INITIAL STUDY/ADDENDUM

to the

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
(SCH No. 2012111083)

PREVIOUSLY CERTIFIED BY THE LEAD AGENCY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

for the

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM:
SALMON CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH FACILITY AND RELATED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS PROJECT

July 2016

Determination

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife finds that the Sycamore Island Fishing Pond enhancements will not result in any previously undisclosed, potentially significant effects on the environmental or a substantial increase in the severity of any previously disclosed, potentially significant environmental effects. Furthermore, to the extent the potential for such effects exists, CDFW finds that the adherence to and implementation of the conditions of Project approval, as well as adherence to and implementation of the conditions of approval imposed by CDFW through the issuance of the accompanying Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program will avoid or reduce the potential for such effects to below a level of significance. CDFW has determined that the CEQA review is sufficient and will not require preparation of a subsequent EIR.

7/13/14

Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager, Central Region
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date

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1. INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW or the Department) has prepared this addendum to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.). CDFW is a lead agency under CEQA with respect to the Salmon Conservation and Research Facility (SCARF) and Related Fisheries Management Actions Project (Project), part of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) (See generally Pub. Resources Code, § 21067; and CEQA Guidelines, § 15367)[1].

On June 4, 2014, CDFW certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR[2]) (SCH#2012111083) pursuant to CEQA for the Project. One of the five principal actions identified in the Final EIR is to manage and support recreation within the SJRRP Restoration Area (defined as the main stem of the San Joaquin River from below Friant Dam to the confluence with the Merced River). Potential recreational enhancements identified in the EIR included enhancing off-channel ponds (i.e., ponds or abandoned gravel mining pits without river connectivity) for recreational fishing, providing access to and facilities for additional fishing opportunities in or near the Restoration Area, and stocking trout for recreational fishing in off-channel ponds near the San Joaquin River (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2013). As specific details about potential recreational enhancements were not known at the time of writing the Final EIR, these enhancements were addressed at a program level.

Since the Final EIR was prepared, CDFW has assessed potential locations for enhancing recreational angling opportunities in off-channel ponds based on aquatic habitat conditions, land ownership, access, and proximity to locations with existing fishing pressure. As a result of that assessment, CDFW has identified an off-channel pond in Sycamore Island in Madera County, California, that could benefit from public access improvements. This pond is currently stocked primarily with trout and was selected based on identified opportunities to improve public access at the site and its increasing popularity as a fishing location. Despite existing dirt roads that provide access to the pond and a recent culvert crossing improvement project implemented by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the summer of 2013, public access to the pond remains limited and ADA access is not accommodated. In addition, the site currently has two boat launching areas that have steep slopes and sandy surfaces which cause difficulty for vehicles launching or retrieving their vessels. Wheel spinouts in these areas have degraded the existing launch ramps by creating potholes, loose soil, and uneven terrain. To address these deficiencies, CDFW developed a set of improvements for the pond and entered into an agreement with DWR to perform planning and design work to provide accessibility improvements at the pond. The property is owned by the San Joaquin River Conservancy and maintained by the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.

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[1] The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

[2] All references to the EIR are to the Final EIR, which includes the Draft EIR, with some modifications, and the responses to comments.

These proposed enhancements to the Sycamore Island fishing pond are considered a modification to the Project, in that they provide more detail regarding a recreational enhancement compared to the information available at the time of preparation of the EIR. The purpose of this Addendum is to document CDFW's evaluation of the Sycamore Island site and proposed activities to determine whether the environmental effects of the operation were covered in the previously certified EIR. This analysis concluded that no new effects could occur or no new mitigation measures would be required for the Sycamore Island improvements, and the activities are therefore within the scope of the Project covered by the Final EIR, and no new environmental document is required.

2. BACKGROUND

CDFW's current effort under CEQA arises from its plans to construct and operate the Project. The Project is related to the Settlement Agreement for the SJRRP, reached as a result of federal court action in *Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) et al. v. Kirk Rodgers et al.* (*NRDC v. Rodgers* 2006). The United States (U.S.) Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Commerce, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA) signed the Settlement Agreement settling that litigation. The Settlement Agreement identified two major goals that are being implemented through the SJRRP: (1) a Restoration Goal to restore and maintain fish populations in good condition, including naturally reproducing and self-sustaining populations of salmon and other fish in the Restoration Area (defined as the main stem of the San Joaquin River from below Friant Dam to the confluence with the Merced River), and (2) a Water Management Goal. Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Settling Parties, CDFW and several other state agencies (State Agency MOU), CDFW and the other state agencies agreed to assist the Settling Parties in the Settlement Agreement's implementation, consistent with the state agencies' authorities, resources, and broader regional resource strategies. Therefore, the Implementing Agencies of the Program are Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) from the U.S. Department of Interior, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) from the U.S. Department of Commerce, and CDFW and DWR from the State of California Natural Resources Agency. More information regarding the overall Program can be found on the Program's website: http://www.restoresjr.net/.

In furtherance of the State Agency MOU, CDFW will undertake several related actions, including (1) constructing and operating the SCARF; (2) reintroducing Chinook salmon to the Restoration Area (including donor stock collection, broodstock development, and/or direct translocation); (3) managing Chinook salmon runs in the Restoration Area; (4) conducting research and monitoring related to Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River; and (5) managing and supporting recreation within the Restoration Area. These actions will be adaptively managed to address uncertainties, such as changes in abundance of source populations, regulatory obligations, flow conditions/constraints, fish stocking, and passage/habitat conditions within the Restoration Area.

CDFW has developed an Interim Facility while the SCARF is under development. The Interim Facility is located on the same property as the planned SCARF. The Interim Facility was determined by CDFW to be categorically exempt from CEQA (See Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14 §§ 15301, 15304, and 15306).

Since certification of the EIR, CDFW approved an addendum for the following project modifications in March 2015:

(1) The change in location of the quarantine activities at the SCARF, which will instead occur at the Interim Facility, or Reclamation property at Friant Dam;

(2) Updates to the water usage estimates for the SCARF;

(3) The installation of a recirculation system, chiller equipment, and additional tanks at the Interim Facility; and

(4) The installation of rearing tanks and recirculation and chiller equipment near the existing trailer on Reclamation property at Friant Dam.

3. CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT CHANGES, CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, AND POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT NEW INFORMATION

CDFW's consideration of the Final EIR is constrained by a legal presumption of adequacy. (*Laurel Heights Improvement Association*, *supra*, 6 Cal.4th at p. 1130.) That presumption is tempered, however, by changes to the project, changed circumstances, or potentially significant new information. (See Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15162, subd. (a); and Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15162, subds. (a) and (b)). The only such change or new information related to the Project and CDFW's review and consideration of the Project include the following: a pond in Sycamore Island has been selected for enhancing recreational angling opportunities.

CDFW has determined as set forth below that the changes listed above do not require preparation of a subsequent EIR or a supplement to the Final EIR. The purpose of this Addendum is to document these modifications to the project description and impacts and verify that they will not result in any new or more significant impacts than those that were disclosed in the previously certified Final EIR.

3.1 Description of Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement

3.1.1 Purpose and Objective

The purpose of the Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement ("proposed Project modification" or "Project modification") is to improve fishing for the public and to improve accessibility to the pond within Sycamore Island. The proposed improvements are consistent with CDFW's mission as identified in the Final EIR.

The objectives of the proposed improvements are as follows:

- Support and assist implementation of the Settlement Agreement, including the following:
  - Support the Settling Parties in achieving the SJRRP Restoration Goal, consistent with CDFW's authorities, resources, and broader regional resource strategies; and
  - Fulfill the other commitments identified in the State Agency memorandum of understanding (MOU) pertaining to the Settlement Agreement.
- Fulfill CDFW's mission to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats on which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

3.1.2 Location

The proposed Project modification site (or "Sycamore Island site") is located on the north bank of the San Joaquin River at approximately River Mile 252, 2.5 miles downstream of the Highway 41 bridge in Madera County (**Figure 1 and 2**). Sycamore Island consists of 350 acres of open space along the San Joaquin River. The proposed Project modification would occur within a 1.5-acre area at the northeastern corner of one of the ponds. While the pond is not directly connected to the San Joaquin River via surface flow under typical conditions, the pond is connected to the river via subsurface flow and is within the San Joaquin River's 100-year floodplain.

