral drainage) exhibit riparian characteristics (Telecommunication with Ruth Wilson, consulting biologist, April 14, 2008). Building envelopes recommended as mitigation measures to protect other resources would also protect any potential riparian habitat that exists within these drainages. There would be no impact.
- c. **Wetlands.** Two small reservoirs are located on the main ephemeral drainage, and a third water impoundment which was formed by an ATV track within a swale below the existing house. Wetland vegetation was observed around the ponds located on proposed Parcel 3. Onsite drainages did not exhibit wetland characteristics because slope gradients were too steep. Setbacks and building envelopes have been incorporated into the project and required as mitigation to avoid impacts to biological resources. With incorporation of these measures, impacts would be less than significant.
- d. **Wildlife corridors.** Review of the Department of Fish and Games Migratory Deer Herd Maps and General Plan DEIR Exhibit V-8-4 indicate no mapped deer migration corridors exist on the project site. The project would not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with any established native

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites in any manner that does not currently exist. There would be no impact.

- e. **Biological Resources.** The proposed project is located within an Important Biological Corridor as defined in El Dorado County General Plan Policy 7.4.2.9. Guidelines in Policy 7.4.2.9 state, "Lands located within the overlay district shall be subject to the provisions listed in the table below. The table describes the guidelines and how the project intends to meet these guidelines:

Guideline	Project Design Feature
Increased minimum parcel size	The project proposes a general plan amendment and rezone to a 10-acre minimum parcel size. However, parcel sizes proposed by the parcel map all exceed 20 acres.
Higher canopy-retention standards and/or different mitigation standards for oak woodlands	The applicant has proposed building envelopes on Parcels 1, 2, and 4 which would limit oak tree disturbance and maintain canopies in excess of that require by General Plan policy 7.4.4.4. Building envelopes are generally situated in areas that are already cleared or have minimum oak tree canopies. Mitigation limiting project development in these building envelopes is required. A conservation easement is also required to promote oak tree replacement.
Lower thresholds for grading permits	Building envelopes required as part of project mitigation will minimize grading by limiting development to areas of less than 30% slope.
Higher wetlands/riparian retention standards and/or more stringent mitigation requirements for wetland/riparian habitat loss	Building envelopes are established outside of all wetland/riparian areas. No wetland/riparian habitat loss will occur as a result of the project.
Increased riparian corridor and wetland setbacks	Building envelopes have been established outside of a 110 foot setback for the ponds on site, and 55 feet for all water channels on site.
Greater protection for rare plants (e.g., no disturbance at all or disturbance only as recommended by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/California Dept. of Fish & Game).	No rare plants were found on the project site, nor does it have soils suitable for listed species known to inhabit the Pine Hill area.
Standards for retention of contiguous area/large expanses of other (non-oak or non-sensitive) plant communities	With designation of building envelopes, large areas, primarily the central portion of the site along the valley bisecting the project site, will be maintained as a plant community.
Building permits discretionary or some other type of "site review" to ensure that canopy is retained	Prior to issuance of building permits, the applicant shall be required to provide the County with an Oak Tree Evaluation to ensure that canopy is retained in accordance with General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4.
More stringent standards for lot coverage, floor area ratio (FAR) and building height	Project approval would be contingent upon development being limited to proposed building envelopes only. This condition is more stringent than that typically required for parcel maps.
No hindrances to wildlife movement (e.g., no fences that would restrict wildlife movement)	Mitigation requiring fencing to be limited to areas around barns and or homes for the purposes of protecting

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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	livestock or landscaping is required as part of project approval.
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The proposed project has the potential to significantly impact biological resources including, but not limited to, state- and federally-listed species and their associated habitat. Impacts to these listed species and associated habitat may occur due to vegetation/habitat removal, erosion and sedimentation, and introduction of human activities in biological corridors. This is considered a potentially significant but mitigable impact. Limiting development to designated building envelopes on areas of less than 30 percent slopes, areas outside of drainage areas and water bodies, and areas outside dense woodlands will significantly lessen potential impacts to biological resources discussed above.

The proposed project has the potential to result in tree removal that is in excess of the retention and replacement provisions of General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4., although with varying degrees on each of the proposed parcels. Proposed parcels 1, 2, and 4 all maintain significant areas devoid of woodland habitat suitable for development. With the exception of potential impacts to oak trees from the widening of Burkett Lane to fire department and Department of Transportation standards (see Proposed Grading & Drainage Plan), and possibly a driveway to access proposed building areas on Parcel 1, all oak trees and their canopies can be avoided by development activities, and mitigation is required to ensure maximum avoidance. Adherence to development within proposed building envelopes would ensure project consistency with retention policies of General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4, and reduce impacts to a level of insignificance.

Development on proposed Parcel 3 has the potential to result in significant tree removal, even with the designation of building envelopes. The applicant has designated two building envelopes for Parcel 3, the largest of which is 6.7 acres. In order to ensure consistency with retention policies that would require at least 60 percent retention on a parcel which currently maintains 80-100% canopy cover, the applicant shall be required to select one building envelope prior to issuance of grading permits. Limiting development to one building envelope on this parcel will reduce impacts to oak woodland to less than significant levels.

As the applicant is also required to replace oak trees disturbed or removed pursuant to General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4, an area has been designated as a potential mitigation area for replacement oak trees. This 8.2-acre area is located on the eastern portion of the project site in an area that is sparsely populated with oak trees. Mitigation requiring designation of this area as a conservation easement solely for the purpose of providing a replanting area is included in order to ensure that appropriate mitigation can occur pursuant to General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4 as discussed above.

Mitigation Measures for Biological Resources

**MM Bio-1:** All grading, improvement, and building plans shall state: “It is the applicant and contractor’s responsibility to comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations including the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts and the Clean Water act for all on-site impacts. The County Grading Permit does not authorize Contractor to conduct activities not permitted by applicable State and Federal agencies in areas subject to State and Federal jurisdiction.”

*Timing/Implementation: Prior to issuance of grading and building permits*

*Enforcement/Monitoring: El Dorado County Planning*

**MM Bio-2:** In order to avoid impacts to sensitive habitat for State- and/or Federally-listed species, species of concern; impacts due to erosion and sedimentation, and impacts drainages, watercourses, and water bodies, building/development envelopes shall be designated consistent with Exhibit A, dated April 14, 2008. No

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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development or earth disturbance shall occur outside of these areas. Construction equipment operation shall be confined to the approved development envelopes. Prior to final map recordation, a Notice to Property Owner (NTPO) stating this limitation and including a figure depicting the development envelope location shall be recorded with the County Clerk-Recorder. The development envelope shall be shown on all plans submitted for land use and building permits. Development envelope boundaries shall be staked in the field.

*Timing/Implementation: Prior to issuance of final map recordation*

*Enforcement/Monitoring: El Dorado County Planning*

**MM Bio-3:** Any oak trees removed from the site shall be mitigated as specified in the Interim Interpretive Guidelines for El Dorado County as adopted by the County on November 9, 2006. Mitigation for loss of tree canopy shall be implemented to reduce impacts from oak tree loss. Fulfillment of anyone of the following options will reduce impacts to a less than significant level:

- a. For tree replacement under Policy 7.4.4.4 of the General Plan, oak trees shall be replanted at a rate of 200 tree saplings per acre, or 600 acorns per acre, whether on-site or off-site. A tree planting and preservation plan is required prior to issuance of a grading permit. If the applicant chooses to replace removed trees off-site, an easement for off-site replacement must be obtained prior to the recordation of the tentative map. A letter from the certified project arborist or qualified biologist verifying the replacement of trees and a contract for intensive to moderate maintenance and monitoring shall be required for a minimum of 15 years after planting. The survival rate shall be 90 percent. Any trees that do not survive during this period of time shall be replaced by the property owner. The arborist or biologist contract, planting and maintenance plan, and all compliance documents necessary to meet the Oak Woodlands Interim Interpretive Guidelines shall be provided to Planning Services prior to issuance of a grading permit.
- b. Payment of all fees required under Option B of General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4 to the county's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). Payment of fees shall be at a migration ratio of 2:1 and based on all impacted oak woodland acreage. Payment of fees and successful completion of this alternative is dependent upon county adoption and implementation of the INRMP by the County and approval of Planning Services.

*Timing/Implementation: Prior to issuance of grading and building permits*

*Enforcement/Monitoring: El Dorado County Planning*

**MM Bio-4:** If option a. above is utilized, the applicant shall provide an update letter to be prepared by a qualified professional about the health and progress of the re-planted oak saplings and/or oak acorns for this project.

*Timing/Implementation: Prior to issuance of occupancy permits*

*Enforcement/Monitoring: El Dorado County Planning*

**MM Bio-5:** If option a. above is utilized, Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CCRs) shall be established and recorded for this project that would, in part, ensure the survival of replanted oaks by requiring that each property owner share equally in the responsibility in the long term monitoring and maintenance of

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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replanted oaks. The CCRs shall require that the property owners coordinate a one year, three years, five years, and ten year monitoring survey to be prepared by a qualified professional for both oak and saplings that would be replaced, as well as a similar fifteen year survey update for acorns. In the event that the replanted saplings or acorns not survive, they shall be replaced (at the sole and equally shared cost of each property owner) based on County adopted policies and standards, and based on the input of a qualified professional.

*Timing/Implementation: Prior to issuance of grading and building permits*

*Enforcement/Monitoring: El Dorado County Planning*

**MM Bio-6:** A conservation easement, consistent with Exhibit G contained herein, shall be designated on the parcel map for the sole purpose of providing an area for the replacement of oak trees disturbed or removed consistent with Option A of General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4. This conservation easement shall be recorded prior to filing of the parcel map. The conservation easement may be modified subject to review and approval by Planning Services with appropriate documentation from the property owner in the form of a oak tree canopy report and tree replacement and preservation plan prepared by a certified project arborist or qualified biologist. The plan shall evaluate potential impacts of future development activities within designated building envelopes. Modification of the conservation easement will require formal application to El Dorado County Planning Services for a map revision.