Sycamore Island was previously used as a working ranch in the 1950s (San Joaquin River Conservancy and Madera County, 2012). In 1963, an aggregate mining operation was established on the property. Mining operations ceased in 2005. The gravel pits left behind by the mining operation naturally filled with water from subsurface flow, forming ponds which were later stocked with various fish species and opened to the public (San Joaquin River Conservancy and Madera County, 2012). In 2006 the property was acquired by the San Joaquin River Conservancy (San Joaquin River Conservancy and Madera County, 2012). The park is currently open to the public during posted days of operation.

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Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement Project

Horizon WATER and ENVIRONMENT

Figure 1
Location of Proposed Project Modification

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Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement Project

Horizon WATER and ENVIRONMENT

Figure 2
Proposed Project Modification Site

3.1.3 Description of Proposed Project Modification

The proposed Project modification includes accessibility improvements at the northeast corner of a selected pond at Sycamore Island. For the purposes of this document, this pond is referred to as the "Sycamore Island Trout Pond." The main Project modification features include a new boat-launch ramp, an ADA accessible path and fishing pier, an improved parking lot surface, and a single-vault toilet restroom facility. **Figure** shows the layout of the proposed improvements. A complete set of engineering plans is provided in **Attachment A.** All improvements would be located on property owned by the San Joaquin River Conservancy (Assessor's Parcel Number 049-101-018).

3.1.4 Components of the Proposed Project Modification

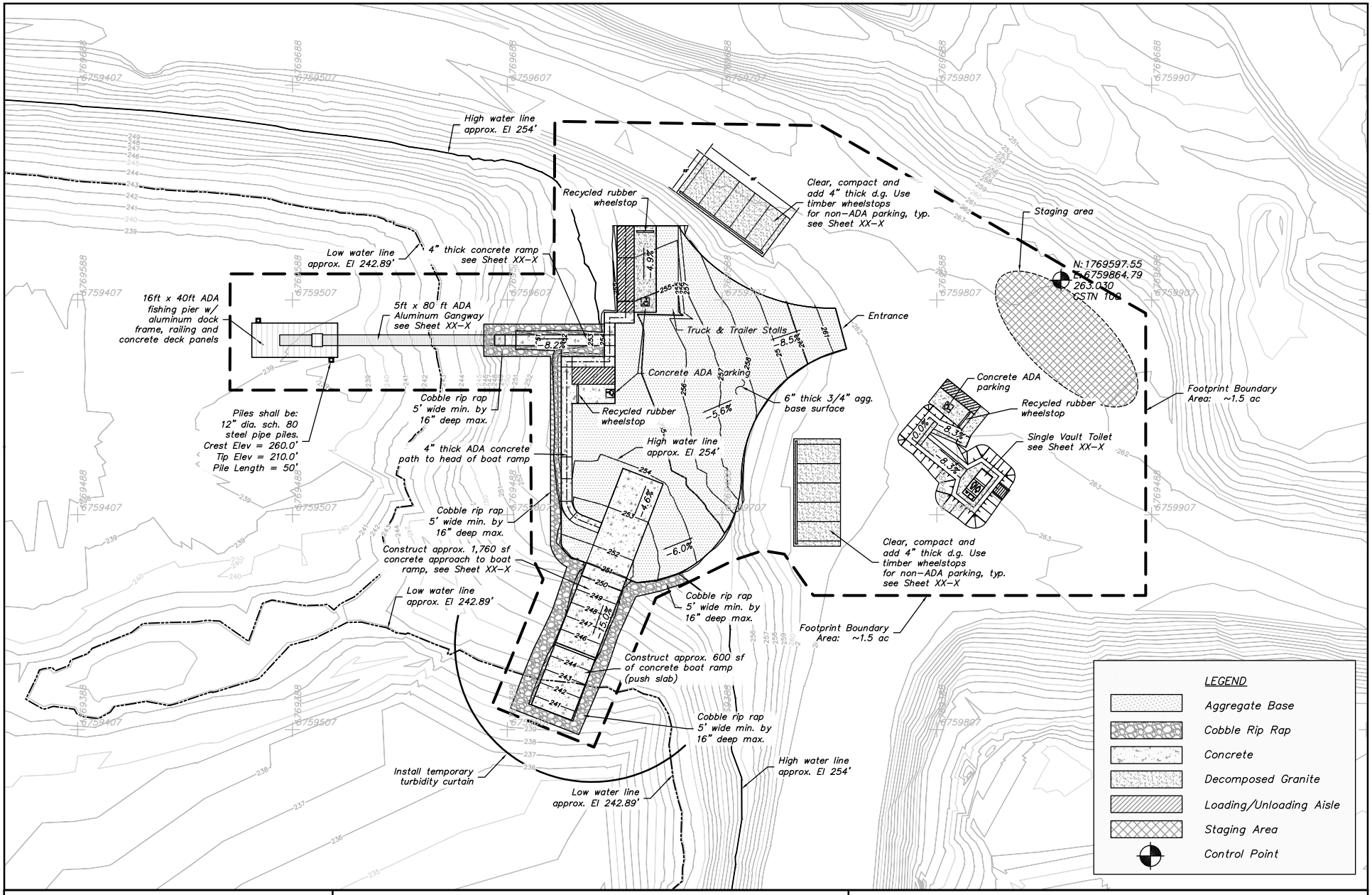
Boat Ramp

The proposed boat ramp would consist of a 118 feet long by 20 feet wide concrete slab. The concrete slab would be 6 inches thick and placed over 6 inches of aggregate base rock. The ramp would extend from the high water line of the pond to approximately 2 vertical feet below the low water line. The ramp would be sloped at approximately 15 percent. Cobble rock slope protection (approximately 5-foot-wide by 16-inch-deep) would be placed around the perimeter of the ramp for erosion control (Figure 3).

ADA-Accessible Path and Fishing Pier

An ADA-compliant path would be established from the ADA-accessible truck and trailer parking space to the boat ramp. The path would be constructed of concrete and would be approximately 150 feet long, 5 feet wide and 4 inches thick. The surface of the path would be at least 0.5 feet higher than the parking lot finished grade.

A concrete ramp, gangway, and fishing pier would also be installed to provide fishing access for the public, including disabled individuals. These structures would be built in accordance with the Accessible Fishing Piers & Platforms Guidelines (United States Access Board, 2003). All three components would include handrails for safety purposes. The concrete ramp would be 41 feet long by 5 feet wide and 4 inches thick and constructed at 8.2 percent slope. The ramp would be situated on 6 inches of aggregate base rock. A concrete abutment would be installed at the end of the ramp, which would connect to the shore-end of the gangway. The gangway would be 80 feet long by 5 feet wide and made of pre-fabricated aluminum. The fishing pier would be 40 feet long by 16 feet wide and would connect to the gangway. The frame of the fishing pier and railing would be made of structural aluminum, while the decking would be reinforced lightweight concrete decking panels. The fishing pier would be anchored using two 12-inch diameter steel piles. The total length of each pile would be approximately 50 feet.



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Horizon WATER and ENVIRONMENT

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Source: Department of Water Resources

Figure 3: Preliminary Site Plan

Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement Project

Parking Lot

The proposed parking lot improvement area covers approximately 0.3 acre and would include two ADA-accessible, concrete parking spaces with recycled rubber stops (one of which would be a truck and trailer-size space), and 10 non-ADA parking spaces composed of 4 inch thick decomposed granite. Each non-ADA parking stall would be 20 feet long and 9 feet wide. The parking lot improvement area would also include a 60-foot diameter turnaround area for access and maneuvering for the boat ramp. The west end of the parking lot would be slightly raised to direct any surface drainage back towards the parking lot and down the proposed concrete boat ramp. The parking lot would be constructed using ¾ inch aggregate base material 6 inches in depth. Cobble rock slope protection (5 feet wide by 16 inches deep) would be placed along the parking lot edge to reduce potential erosion from wind, wave action, and/or fluctuating water levels in the pond. The parking lot would require excavation of approximately 217 cubic yards (CY) of soil. Material excavated from the parking lot could potentially be used to build up the proposed bathroom pad.