*Timing/Implementation: Prior to filing of the parcel map.*

*Enforcement/Monitoring: El Dorado County Planning*

**MM Bio-7:** Prior to issuance of grading permits, the property owner shall select one building envelope on Parcel 3 upon which development activities are to occur. Grading permits and building permits shall specify the proposed envelope on an exhibit to be provided to the contractor designated to perform the grading and construction activities.

*Timing/Implementation: Prior to issuance of grading and building permits*

*Enforcement/Monitoring: El Dorado County Planning*

**MM Bio-8:** Fencing shall be limited to areas around barns and or homes for the purposes of protecting livestock or landscaping. The property owner shall submit a fencing plan to El Dorado County Planning with the submission of building permits for review and approval.

*Timing/Implementation: Prior to issuance of building permits*

*Enforcement/Monitoring: El Dorado County Planning*

**Finding:** There would be a less than significant impact to listed local, state, or federal biological resources and to recognized or defined jurisdictional waters of the US, wetlands, or watercourses with the incorporation of measures that require avoidance of these resources through the establishment of development envelopes and recordation of a conservation easement. There would be no significant impacts to biological resources, oak trees and/or oak woodland tree canopy with mitigation. Impacts to wildlife migration throughout the site would be less than significant with incorporation of mitigation limiting fencing. As such, the impacts in the ‘Biological Resources’ category would be less than significant for this project.

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V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i>			
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?			X
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?			X
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X

**Discussion:**

In general, significant impacts are those that diminish the integrity, research potential, or other characteristics that make a historical or cultural resource significant or important. A substantial adverse effect on Cultural Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Disrupt, alter, or adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or a property or historic or cultural significant to a community or ethnic or social group; or a paleontological site except as a part of a scientific study;
- Affect a landmark of cultural/historical importance;
- Conflict with established recreational, educational, religious or scientific uses of the area; or
- Conflict with adopted environmental plans and goals of the community where it is located.

a. **Historical Resources.** A cultural resources study was prepared for the proposed project in April of 2007 (*Cultural Resources Study of Assessor's Parcel No. 104-100-67 Near Rattlesnake Bar Road, El Dorado County, CA*, Historic Resource Associates, April 2007). The study investigated both the likelihood of discovering both pre-historic and historic resources onsite. The study did identify two historic gold mining features located on site. These features included a group of two open adits, and another group of mine adits and placer tailings within and adjacent to the intermittent stream that flows into the North Fork of the American River. The study concluded that based upon the physical characteristics of both features, and a review of the documentation regarding historic mining in the Pilot Hill area, that neither feature represented a significant resource for the purposes of CEQA. The finding is based upon the premise that while the adits reflect an important chapter in the history of mineral development in El Dorado County, the adits produced little gold and were inconsequential as compared to other much larger hardrock gold mines in the county. The gold placer tailings distributed along the intermittent drainage also reflect an important chapter in the early gold mining history in the county, but, due to their size and lack of integrity from subsequent flood or rain events, they do not appear to represent a significant resource. No mitigation is required, and impacts are less than significant.

b. **Pre-Historic Resources.** As discussed in (a.), a cultural resource study was prepared for the proposed project. The study included a records search and a pedestrian archaeological survey of the project site. In terms of prehistoric sites, site sensitivity was deemed to be low. The records search and the archaeological survey did not result in the discovery of any archaeological sites on the subject property. As such impacts to archaeological resources are determined to be less than significant.

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- c. **Paleontological Resources.** There are no unique paleontological or geologic features located on the project site. As such, impacts to these resources are less than significant.
- d. **Human Remains.** Based on the results of the cultural resource study, the project is unlikely to disturb any human remains. In the event that remains are discovered, all work shall be halted and the significance of the remains shall be evaluated in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5; Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94, 5097.98, and 5097.99. Impacts are considered to be less than significant.

**Finding:** Based upon the cultural resources report prepared for the site, it is determined that there are no significant historic or pre-historic resources on the subject property. As a result, impacts are considered to be less than significant. For this “Cultural Resources” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

<b>VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
iv) Landslides?				
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) creating substantial risks to life or property?				
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect on Geologic Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

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- Allow substantial development of structures or features in areas susceptible to seismically induced hazards such as groundshaking, liquefaction, seiche, and/or slope failure where the risk to people and property resulting from earthquakes could not be reduced through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards;
- Allow substantial development in areas subject to landslides, slope failure, erosion, subsidence, settlement, and/or expansive soils where the risk to people and property resulting from such geologic hazards could not be reduced through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards; or
- Allow substantial grading and construction activities in areas of known soil instability, steep slopes, or shallow depth to bedrock where such activities could result in accelerated erosion and sedimentation or exposure of people, property, and/or wildlife to hazardous conditions (e.g., blasting) that could not be mitigated through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards.

a. **Seismicity, subsidence and liquefaction.** There are no Earthquake Fault Zones subject to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (formerly Special Studies Zone Act) in El Dorado County. No other active or potentially active faults have been mapped at or adjacent to the project site where near-field effects could occur. Although there are no known faults on the project site, the project site is located in a region of the Sierra Nevada foothills where numerous faults have been mapped. The nearest active fault, according to Alquist-Priolo criteria, is the Dunnigan Hills Fault 45 miles to the northwest. There would be no impacts.

b,c. **Soil Erosion and loss of topsoil.** All grading activities exceeding 250 cubic yards of graded material or grading completed for the purpose of supporting a structure must meet the provisions contained in the *County of El Dorado - Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance* (Ordinance No. 3983, adopted 11/3/88). This ordinance is designed to limit erosion, control the loss of topsoil and sediment, limit surface runoff, and ensure stable soil and site conditions for the intended use in compliance with the El Dorado County General Plan. During site grading and construction of any onsite and off site road improvements, there is potential for erosion, changes in topography, and unstable soil conditions.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Development Services Department would review the grading plans for the required road improvements. On and off site grading would be required to comply with the Grading and Erosion control Ordinance. Impacts would be less than significant.

The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District reviewed the project in July of 2007 and had concerns regarding cumulative impacts dealing with erosion control and surface water drainage for this area, in particular for proposed Parcels 1 and 2. Due to the steepness of slopes on these lots and the high erosion hazard of the soils on these lots, the y recommended that lot grading be held to a minimum and erosion control be given a high emphasis. In order to address these potential impacts, the applicant has designated building envelopes in areas outside 30% slopes and surface water drainages in order to minimize grading and erosion impacts. With the incorporation of these measures into the project description, impacts to erosion and sedimentation are less than significant.

d. **Expansive soils** are those that greatly increase in volume when they absorb water and shrink when they dry out. The central half of the County has a moderate expansiveness rating while the eastern and western portions are rated low. These boundaries are very similar to those indicating erosion potential. When buildings are placed on expansive soils, foundations may rise each wet season and fall each dry season. This movement may result in cracking foundations, distortion of structures, and warping of doors and windows. Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code establishes a numerical expansion index for soil types ranging from very low to very high. Soils on the project site have been classified per the USDA Soil Survey as Auburn series soils (AxD , AwD and AxE), Boomer series soils (BkD), and

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Sobranite series (SuC). All three soil types are characterized by a low to moderate shrink-swell potential. Impacts would be less than significant.

- e. **Septic Systems.** Future homes on the project site would all be served by septic systems. A Wastewater Disposal Study was prepared for the proposed project by Carlton Engineering in May 2007. The report concludes that there is suitable area on each of the 20-acre plus parcel for wastewater disposal via a septic system. The suitable areas correspond to proposed building envelopes which are located in areas of less than 30% slope, away from watercourses and water bodies, and also away from the existing well. There would be no impact.

**Finding:** No significant geophysical impacts are expected from the general plan amendment, rezone and parcel map either directly or indirectly. For this “Geology and Soils” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

<b>VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			<b>X</b>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			<b>X</b>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			<b>X</b>
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			<b>X</b>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			<b>X</b>
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			<b>X</b>
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			<b>X</b>
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?		<b>X</b>	

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect due to Hazards or Hazardous Materials would occur if implementation of the project would:

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- Expose people and property to hazards associated with the use, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials where the risk of such exposure could not be reduced through implementation of Federal, State, and local laws and regulations;
- Expose people and property to risks associated with wildland fires where such risks could not be reduced through implementation of proper fuel management techniques, buffers and landscape setbacks, structural design features, and emergency access; or
- Expose people to safety hazards as a result of former on-site mining operations.

- a-b. **Hazardous Substances.** No hazardous substances are involved with the parcel map and rezone. Temporary use of heavy equipment for driveway and building improvements would be required. A diesel fuel storage tank may be located on site for the heavy equipment. The potential storage and transport of diesel fuel in such quantities that would create a hazard to people or the environment would require an approved hazardous material business plan issued from the El Dorado County Environmental Management Department. Said hazardous material business plan would identify potential impacts to the environment and require mitigation measures to reduce any potential impacts. Based on the amount of site improvements required (grading of three building pads and associated driveways) and the duration of heavy equipment on site and off site to complete the site improvements, and that fuel storage would most likely not occur, impacts would be less than significant. Impacts related to diesel fuel spillage would be less than significant with an approved hazardous materials business plan.
- c. **Hazardous Emissions.** There are no schools within ¼ mile of the project site. The proposed project would not include any operations that would use acutely hazardous materials or generate hazardous air emissions. There would be no impact.
- d. **Hazardous Materials Sites.** The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (*California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List)*, [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/Calsites/Cortese\\_List](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/Calsites/Cortese_List), accessed September 23, 2004; *California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Leaking Underground Storage Tanks Quarterly Report, April 2004*; *California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Site Cleanup List, April 2004*). There would be no impact.
- e. **Public Airport Hazards.** The project site is not within any airport safety zone or airport land use plan area. There would be no impact.
- f. **Private Airstrip Hazards.** There is no private airstrip(s) in the immediate vicinity that is identified on a U.S. Geological Survey Topography Map. There would be no impact.
- g. **Emergency Response Plan.** The project site is accessed by Rattlesnake Bar Road (a county-maintained, dead end road) and Burkett Lane (a private road). At this time there no adopted emergency response or evacuation plans for the area. Fire response and fire safety issues have been reviewed by the El Dorado County Fire Protection District. The Fire Department would require a Fire Safe Plan prepared by a registered professional forester. Based upon the conditions of approval for on-site and off-site road improvements and fire safety measures (sufficient water storage & sprinklering), impacts would be less than significant.
- h. **Fire Hazards.** The project site is located in an area that is designated as having a high fire hazard (*El Dorado County Planning Department, El Dorado County General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (SCH#2001082030), May 2003, Exhibit 5.8-4*). In order to mitigate the potential fire safety impacts of establishing additional residences in this