Restroom

The restroom would be a single vault precast concrete toilet building. Because the proposed location of the bathroom is in a designated floodway, the elevation of the vault would need to be at or above the base flood elevation, in accordance with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board's California Code of Regulations, Title 23 standards. Approximately 105 CY of fill would be placed to raise the pad to this elevation, and as described above, excavated soil from the parking lot improvement area would likely be re-used to build up the pad. A concrete path would "switch back" and slope down again at 12:1 grade to existing ground elevation. Next to the bathroom ramp would be a concrete stall for accessible parking. On the opposite side of the ramp would be a set of concrete stairs and handrails for non-accessible users.

3.1.5 Construction Characteristics

Construction is anticipated to involve clearing and grubbing, light grading, site preparation, and construction/installation of the improvements. These activities are described further in the following sub-sections. The total footprint of the construction work area would be approximately 1.5 acres.

Construction Methods

Site Preparation and Grading

Site preparation would include minor clearing and grubbing, including removal of some small diameter Eucalyptus trees, herbaceous vegetation, brush, and any debris in the area. Following the clearing and grubbing, grading would be conducted to prepare the sub-grade for the boat ramp, parking area, paths, and restroom. Excess material removed during grading would be reused for the restroom pad, to the extent feasible. Excess material and/or fill not suitable for reuse on-site would either be re-used at another upland location at Sycamore Island or disposed of at an approved landfill or compost facility. The work would be conducted using excavators/backhoes, loaders, compaction equipment, and hand tools and labor.

Boat Ramp, Parking, and Path

Construction of the boat ramp would involve two methods: "push slab" and cast-in-place. The push slab portion would be 30 feet of the total length and the remaining 88 feet would be cast-in-place concrete. The push slab would be formed and poured in an upland area, and then

pushed into place. Filter fabric and base rock would be placed beneath the concrete slabs. Concrete paths and the parking area would also be cast-in-place, which involves construction of forms, placement of reinforced steel (rebar), pouring concrete, and finish work. The work would be conducted using loaders, concrete trucks, and hand tools and labor.

Construction of Structures and Restroom

Most of the access improvements would be pre-fabricated (e.g., restroom, gangway/pier, push-slab portion of boat ramp). As such, construction would involve delivery of materials to the work area and assembly/placement of structures. This would likely be accomplished with excavators and a crane. The steel piles for the fishing pier would be driven into place using impact hammers mounted on an excavator or crane. The crane or excavator could be situated on land for the installation. The crane or excavator arm should be able to extend out as necessary to drive in the piles; if the reach is too long, a barge would be used. Additionally, if the required penetration is not obtained by the use of a hammer, the contractor may be required to use a hammer of greater energy or resort to other methods such as jetting or predrilling. Dewatering or cofferdams will not be necessary.

Construction Equipment

The main pieces of equipment that would be used to construct the proposed Project modification are:

- track-mounted excavator
- small crane
- end dump truck
- ten-wheel dump truck
- bulldozer
- flat-bed delivery truck
- grader
- concrete truck
- Barge
- backhoe
- compactor
- front-end loader
- water truck
- forklift
- compressors/jack hammers
- impact hammers
- mowing equipment (e.g., weedeaters, commercial lawnmowers)
- Skid steer loader

Construction Vehicle Trips, Staging, and Access

Construction activities would require up to 8 workers with a maximum total of 2 round trips per day, per worker. The grading work would require approximately 50 haul-truck trips over 6-7 days.

As shown in Figure 3, temporary staging of equipment and materials would occur within the northeastern corner of the site, in a previously disturbed area. Stockpiling of excavated soil and imported materials would occur within the work area.

Regional access would occur via Highway 41 and Highway 99. Construction equipment and personnel would enter and exit the construction area through existing unpaved, single lane public access roads from Avenue 7 ½.

Construction Schedule

At the earliest, construction activities would occur during the summer/fall of 2017. Work would occur over a 16-20-week duration, between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, consistent with Madera County's Noise Ordinance. It is anticipated that pile driving activities

would occur within a two week duration or less. If weekend work is necessary, work would occur between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

3.1.6 Operation and Maintenance Activities

The proposed improvements would be used primarily by members of the public for recreational purposes. It is anticipated that the fishing pier would be used for fishing or wildlife viewing, while the boat ramp would be used to launch fishing boats as well as to stock the pond with fish. Similar to current operations, CDFW would stock the pond with catchable-size rainbow trout from the SJFH 1-2 times per month, depending on the annual allotment, between November and April. The pond would be open to the public during the same season/hours of operation as greater Sycamore Island; currently these are February 1 through November 11 on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays, opening at 6 a.m. and closing from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. depending on the season. In total, the proposed improvements would accommodate up to 12 vehicles. The proposed improvements may attract more visitors in comparison to existing conditions; however any increase in visitation at the site is speculative at this point.

As is currently the case, the pond and surrounding area would be maintained by the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust. Currently, at Sycamore Island, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust rents portable toilets during the open season, cleans the portable toilets on a regular basis, and picks up litter and trash. Once construction of the restroom facility is complete, it is anticipated that fewer portable toilets would be required and the restroom would continue to be cleaned on a regular basis. Solid waste generated at the site would be collected and disposed of by the solid waste disposal company serving the County.

3.2 Finding

There will be no significant impact on environmental resources as a result of implementation of the proposed Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement, as demonstrated by the discussion below and detailed analysis presented in Section 4, Evaluation of Environmental Effects.

The Final EIR previously described changes to the environment that would occur as a result of the implementation recreational enhancements such as the Project modification, and identified relevant mitigation. Construction of the proposed enhancements at the Sycamore Island Trout Pond would result in an increase in operation of construction equipment and construction vehicles at the Sycamore Island Trout Pond, which would result in short-term temporary impacts related to traffic and noise. Construction of the proposed Project modification could affect sensitive biological resources, cultural resources, and could result in temporary water quality impacts due to excavation, pile driving and soil-disturbing activities. Similar to the Project, implementation of EIR mitigation measures would minimize construction and operation-related effects of this Project modification. As some EIR mitigation measures required additional analysis for recreational enhancements, the following EIR mitigation measures were implemented to support the analysis in Section 4:

- AQ-MANAGEMENT-1
- BIO-REINTRO-3
- CR-CONSTRUCT-1a
- GHG-MANAGEMENT-1
- HAZ-MANAGEMENT-3

In addition, the following EIR mitigation measures would be applicable to the proposed Project modifications during construction:

- BIO-RECREATION-2
- FISH-RECREATION-1
- CR-CONSTRUCT-1b
- CR-CONSTRUCT-3
- GEO-CONSTRUCT-1a
- HAZ-CONSTRUCT-3
- NOISE-MANAGEMENT-1

CDFW finds that the proposed Sycamore Island Trout Pond enhancements will not result in any previously undisclosed potentially significant effects on the environment or a substantial increase in the severity of any previously disclosed potentially significant environmental effects. Furthermore, to the extent the potential for such effects exists, CDFW finds that adherence to and implementation of the conditions of Project modification, as well as adherence to and implementation of the conditions of approval imposed by CDFW through the issuance of the accompanying Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program will avoid or reduce the potential for such effects to below a level of significance. CDFW has determined that the CEQA review is sufficient and will not require preparation of a subsequent EIR.

4. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The following Initial Study (IS) assesses the environmental impacts of the proposed Project modification based on the environmental checklist provided in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The environmental resources and potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project modification are described in the individual subsections below.

Since recreational enhancements were evaluated at a program level in the Final EIR that was certified in 2014, each section below compares the potential environmental effects that may result with the proposed Project modification with the evaluation of such recreational enhancements that is contained in the EIR. For each checklist question, a discussion is provided of the rationale used to determine the significance level of the proposed Project modification's environmental impact and whether any new effects beyond what was examined in the Final EIR could occur. The following determinations are used in the checklist:

- "***No Impact"*** is used when the analysis concludes that the proposed Project modification would not affect the particular environmental resource/issue.

- "***Less than Significant***" is used when the analysis determines that there would be no substantial adverse change in the environment and no mitigation is needed.

- "***Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR***." This determination is used for environmental impacts that have the potential to be significant but implementation of identified mitigation measures from the Final EIR would reduce the severity of such impacts to a less-than-significant level.

- ***"Potentially Significant"*** is used if the analysis concludes that there could be a new substantial adverse effect on the environment that was not previously evaluated in the Final EIR.

Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a. Adverse effects on scenic vistas— *No Impact / No Additional Impact*

There are no designated scenic vistas in the vicinity of the Project modification. The proposed Project modification is located in Sycamore Island in Madera County, a relatively undeveloped recreation area. The closest resident to the Project modification site is approximately 0.3 mile south of the site; therefore due to distance, the Project modification would be barely visible from any residences. Motorists and pedestrians traveling on County roads (e.g., Avenue 7 ½) near the Project modification site could have intermittent views of the site. During construction, these viewers may have fleeting views of equipment such as dump trucks, a crane and excavator, resulting in temporary adverse effect. However, given the Project modification site's small area, impacts on scenic vistas would not be substantial. The proposed Project modification would not include any tall or prominent structures, and would not be located on a hillside from which the facilities could be visible. Therefore, there would be no substantial adverse effects on scenic vistas.

In summary, the proposed Project modification would not result in a significant adverse effect on scenic vistas. This finding is consistent with the Final EIR, and the Project would not introduce a new significant effect.

b. Damage to scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway— *No Impact / No Additional Impact*

There are no designated scenic highways in the area; therefore there would be no adverse effects on views from a designated scenic highway. Construction of the Project modification would entail removal of some small diameter Eucalyptus trees, herbaceous vegetation, and brush in the area. Recreationalists that frequently visit Sycamore Island may notice removal of these trees. However, because tree removal would be limited to a few trees and because the Project modification site would not be visible from a scenic highway, there would be no impact.

c. Changes to existing visual character or quality— *No Impact / No Additional Impact*

As described above, construction of the proposed Project modification could result in temporary visual disturbances associated with the presence of construction crews and heavy equipment, such as haul trucks, a crane, and an excavator. Viewer groups who may see the construction site would be limited to recreationalists using other portions of Sycamore Island. Such impacts would be short-term and are considered less than significant.

The proposed Project modification would add several new elements to the Sycamore Island Trout Pond including a fishing pier, ramp and gangway, restroom and boat ramp. These facilities would be consistent with the existing use of the site for recreational fishing. The access improvements would also be small in scale. For these reasons, the Project would not substantially degrade the site's visual character or quality.

In summary, the Project modification would not result in a significant adverse change to existing visual character or quality of the Sycamore Island site. This finding is consistent with the overall findings of the Final EIR, and the Project would not introduce a new significant effect.

d. New sources of light or glare— *Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

Construction would occur during daytime hours and would not require any nighttime lighting. Therefore, there would be no light or glare impact during the proposed Project modification's construction phase.

No outdoor lighting would be installed as part of the proposed Project modification. The gangway would be composed of aluminum and reflection of the sun could generate a new source of glare. Glare effects were disclosed in the Final EIR (Impact AES-OP-2), and were considered less than significant with mitigation. Given that the proposed Project modification is relatively small in scale and because viewers of the Sycamore Island site are limited to recreationists at Sycamore Island Trout Pond, glare effects would be less than significant and would not introduce a new significant effect.

Agricultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use in a manner that will significantly affect timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, or other public benefits?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment that, because of their location or nature, could result in a conversion of Farmland to a nonagricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Checklist Responses

This topic was dismissed from detailed consideration in the Final EIR due to the absence of potential for a significant impact.

a & e. Convert farmland to non-agriculture use; Conflicts with or loss of agricultural or forest lands— *No Impact / No New Impact*

The Project modification site is on land designated as Nonagricultural and Natural Vegetation by the California Department of Conservation (CDOC, 2014). No agricultural activity currently exists on the site. Construction would include clearing and grubbing for site preparation, including removal of some small diameter Eucalyptus trees; however, these trees are not part of a stand intended for commercial production and are not considered forestry resources. The site is currently used for parking and for accessing the Sycamore Island Trout Pond. Therefore, there would be no impact related to conversion of agricultural land or forest lands to non-agricultural uses. No new impact would occur.

b & c. Conflict with existing zoning for agriculture use, Williamson Act Contract, or forest land or timber land— *Less than Significant / No New Significant Impact*

The Project modification site is within the Agricultural, Rural, Valley, Twenty Acre District (ARV-20) (Madera County, 2015a). Permitted uses in the ARV-20 district include: (1) all kinds of agricultural uses; (2) one single family dwelling (permanent structure or one manufactured home); (3) second single family dwelling (permanent structure or manufactured home (subject to parcel size requirements and development standards as per Section 18.04.153); (4) guest house; (5) all existing dwellings in this district shall be regularly permitted uses and not considered as nonconforming uses; (6) communications tower/wireless communications facility placed atop an existing structure, which will not increase the height of said structure above twenty additional feet, or exceed the height limit of this zone district, whichever is greater (Madera County, 2015b). While the Project modification would not include agricultural uses, it would not be out of character with general rural land uses. No Williamson Act contracts exist on or adjacent to the Sycamore Island site (CDOC, 2013). For these reasons and because the Project modification would be limited to improving access at an existing recreation area, this impact would be less than significant. No new impact would occur.

d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use—*No Impact / No New Impact*

As mentioned above, project construction would include clearing and grubbing for site preparation, including removal of some small diameter Eucalyptus trees. These trees are not part of a forest managed for timber production and the Sycamore Island site is not considered forest land. No new impact would occur.

Air Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
When available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is a nonattainment area for an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a, b, d. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan, violate an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations — *Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

The Sycamore Island site is located in Madera County, in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). The SJVAB is currently designated as a non-attainment area for federal and state ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ standards, and state PM_{10} standards. The Sycamore Island site is situated in a relatively undeveloped recreation area in unincorporated Madera County, so there are few sensitive receptors nearby. The nearest sensitive receptor is a single-family home approximately 0.37 miles north of the Sycamore Island site and a number of residences located south of both the Sycamore Island site and the San

Joaquin River (approximately 0.37 miles away). There are also two other homes located approximately 0.45 to 0.50 miles north of the Sycamore Island site.

Construction of the proposed Project modification would generate air emissions from worker commutes and operation of construction equipment. As described in Section 3.1, construction activities would require up to 8 workers with a maximum of 2 round trips per day. Grading work would require approximately 50 haul-truck trips over 6-7 days.

Operation of the proposed Project modification is not anticipated to generate significant air emissions as visitation at the Sycamore Island Trout Pond would be similar to existing conditions. Although it is possible that usage could increase by some degree, any increase in vehicle usage is not anticipated to be of a sufficient magnitude to conflict with applicable air quality plans. The proposed Project modification would not result in any changes to the site's existing land use or otherwise conflict with the Madera County General Plan.

The Final EIR evaluated the potential for recreational enhancements to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan (see Impact AQ-RECREATION-1). As project-specific details were not known at the time that the Final EIR was prepared, the analysis prescribed Mitigation Measure AQ-MANAGEMENT-1. This mitigation measure requires preparation of project-level quantitative analysis of construction related air quality emissions, and if emissions are found to exceed significance thresholds, implementation of measures to cap emissions.

Per Mitigation Measure AQ-MANAGEMENT-1, a quantitative analysis of construction-related air quality emissions was generated through use of the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod). This analysis assumes that construction would occur in summer 2017. See **Attachment B** for detailed emission calculations. Emissions of criteria pollutants that would be generated by the proposed Project modification are presented in **Table AQ-1**, below. This table also shows emissions that would be generated by the SCARF project in 2017, which are based on the same assumptions from the Final EIR, and the combined construction emissions generated by both the proposed Project modification and the SCARF. Assuming construction of the project in 2017 provides a conservative estimate of combined emissions, as the majority of emissions from SCARF construction were assumed to occur in 2017.

Table AQ-1. Construction Emissions of Criteria Pollutants (tons per year)

Construction Activity	NO_x	ROG	CO	SO_x	PM_{10} (total)	$PM_{2.5}$ (total)
2017 emissions (Sycamore Island)	0.62	1.44	1.14	0.0019	0.15	0.10
2017 emissions (SCARF)	0.33	2.32	1.81	0.0028	0.17	0.15
2017 emissions for Sycamore Island and SCARF combined	0.95	3.76	2.95	0.0047	0.32	0.25
Amortized emissions over project life (30 years)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SJVAPCD threshold	10	10	100	27	15	15
Exceed threshold?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Notes: CO = carbon monoxide, NOx = nitrogen oxides, PM2.5 = fine particulate matter 2.5 micrometers in diameter or smaller, PM10 = inhalable particulate matter 10 micrometers in diameter or smaller, ROG = reactive organic gas, SJVAPCD = San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, SOx = sulfur oxides. Emission values shown for the Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement are based on all construction phases occurring in 2017. SCARF emissions are based on the assumption that the trenching, building construction, and architectural coating construction phases for the SCARF project would occur in 2017.

Construction of the Project modification would not exceed the NOx, ROG, CO, SOx, PM10, or PM2.5 thresholds established by San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). In addition, consistent with the Final EIR, the proposed Project modification would implement SJVAPCD Regulation VIII, a regulation that SJVAPCD enacted to ensure fugitive dust emissions would be at a level that is considered less than significant. For example, as relevant to the proposed Project modification, SJVAPCD Regulation VIII would require the following:

- All disturbed areas, including storage piles, which are not being actively used for construction purposes, will be effectively stabilized of dust emissions, using water or a chemical stabilizer/suppressant, or by covering with a tarp or other suitable cover or a vegetative ground cover.
- All on-site unpaved roads and off-site unpaved access roads will be effectively stabilized of dust emissions by using water or a chemical stabilizer/suppressant.
- All land-clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, leveling, grading, cut-and-fill, and demolition activities will be effectively controlled for fugitive dust emissions by applications of water or by presoaking.
- When materials are transported off-site, all material will be covered or effectively wetted to limit visible dust emissions, and at least 6 inches of freeboard space from the top of the container will be maintained.
- All construction-related operations will limit or expeditiously remove the accumulation of mud or dirt from adjacent public streets at the end of each workday. Note that the use of dry rotary brushes is expressly prohibited except where preceded or accompanied by sufficient wetting to limit the visible dust emissions. The use of blower devices is expressly forbidden.
- Following the addition of materials to, or the removal of materials from, the surface of outdoor storage piles, the piles will be effectively stabilized of fugitive

dust emissions through treatment with sufficient water or a chemical stabilizer/ suppressant.

- Dirt tracked out will be immediately removed when it extends 50 or more feet from the site, and will also be removed at the end of each workday.
- Any site with 150 or more vehicle trips per day will prevent carryout and track out.

Since project construction would not exceed any SJVAPCD thresholds, consistent with the Final EIR, no additional impact would occur from the proposed Project modification. No additional mitigation is required.

c. Cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is a nonattainment area—*Less than Significant with Mitigation* / *No Additional Impact*

As described above, and in more detail in the Final EIR, the SJVAB is currently designated as a nonattainment area for federal and state ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ standards, and state PM_{10} standards. The SJVAPCD has adopted a cumulative threshold of significance of 10 tons per year for ozone precursors (ROG and NO_X). As described for the previous checklist question, construction of the Project modification would not generate emissions in excess of SJVACPD's significance criteria.

There would be no change in anticipated emissions from operation of the proposed Project modification.

This analysis is consistent with the analysis provided in the Final EIR, Impacts AQ-RECREATION-1 and AQ-RECREATION-2. No additional impact would occur from the proposed Project modification and no additional mitigation would be required.

e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

Construction of the Project modification would not generate any permanent or long-term objectionable odors. This is consistent with the analysis disclosed in the Final EIR (see Impact AQ-RECREATION-3).

There would be no change in odors as a result of operation of the proposed Project modification.

The proposed Project modification is consistent with the impact analysis in the Final EIR, which found this impact to be less than significant. No additional impact would occur.

Biological Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
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 DFG or USFWS?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the DFG or USFWS?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA (including marshes, vernal pools, and coastal wetlands) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan (HCP); natural community conservation plan; or other approved local, regional, or state HCP?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a. Substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species— *Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

Terrestrial Resources

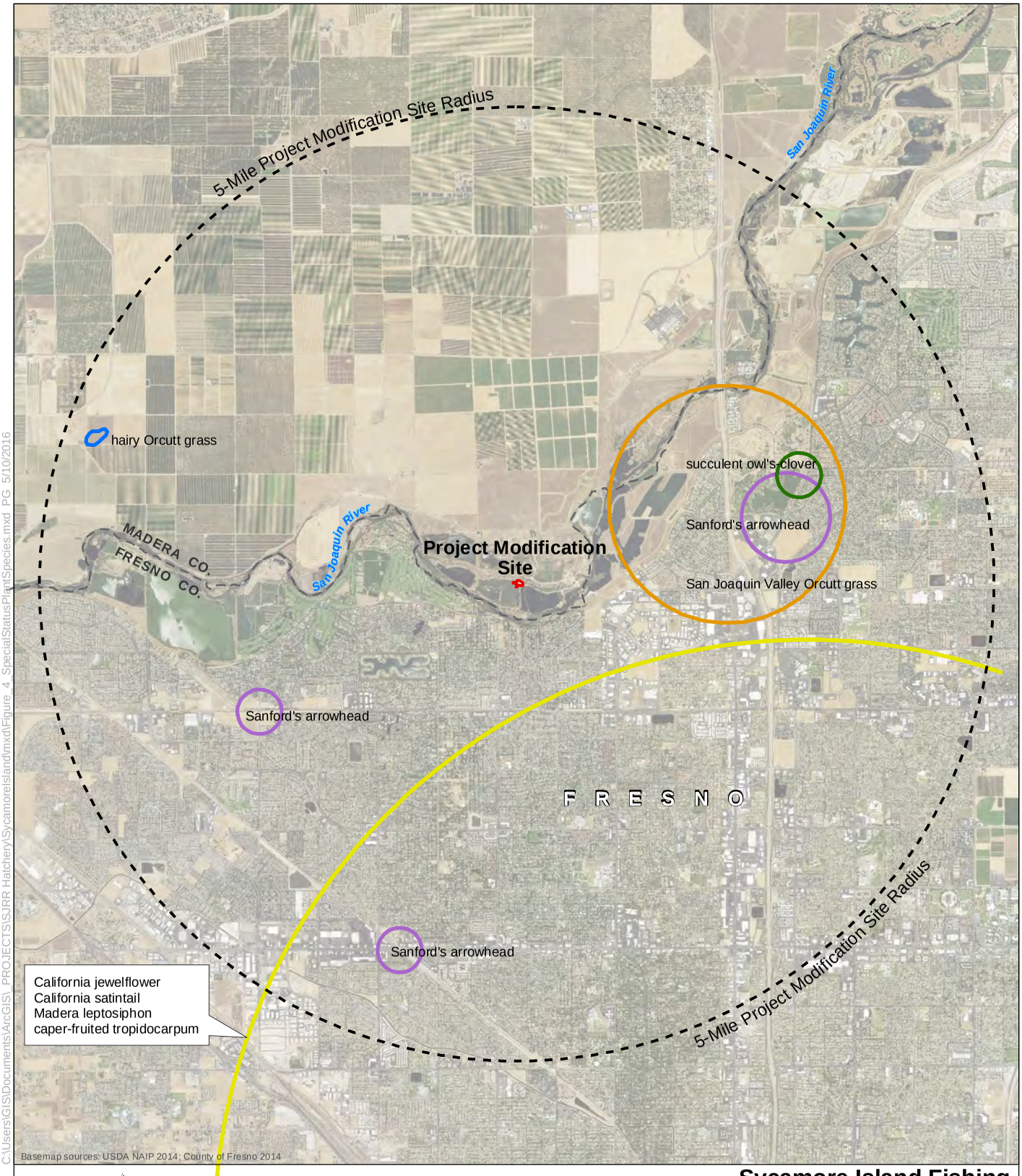
Special-Status Plants

Potential impacts on special-status plant and wildlife species were addressed in the Final EIR under Impacts BIO-RECREATION-1, BIO-RECREATION-2, BIO-RECREATION-3. As discussed in the Final EIR, the proposed Project modification would involve ground disturbing activities including excavation and placement of fill. These activities may have the potential to adversely affect special-status plant species and their habitats including those listed in Appendix J (Supporting Documentation Related to Biological Resources – Vegetation and Wildlife) of the Final EIR. Consistent with the Final EIR, impacts to special-status plants and wildlife and their habitats would be potentially significant. Mitigation Measure BIO-REINTRO-3 (Conduct Project-level Assessment of Activity, and Implement Conservation Measures to Avoid, Minimize, or Mitigate Impacts) requires that CDFW conduct a project-level analysis, including a CNDDB search of the site, and that a site visit be conducted by a qualified botanist and wildlife biologist. Mitigation Measure BIO-RECREATION-2 (Preserve and Protect Special-Status Plant Populations in the Vicinity of Recreational Enhancement Areas) requires that CDFW implement minimization measures to reduce adverse effects on special-status plant species (e.g., construction pathways, fencing, signage).