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area, the Fire Department will require as conditions of approval that the applicant incorporate fire safety measures that will include a Fire Safe Plan to be prepared by a registered professional forester, sprinklering of all habitable structures, siting of a 3000 gallon water storage tank within 500 feet of proposed residences, and development of accesses to Fire Department standards.

**Finding:** No Hazards or Hazardous conditions are expected with the general plan amendment, rezone, and parcel map either directly or indirectly. For this “Hazards” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

<b>VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or -off-site?			X
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			X
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?			X
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			X
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			X
j. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			X

**Discussion:**

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A substantial adverse effect on Hydrology and Water Quality would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Expose residents to flood hazards by being located within the 100-year floodplain as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- Cause substantial change in the rate and amount of surface runoff leaving the project site ultimately causing a substantial change in the amount of water in a stream, river or other waterway;
- Substantially interfere with groundwater recharge;
- Cause degradation of water quality (temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and/or other typical stormwater pollutants) in the project area; or
- Cause degradation of groundwater quality in the vicinity of the project site.

a-f. **Water Quality Standards.** The applicant has prepared a Wastewater Disposal Study for the proposed project (Carlton Engineering, May 2007). The study investigates the potential suitability of the project site to accommodate wastewater disposal and provide long-term water sources to the proposed parcels. The study concludes through test pits on each of the proposed parcels and drawdown tests on the existing well, that there will be adequate disposal capability and adequate water supply for the proposed parcels and associated residences. Because areas investigated by the report were adequately setback from existing drainage courses and water bodies on the subject site and proposed parcels, impacts to water quality would be less than significant.

b. **Groundwater.** The proposed parcels would be served by individual water wells drawing water from local groundwater supplies. Given the large parcel sizes, adjacent water courses, and the fact that only three new parcels are being created, impacts to groundwater resources are less than significant.

c-d. **Drainage Patterns.** The proposed project would not alter or change any existing on site or off site drainage patterns. Project development will be limited to proposed building envelopes which are located outside of all drainages, water courses, and waterbodies. All access routes will also be located outside any drainage patterns, with all development occurring on upland areas. There would be no impact.

e. **Stormwater Runoff.** The proposed project would eventually result in the construction of three single family dwellings and appurtenant structures on relatively flat portions of the project site. At this time, no drainage improvements are proposed as part of the general plan amendment, rezone, and parcel map. However, given the large parcel sizes, distance from drainage courses, and the likelihood that roads are to be constructed of generally pervious surfaces, additional stormwater runoff from impervious building is expected to be absorbed in surrounding soils which generally have moderate permeability. There would be no impact.

g-j. **Flooding.** There are no 100-year flood hazard areas at or adjacent to the site. The site is not in an area subject to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. The site is not in an area subject to flooding as a result of levee or dam failure. The Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel No. 060040 0425 B, last updated October 18, 1983) for the project area establishes that the project site is not within a mapped 100-year floodplain. There would be no impact.

**Finding:** No significant hydrological impacts are expected with the general plan amendment, parcel map, and rezone either directly or indirectly. For this “Hydrology” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

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<b>IX. LAND USE PLANNING. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Physically divide an established community?			X
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?			X

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect on Land Use would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in the conversion of Prime Farmland as defined by the State Department of Conservation;
- Result in conversion of land that either contains choice soils or which the County Agricultural Commission has identified as suitable for sustained grazing, provided that such lands were not assigned urban or other nonagricultural use in the Land Use Map;
- Result in conversion of undeveloped open space to more intensive land uses;
- Result in a use substantially incompatible with the existing surrounding land uses; or
- Conflict with adopted environmental plans, policies, and goals of the community.

- a. **Established Community.** The proposed project is not located within an established community, but is instead located within an unincorporated rural area. Impacts are less than significant.
- b. **Land Use Plan.** The proposed project has a mixed land use designation of RR (Rural Residential) and C (Commercial). The project proposes to amend the land use to RR only. This land use designation would be consistent with surrounding land use designations and land uses, and as such the General Plan Amendment is considered to be a beneficial impact.