Figures 4 and 5 provide CNDDB maps for the project area and **Table BIO-1** lists special-status plants and terrestrial wildlife known to occur in the vicinity of the site. In addition to the species identified in the CNDDB search, potential impacts to yellow warbler, tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), western pond turtle (*Actinemys californiense),* pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), and western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*) were considered. Impacts to valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) were considered, however the Sycamore Island site is no longer considered to be within the range of this species (USFWS 2015). Of the 19 species considered, 7 species are considered to have no likelihood of occurrence at the Sycamore Island site due to absence of suitable habitat.

On December 16, 2014 and September 23, 2015, Horizon biologists visited the Sycamore Island site and performed a reconnaissance-level survey, assessing the potential for impacts to biological resources per Mitigation Measure BIO-REINTRO-3. No special-status plant or animal species were observed. Potential nesting habitat for Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) and yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechial brewersteri*) is present within the general vicinity of the Sycamore Island site. The Sycamore Island Trout Pond provides suitable habitat for western pond turtle and some mature trees adjacent to the pond provide potential roost sites for bats.

Figure 4 shows special-status plant occurrences in the Sycamore Island site vicinity. The Sycamore Island site is comprised of relatively degraded riparian habitat with a freshwater marsh fringe along the margins of the pond.



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N

0 1 2
Miles

Horizon WATER and ENVIRONMENT

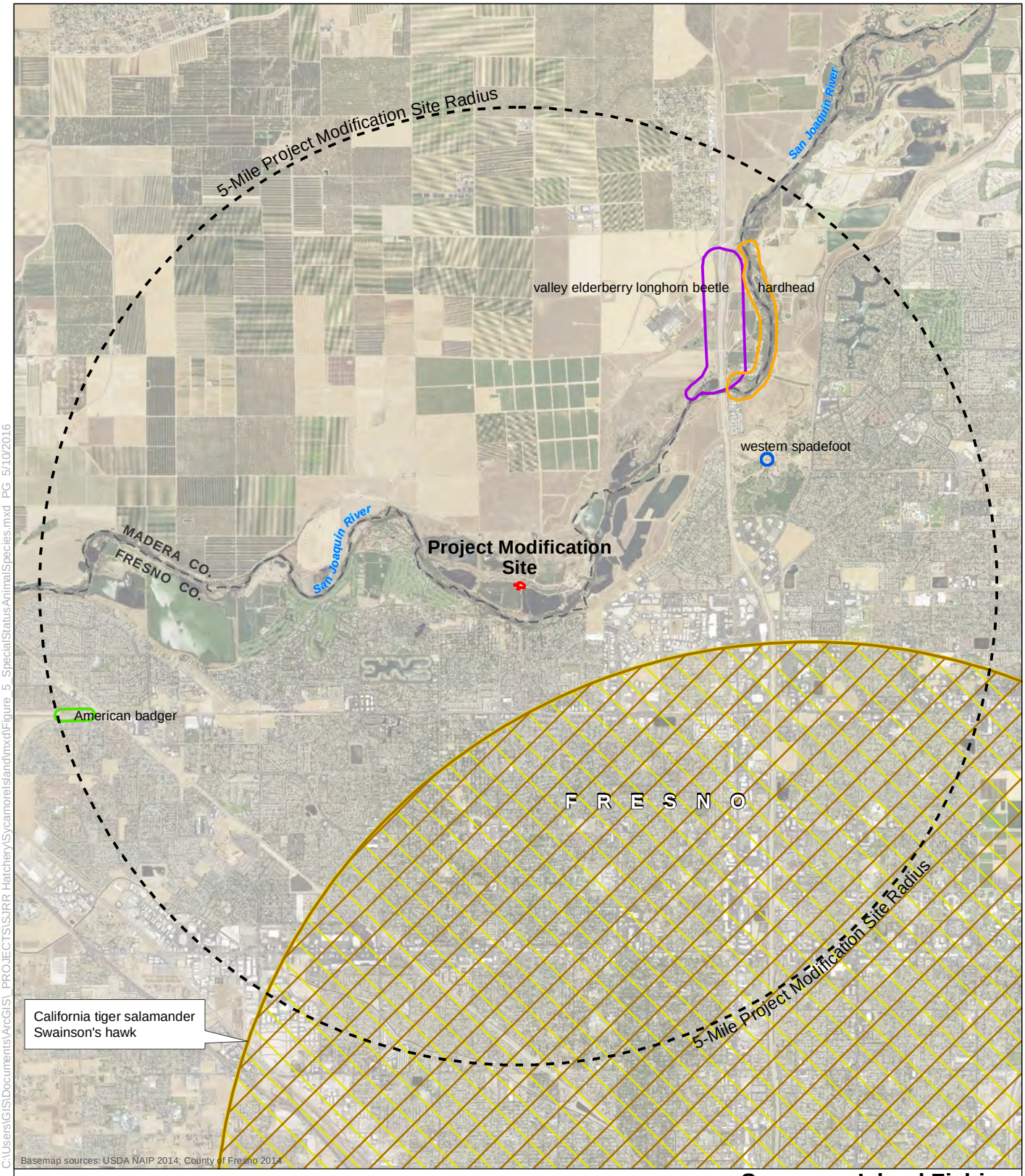
Special-status Plant Species

- Multiple Species: see map label
- Sanford's arrowhead
- hairy Orcutt grass
- San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass
- succulent owl's-clover

Source: Cal. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife CNDDB, April 2015

Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement Project

Figure 4
Special-status Plant Species Occurrences within 5 Miles of the Project Modification Site



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N

0 1 2

Miles

Horizon WATER and ENVIRONMENT

Special-status Animal Species

- American badger
- California tiger salamander
- Swainson's hawk
- hardhead
- valley elderberry longhorn beetle
- western spadefoot

Source: Cal. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife CNDDB, April 2015

Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement Project

Figure 5
Special-status Animal Species Occurrences within 5 Miles of the Project Modification Site

Table BIO-1. Special-Status Plants and Terrestrial Wildlife with the Potential to Occur in the Vicinity of the Project Modification Site