The proposed project is located within an Important Biological Corridor (IBC) overlay zone as adopted by the El Dorado County General Plan. The project has been designed to avoid impacts to important biological resources through the incorporation of certain measures. These measures include incorporation of building envelopes in areas outside of 30% or greater slopes, riparian areas, and designated wetland areas. No development is proposed within the ephemeral drainage that bisects the site, including road improvements. All development would occur in relatively flat areas that have been previously disturbed due to grading or agricultural activities. As such, impacts are considered to be less than significant.

- c. **Habitat Conservation Plan.** There are no adopted habitat conservation plans or natural community plans within the project vicinity. Impacts are less than significant.

**Finding:** The proposed use of the land would be consistent with the zoning and the General Plan policies for rural residential uses. There would be no significant impact from the project due to a conflict with the General Plan or zoning designations for use of the property. No significant impacts are expected. For this “Land Use” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

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<b>X. MINERAL RESOURCES.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>			
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			X
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?			X

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect on Mineral Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in obstruction of access to, and extraction of mineral resources classified MRZ-2x, or result in land use compatibility conflicts with mineral extraction operations.

a,b. **Mineral Resources.** The project site is not in an area where mineral resources classified as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b by the State Geologist is present (El Dorado County General Plan, Figure CO-1). Approximately 8.75 miles to the east from the proposed project are MRZ-2-classified areas, and the project site has not been delineated in the General Plan or in a specific plan as a locally important mineral resource recovery site. There are no current mining activities adjacent to or in the vicinity of the project site that could affect existing uses. As discussed in the Cultural Resources section, historical mineral recovery on this parcel was likely to be very sparse. There would be no impact.

**Finding:** No impacts to energy and mineral resources are expected with the proposed project either directly or indirectly. For this “Mineral Resources” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

<b>XI. NOISE.</b> <i>Would the project result in:</i>			
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?		X	
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?		X	
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		X	
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		X	

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<b>XI. NOISE.</b> <i>Would the project result in:</i>			
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise level?			X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect due to Noise would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in short-term construction noise that creates noise exposures to surrounding noise sensitive land uses in excess of 60dBA CNEL;
- Result in long-term operational noise that creates noise exposures in excess of 60 dBA CNEL at the adjoining property line of a noise sensitive land use and the background noise level is increased by 3dBA, or more; or
- Results in noise levels inconsistent with the performance standards contained in Table 6-1 and Table 6-2 in the El Dorado County General Plan.

a-d. **Noise Standards.** Grading activities associated with driveway improvements and the creation of building pads would generate temporary construction noise from the large heavy equipment (dump trucks, bulldozer, graders) at a potentially significant level (greater than 60 dB  $L_{eq}$  and 70 dB  $L_{max}$  between 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (2004 GP table 6-5 for maximum allowable noise exposure for non transportation noise sources in rural regions-construction noise). However, the site is located on a large parcel in an outlying area and no sensitive receptors are located 500 feet or greater from potential building sites. Construction operations for road improvements and building pad creation would require adherence to construction hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during weekdays and will require the heavy construction equipment to install the latest noise reduction technologies available. Short-term noise impacts would therefore be less than significant. The long-term noise impacts would be related to current vehicle traffic along Rattlesnake Bar Road and Burkett Lane which would be under the maximum noise level thresholds in the 2004 General plan table 6-1 of 60 dB  $L_{dn}$ /CNEL or less. Grading activities would occur weekdays during daylight hours and would not involve extensive use of heavy equipment that would be a substantial source of noise or vibration at the existing residence onsite or adjacent residences. No known changes in traffic-generated noise levels along Rattlesnake Bar Road or Burkett Lane would occur due to the addition of approximately 30 average daily trips on these roadways. Short-term and long-term impacts would be less than significant.

e&f. **Airport Noise.** The project site is not within the airport land use plan. There would be no impact.

**Finding:** No impacts to noise are expected either directly or indirectly. For this “Noise” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

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<b>XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>			
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (i.e., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (i.e., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			X
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect on Population and Housing would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Create substantial growth or concentration in population;
- Create a more substantial imbalance in the County’s current jobs to housing ratio; or
- Conflict with adopted goals and policies set forth in applicable planning documents.

- a. **Population Growth.** The proposed project will ultimately result in the construction of three new single-family dwellings, as there is an existing dwelling on proposed Parcel 3. The project will also utilize existing roadways for access and will not create a need for new infrastructure such as water and sewer lines, as the proposed parcels will be served by water wells and septic systems. As such, the proposed project will not induce growth in the area. There would be no impact.
- b. **Housing Displacement.** The project will not displace any existing housing. The existing single family dwelling on Parcel 3 will remain. There would be no impact.
- c. **Population Displacement.** The proposed project will not displace any people. There would be no impact.

**Finding:** The project would not displace housing. There is no potential for a significant impact due to substantial growth with the proposed general plan amendment, rezone, and parcel map either directly or indirectly. For this “Population and Housing” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

<b>XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.</b> <i>Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:</i>			
a. Fire protection?			X
b. Police protection?			X
c. Schools?			X

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<b>XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.</b> <i>Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:</i>			
d. Parks?			X
e. Other government services?			X

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect on Public Services would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Substantially increase or expand the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services without increasing staffing and equipment to meet the Department’s/District’s goal of 1.5 firefighters per 1,000 residents and 2 firefighters per 1,000 residents, respectively;
- Substantially increase or expand the demand for public law enforcement protection without increasing staffing and equipment to maintain the Sheriff’s Department goal of one sworn officer per 1,000 residents;
- Substantially increase the public school student population exceeding current school capacity without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand in services;
- Place a demand for library services in excess of available resources;
- Substantially increase the local population without dedicating a minimum of 5 acres of developed parklands for every 1,000 residents; or
- Be inconsistent with County adopted goals, objectives or policies.

a. **Fire Protection.** The project site is and would be served by the El Dorado County Fire Protection District. Development of the project would result in a minor increase in demand for fire protection services. However, it has been determined by the Fire Department that the level of service would not fall below the minimum requirements as a result of the project. The responsible Fire Department would review building permit plans to determine compliance with their fire standards. Fire Districts have been granted the authority by the State Legislature to collect impact fees at the time a building permit is secured. Impacts would be less than significant.

b. **Police Protection.** The proposed parcel map would create three additional residential lots. Impacts to police protection services would be less than significant.

c. **Schools.** The project is located within the Black Oak Mine Unified School District. The project has the potential to generate approximately \_ students based on the construction of three new single family dwellings. The school district has indicated that they have the potential to accommodate the additional students (personal contact with Superintendent Rob Schamberg, April 14, 2008). Future residential development would also be subject to school impact fees at time of building permit issuance. There would be no impact.

d. **Parks.** The project is located within the Georgetown Divide Recreation District (GDRD). The GDRD does not maintain parkland standards (El Dorado County General Plan Draft EIR, 2003). The development of three single family dwellings on large parcels would create a small insignificant demand for recreational opportunities, especially in light of the fact that outdoor recreational opportunities would exist on the open space areas on these parcels. The GDRD does not currently maintain a fee program to offset impacts to recreational facilities. Given that the GDRD does not maintain standards for parkland, no threshold has been exceeded and thus there is no impact as a result of the project.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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e. **Other Government Services.** No other government services would be required as a result of the general plan amendment, rezone, and parcel map. There would be no impact.

**Finding:** As discussed above, no significant impacts are expected to public services either directly or indirectly. For this “Public Services” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

<b>XIV. RECREATION.</b>			
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			X
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			X

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect on Recreational Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Substantially increase the local population without dedicating a minimum of 5 acres of developed parklands for every 1,000 residents; or
- Substantially increase the use of neighborhood or regional parks in the area such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur.

a-b. **Parks and Recreation.** The proposed general plan amendment, rezone and parcel map would not result in a population increase that would substantially contribute to increased demand on recreation facilities or contribute to increased use of existing facilities. Park facilities are maintained by the Georgetown Divide Recreation District, and are expected to be able to handle the relatively small demand for recreational facilities created by the proposed project. There would be a less than significant impact.

**Finding:** No significant impacts to recreation and open space resources are expected either directly or indirectly given the small increase in population and existing open space resources on the parcels that will be created. For this “Recreation” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<b>XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>			
a. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?			<b>X</b>
b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?			<b>X</b>
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?			<b>X</b>
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			<b>X</b>
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?			<b>X</b>
f. Result in inadequate parking capacity?			<b>X</b>
g. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?			<b>X</b>

**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect on Traffic would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system;
- Generate traffic volumes which cause violations of adopted level of service standards (project and cumulative); or
- Result in, or worsen, Level of Service “F” traffic congestion during weekday, peak-hour periods on any highway, road, interchange or intersection in the unincorporated areas of the county as a result of a residential development project of 5 or more units.

- Capacity.** The proposed general plan amendment, rezone and parcel map would result in the generation of approximately 30 average daily trips (ADTs) and 3 peak hour trips (PHTs). These trips would be distributed on to Burkett Lane (a private road) and Rattlesnake Bar Road (a county maintained road). Neither of these roads are currently operating near capacity or experiencing poor levels of service. The Department of Transportation has reviewed the project and has determined that the project does not exceed the thresholds established in the 2004 General Plan. The number of vehicles associated with the parcel map and rezone would not change current vehicle trip rates and would not measurably affect traffic volumes or levels of service on a permanent basis such that County standards would be exceeded. Impacts would be less than significant.
- Level of Service.** The Department of Transportation has reviewed the project and had determined the project would not decrease the level of service of the roads in the project vicinity. There would be no impact.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- c. **Traffic Patterns.** The project site is not within an airport safety zone. No changes in air traffic patterns would occur or be affected by the proposed project. There would be no impact.
- d. **Hazards.** The project site is readily accessible from Rattlesnake Bar Road and Burkett Lane. No traffic hazards such as sharp curves, poor sight distance, or dangerous intersections exist on or adjacent to the project site. Impacts would be less than significant.
- e. **Emergency Access.** The project site receives access off Rattlesnake Bar Road and Burkett Lane which would terminate on site in a fire safe approved turn around. Road improvements are required to increase the road width and emergency vehicle load ratings pursuant to fire safe regulations and are being placed upon the conditions of approvals for the parcel map prior to final map recording. Based upon the required road improvements there would be no disruption of emergency access to and from the existing residence or those in surrounding parcels. There would be no impact.
- f. **Parking.** No additional parking required for the existing residential units on the subject parcel. There would be no impact.
- g. **Alternative Transportation.** No public transportation systems, bicycle lanes or bicycle storage would be affected because such features are not present at or adjacent to the project site. There would be no impact.