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Federal/ State/ CRPR Status**	**Habitat Characteristics**	**Potential to Occur at Site**
PLANTS			
Castilleja campestris ssp. *succulenta* succulent owl's clover	FT/SE/1B.1	Vernal pools, often acidic; 160–2,500 feet elevation. Blooms April – May.	None. The site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Caulanthus californicus California jewelflower	FE/SE/1B.2	Historical from various valley habitats in both the Central Valley and Carrizo Plain. 200¬-3000 feet elevation. Prefers slightly alkaline sandy loam soils. Blooms February to May.	Not Expected. One historic occurrence in the Fresno North quadrangle, but it has been extirpated; no other documented occurrences in the vicinity
Imperata brevifolia California satintail	-/-/2.1	Mesic sites in chaparral, coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, meadows and seeps (often alkali), and riparian scrub; 0–1,650 feet elevation. Flowering period September– May.	Possible. Potentially suitable habitat present and species documented in the Fresno North quadrangle
Leptosiphon serrulatus Madera leptosiphon	-/-/1B.2	Woodlands and lower montane coniferous forest; 950–4,300 feet elevation. Flowering period April– May.	Not Expected. Documented occurrence within the quadrangle, but habitat likely unsuitable
Orcuttia inaequalis San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass	FT/SE/1B.1	Vernal pools. 30–2,500 feet elevation. Blooms April through September.	None. The site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Orcuttia pilosa hairy Orcutt grass	FE/SE/1B.1	Vernal pools. 175–650 feet elevation. Blooms May through September.	None. The site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Sagittaria sanfordii Sanford's arrowhead	-/-/1B.2	In standing or slow-moving, shallow freshwater ponds, marshes, canals, sloughs, ditches, creeks, vernal pools and lakes, and rivers. 0–2,000 feet elevation. Blooms May through October.	Possible. Freshwater marsh in the site provides potentially suitable habitat for this species. There are three CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the site.
Tropidocarpum capparideum caper fruited tropidocarpum	-/-/1B.1	Mesic alkaline soils in valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools; 160–1,300 feet elevation. Flowering period March–April.	Not Expected. Documented occurrence within the quadrangle, but disturbed conditions at the site make presence unlikely.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Federal/ State/ CRPR Status**	**Habitat Characteristics**	**Potential to Occur at Site**
FISH			
Entosphenus tridentatus Pacific Lamprey	-/CSC	Found in Pacific Coast streams north of San Luis Obispo Co., however regular runs in Santa Clara River. Size of runs is declining. Swift-current gravel-bottomed areas for spawning with water temps between 12-18 C. Ammocoetes need soft sand or mud.	Not Expected. Species may be present in the San Joaquin River adjacent to the site. Dispersal into the project area is possible during large floods.
Hypomesus transpacificus Delta Smelt	FT/SE	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Seasonally in Suisun Bay, Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay. Seldom found at salinities > 10 ppt. Most often at salinities < 2ppt.	None. Site is not within species range.
Mylopharodon conocephalus Hardhead	-/CSC	Low to mid-elevation streams in the Sacramento-San Joaquin drainage. Clear, deep pools with sand-gravel-boulder bottoms & slow water velocity.	Not Expected. Species may be present in the San Joaquin River adjacent to the site. Dispersal into the project area is possible during large floods.
Oncorhynchus mykiss Steelhead – Central Valley ESU	FT/-	Spawn and rear in the Sacramento & San Joaquin rivers and tributaries. Require beds of loose, silt-free, coarse gravel for spawning. Require instream cover, cool water & high dissolved oxygen.	Not Expected. Species may be present in the San Joaquin River adjacent to the site. Dispersal into the project area is possible during large floods.
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha Chinook salmon – Central Valley fall- and late fall-run ESU	FSC/CSC	Populations spawn in the Sacramento & San Joaquin rivers and tributaries. Require beds of loose, silt-free, coarse gravel for spawning. Also need cover, cool water & high dissolved oxygen.	Not Expected. Species may be present in the San Joaquin River adjacent to the site. Dispersal into the project area is possible during large floods.
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha Chinook Salmon, Spring-run ESU (Nonessential experimental population)	See FGC 2080.2 to 2080.4	Habitat characteristics similar to fall-run Chinook salmon. All spring-run Chinook Salmon, including those that have been released or propagated, naturally or artificially, within the experimental population area, which is defined as the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam downstream to its confluence with the Merced River (exclusive)].	Not Expected. Species may be present in the San Joaquin River adjacent to the site. Dispersal into the project area is possible during large floods.
INVERTEBRATES			
Branchinecta lynchi vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT/-	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains, in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	None: Although this species has been documented approximately 2 miles from the Sycamore Island site, the site lacks suitable habitat for this species. No vernal pools or seasonally ponded depressions are present.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Federal/ State/ CRPR Status**	**Habitat Characteristics**	**Potential to Occur at Site**
Desmocerus californicus dimorphus Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	FT/-	Occurs only in the central valley of California, in association with blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*).	None. Project area is no longer considered within the range of this species.
AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES			
Ambystoma californiense California tiger salamander	FT/ST	Small ponds, lakes, or vernal pools in grasslands or oak woodlands	None. The site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Actinemys marmorata western pond turtle	-/CSC	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams & irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft. elevation. Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	Possible. Suitable habitat exists in the project area.
Gambelia sila blunt-nosed leopard lizard	FE/SE, FP	Resident of sparsely vegetated alkali and desert scrub habitats, in areas of low topographic relief. Seeks cover in mammal burrows, under shrubs or structures such as fence posts; they do not excavate their own burrows.	None. Occurrences in Fresno and Madera counties are limited to areas west of Highway 99. The site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Rana draytonii California red-legged frog	FT/CSC	Lowlands & foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development.	None. This species is thought to be extirpated from eastern Fresno County. Aquatic habitat at the site provides marginal habitat due to the presence of numerous predators.
Spea hammondi western spadefoot	CSC	Vernal pools and seasonal wetlands in upland with burrows and other belowground refuges.	None. The site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Thamnophis gigas giant garter snake	FT/ST	Marshes, streams, wetlands, and riparian scrub, and agricultural wetlands, and rice fields. Prefers freshwater marsh and low gradient streams. Has adapted to drainage canals and irrigation ditches. Habitat consists of (1) adequate water during the snake's active season, (2) emergent herbaceous wetland vegetation for escape and foraging habitat, (3) grassy banks and openings in waterside vegetation for basking, and (4) higher elevation upland habitat for cover and refuge from flooding (USFWS 2012).	None. This is species is not present in waterbodies that support high populations of introduced predatory fish, and is also absent from larger rivers.
BIRDS			

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Federal/ State/ CRPR Status**	**Habitat Characteristics**	**Potential to Occur at Site**
Agelaius tricolor tricolored blackbird	-/SC	Forages in grasslands and agricultural fields; nests in freshwater marsh, riparian scrub, and other dense shrubs and herbs	Possible. Nesting is not expected.
Buteo swainsoni Swainson's hawk	--/ST	Forages in grasslands and agricultural fields; nests in open woodland or scattered trees	Possible. Riparian trees provide suitable nesting sites for this species. Foraging habitat is present near the site.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT/SE	Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems. Nests in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, w/ lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.	Not expected. The riparian area at the site is likely not dense enough to support this species. The CNDDB occurrence approximately 2.4 miles from the site is considered extirpated.
Dendroica petechia brewsteri yellow warbler	-/CSC	Riparian woodlands.	Possible. Potential nesting habitat present.
MAMMALS			
Antrozous pallidus pallid bat	-/CSC	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands & forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures.	Not Expected. Site does not provide preferred roosting habitat.
Corynorhinus townsendii Townsend's western big-eared bat	--/SC	Throughout California, including deserts, forests & woodlands. Generally roost in caves, though may also be found in human-made structures or old-growth tree hollows.	Possible. The site contains trees which could be potential roosting sites.
Dipodomys nitratoides exilis Fresno kangaroo rat	FE/SE	Alkali sink-open grassland habitats in western Fresno County. Bare alkaline clay-based soils subject to seasonal inundation, with more friable soil mounds around shrubs & grasses.	None. The site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Lasiurus blossevillii western red bat	--/CSC	Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, riparian forest and woodlands. Roosts primarily in trees, 2-40 feet above ground, from sea level up through mixed conifer forests. Prefers habitat edges and mosaics with trees that are protected from above and open below with open areas for foraging.	Possible. The site contains trees which could be potential roosting sites.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Federal/ State/ CRPR Status**	**Habitat Characteristics**	**Potential to Occur at Site**
Taxidea taxus American badger	--/CSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	Not Expected. Species is primarily associated with grasslands and soil conditions not found at the site.
Vulpes macrotis mutica San Joaquin Kit Fox	FE/ST	Annual grasslands or grassy open stages with scattered shrubby vegetation. Need loose-textured sandy soils for burrowing, and suitable prey base.	Not Expected. Species is primarily associated with grasslands and soil conditions not found at the site.

Status Legend

Federal:

FE = Federally endangered
FT = Federally threatened
FPE = Federally proposed endangered
FPT = Federally proposed threatened
FC = Federal candidate for listing as threatened or endangered
FSC = Federal species of concern

State:

SE = State endangered
ST = State threatened
SR = State rare
SC = State candidate for listing as threatened or endangered
CSC = California species of special concern
FP = California fully protected

CRPR (California Rare Plant Rank):

1A = Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere
1B = Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
2A = Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But More Common Elsewhere
2B = Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere

Note:

DPS = Distant Population Segment

These areas have a low potential to support special-status plants, but species associated with riparian habitat or freshwater marsh [e.g., Sanford's Arrowhead (*Sagittaria sanfordii*) or California satintail (*Imperata brevifolia*)] could occur in the Sycamore Island site; therefore impacts to special-status plants would be potentially significant. Mitigation Measure BIO-RECREATION-2 and Conservation Measure PLANTS-1 from the Final EIR (Appendix I) would be implemented to avoid and minimize potential impacts. These measures require that CDFW conduct surveys for special-status plants in suitable habitat at the site. If special-status plants are found, their locations would be identified and impacts would be avoided, as feasible. If impacts cannot be avoided, Conservation Measure PLANTS-1 requires impacts be minimized by transplanting perennial species, seed collection and dispersal for annual species, and other conservation strategies that would protect the viability of the local population. If special-status plants are found, Mitigation Measure BIO-RECREATION-2 would minimize disturbance by anglers by constructing pathways, fencing, signage, and other measures to reduce the potential for trampling or matting. These measures would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

Figure 5 shows special-status wildlife occurrences in the vicinity of the Sycamore Island site. As mentioned above, the Sycamore Island site is comprised of relatively degraded riparian habitat with freshwater marsh along the margins of the pond.