**Finding:** As discussed above, no significant traffic impacts are expected either directly or indirectly. For this “Transportation/Traffic” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

<b>XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>				
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				<b>X</b>
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				<b>X</b>
c. Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				<b>X</b>
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				<b>X</b>
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				<b>X</b>
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				<b>X</b>
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				<b>X</b>

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**Discussion:**

A substantial adverse effect on Utilities and Service Systems would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Breach published national, state, or local standards relating to solid waste or litter control;
  - Substantially increase the demand for potable water in excess of available supplies or distribution capacity without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand, or is unable to provide an adequate on-site water supply, including treatment, storage and distribution;
  - Substantially increase the demand for the public collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand, or is unable to provide for adequate on-site wastewater system; or
  - Result in demand for expansion of power or telecommunications service facilities without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased or expanded demand.
- a. **Wastewater.** The creation of three additional parcels with their own septic systems, would not involve discharges off untreated domestic wastewater that would violate water quality control board requirements. Storm water runoff would be negligible (see Item c, below). There would be no impact.
- b,d, e. **New Facilities.** No new or expanded water or wastewater facilities would be required for the proposed parcel since the proposed water would be from ground water and would contain an approved septic system. The existing second residence is currently served by public water. There would be no impact.
- c. **Storm Water Drainage.** All required drainage facilities for the project shall be built in conformance with the standards contained in the “*County of El Dorado Drainage Manual*,” as determined by the Department of transportation. The Department of Transportation has reviewed the project proposal and has concluded that the provisions of the drainage manual would not be required. There would be no impact.
- f&g. **Solid Waste.** No substantial anticipated increases of solid waste generated from the existing residential units and proposed three additional residential units once the parcel is divided into four or affect recycling goals. There would be no impact.
- h. **Power.** Power and telephone facilities are currently in place at the existing residence and adjacent to the parcel in Rattlesnake Bar Road. No further expansion of power is anticipated from the general plan amendment, rezone, and parcel map. There would be no impact.

**Finding:** No significant utility and service system impacts are expected either directly or indirectly. For this “Utilities and Service Systems” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<b>XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. Does the project:</b>			
a. 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?		X	
b. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?			X
c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X

**Discussion:**

- a. There is no substantial evidence contained in the project record that would indicate that this project has the potential to significantly degrade the quality of the environment. As conditioned and mitigated, and with strict adherence to County permit requirements, this general plan amendment, rezone and parcel map and the typical residential uses expected to follow, would not appear to have the potential to 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 California history or pre-history. Any impacts from the project would be less than significant due to the design of the project and required standards that would be implemented with the process of the final map and/or any required project specific improvements on or off the property.
- b. Cumulative impacts are defined in Section 15355 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines as “two or more individual effects, which when considered together, would be considerable or which would compound or increase other environmental impacts.” Based on the analysis in this study, it has been determined that the project would have a less than significant impact based on the issue of cumulative impacts.
- c. As outlined and discussed in this document, as mitigated and conditioned, this project proposes a less than significant chance of having project-related environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Impacts would be less than significant.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCE LIST**

The following documents are available at El Dorado County Planning Services in Placerville.

El Dorado County General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Volume 1 of 3 – EIR Text, Chapter 1 through Section 5.6  
Volume 2 of 3 – EIR Text, Section 5.7 through Chapter 9  
Appendix A  
Volume 3 of 3 – Technical Appendices B through H

El Dorado County General Plan – A Plan for Managed Growth and Open Roads; A Plan for Quality Neighborhoods and Traffic Relief (Adopted July 19, 2004)

Findings of Fact of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors for the General Plan

El Dorado County Zoning Ordinance (Title 17 - County Code)

County of El Dorado Drainage Manual (Resolution No. 67-97, Adopted March 14, 1995)

County of El Dorado Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (Ordinance No. 3883, amended Ordinance Nos. 4061, 4167, 4170)

El Dorado County Design and Improvement Standards

El Dorado County Subdivision Ordinances (Title 16 - County Code)

Soil Survey of El Dorado Area, California

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutes (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.)

Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 15000, et seq.)