During the reconnaissance-level surveys, Horizon biologists determined that the Sycamore Island Trout Pond provides suitable habitat for western pond turtle (WPT). Construction activities that directly impact individual WPT or their nests have the potential to result in significant impacts. These activities may include grading along the shoreline and construction of the fishing pier within the pond. Conservation Measure WPT-1 would be implemented to avoid and minimize potential impacts to WPT. This measure requires that CDFW conduct surveys for WPT and their nests prior to construction. If WPT are observed during the pre-construction survey, a qualified biologist will be on-site to monitor construction in suitable habitat. WPT will be allowed to leave work areas on their own volition or they will be captured by a qualified biologist and relocated out of harm's way to the nearest suitable habitat. If WPT nests are identified in the work area during pre-construction surveys, a 300-foot no disturbance buffer shall be established between the nest and any areas of potential disturbance. Implementation of these measures would ensure that potential impacts to WPT are less than significant. This is consistent with the Final EIR.

Some special-status birds including Swainson's hawk and yellow warbler may nest in close proximity to the Sycamore Island site. Construction activities could disturb nesting birds through generation of noise, visual distraction or direct impacts to occupied nests (e.g., vegetation removal). Impacts to nesting special-status birds would be potentially significant. Conservation Measures SWH-1, RAPTOR-1, RNB-1, and MBTA-1 would be implemented to avoid and minimize potential impacts to nesting birds. These measures require that CDFW conduct surveys for nesting birds in suitable habitat if construction occurs during the nesting season. If special-status birds (or species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act) are detected, no-work buffers will be established to minimize disturbance to nest sites. Implementation of these measures would ensure that potential impacts to special-status birds are less than significant. This is consistent with the Final EIR.

Mature eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus* sp.) in the Sycamore Island site provide potential roosting habitat for western red bat. Western red bats are known to roost in mature eucalyptus trees (Pierson et al. 2006). Roosting sites could potentially be impacted by removal of the trees during construction of the pier. Removal of unoccupied suitable roost sites would not be considered a significant impact, but direct mortality or harm to special-status bats would be considered potentially significant. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-CONSTRUCT-8a and 8b (which are equivalent to Conservation Measure BAT-1) would be implemented to avoid and minimize potential impacts to roosting special-status bats. These measures require that CDFW conduct surveys for special-status bats prior to construction. If special-status bats are detected, impacts to roosting/breeding sites will be avoided. These measures would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. This is consistent with the Final EIR.

Aquatic Resources

The Sycamore Island Trout Pond is primarily stocked with rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and is known to also contain largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides)*. As a large berm currently separates the pond from the main stem of the San Joaquin River, the pond does not support any special-status fish species such as Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) or hardhead (*Mylopharodon conocephalus*). Presumably these species could be introduced to the pond during large floods that overtop the berm that separates the pond and river. Environmental analysis for this assessment assumes that the berm is intact and has not been overtopped, and that the Sycamore Island Trout pond has been separated from the San Joaquin River for a long period of time. If there is a substantial flood and the berm is overtopped or otherwise breached prior to construction, then environmental analysis of aquatic resources would need to be revisited to ensure adequate protection for sensitive species.

Installation of the two 12-inch steel piles would most likely involve driving the pilings into the pond bed with an impact hammer, which would generate underwater sound pressure waves. Pressure waves generated from pile driving have potential to cause adverse effects on fish in the Sycamore Island Trout Pond. Hydroacoustic impacts on fish can include auditory and non-auditory (e.g., fish bladder, capillaries, eyes) tissue damage, neurotrauma, and temporary or permanent hearing loss. This particular effect was not evaluated in the Final EIR because pile driving was not required. By using the NMFS Pile Driving Calculator (Caltrans 2015), it was been determined that pile driving activity could result in peak sound pressure levels (peak) and cumulative sound exposure levels (SEL) that may harm fish. The hydroacoustic effects would be greatest in the immediate area surrounding the pile driving. The berm separating Sycamore Island Trout Pond from the San Joaquin River would act as a shoreline and absorb the pressure waves generated from pile driving, and as such would not adversely affect special-status fish in the river. Given that pile driving would occur over a relatively short period of time (anticipated to be less than two weeks) for only two piles and because no special-status aquatic species would be adversely affected, hydroacoustic effects on fish would not be substantial. This impact is considered less than significant. Therefore, there would be no new significant impact compared to the evaluation in the Final EIR.

b. Substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community— *Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

Riparian Habitat

Potential effects on riparian habitat and other stream-side sensitive natural communities were evaluated in the Final EIR under Impact BIO-RECREATION-5 and FISH-RECREATION-4. As described in the Final EIR, construction of the proposed Project modification could affect these resources during clearing and grubbing, excavation, grading, and placement of fill. Direct effects would be considered potentially significant. The proposed Project modification is adjacent to riparian habitat. However, no riparian habitat or other sensitive community was identified within the footprint of the proposed Project modification during the reconnaissance-level surveys per Mitigation Measure BIO-REINTRO-3 of the Final EIR. Some non-native eucalyptus trees would require removal and/or trimming but the overall character of the surrounding riparian vegetation would not be affected. There would be no additional impact or additional mitigation required.

Aquatic Habitat

The Final EIR concluded that improved access to recreational facilities would encourage increased vehicular and foot traffic in the vicinity of the facilities, and increased boat traffic in the river (Impact FISH-RECREATION-4). The Final EIR concluded that off-road vehicular and foot traffic can lead to riparian and instream habitat degradation ranging from trampling and removal of streambank vegetation to damage to the river bottom substrate. Further higher vehicular and boat traffic increases the likelihood that invasive species (e.g., New Zealand mudsnail, quagga and zebra mussels, didymo) and pathogens (viruses, parasites) from other waters may spread to the San Joaquin River if special efforts are not made by members of the public to clean and disinfect contaminated vehicles, boats, boat trailers, and fishing equipment. The Final EIR indicates that impacts associated with aquatic invasive species (AIS) and pathogens have the potential to significantly impact fish and aquatic habitats but despite existing public education programs (such as the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!), this impact was considered significant and unavoidable since public education programs and control measures primarily rely on voluntary efforts.

The proposed improvements may result in some increase in visitation or use of the facility but any increase in visitation levels at the site is speculative at this point. As the pond already provides fishing opportunities and for the purposes of this analysis, the Project modification would not increase capacity, visitation and level of use may continue similar to existing conditions. Furthermore, the proposed Project modification is not anticipated to have any relationship to boat traffic in the river. The potential for spread of AIS would remain similar to existing conditions.

Therefore, this impact would be consistent with the findings in the Final EIR. No additional impact would occur.

c. Substantial adverse effects on federally protected wetlands— *Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

As described in the Final EIR (under Impact BIO-RECREATION-6), construction of the proposed Project modification may affect federally protected wetlands due to placement of fill and/or change in hydrology. These activities could result in a loss of wetland area and may degrade wetland function and values. During the reconnaissance-level surveys (per Mitigation Measure BIO-REINTRO-3), Horizon biologists identified potential wetlands which may be impacted by the proposed Project modification through placement of new fill to construct the recreational enhancements. Implementation of Conservation Measure WUS-1 and WUS-2 require that a delineation of wetlands and waters of the U.S. be conducted and that Section 404 and 401 permits be obtained from USACE and the Central Valley RWQCB. Implementation of these measures would ensure that impacts to wetlands are less than significant. There would be no additional impact or additional mitigation required.

d. Substantial interference with wildlife movement, established wildlife corridors, or the use of native wildlife nursery sites— *Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

The San Joaquin River, off-channel ponds in Sycamore Island, and associated riparian habitat serve as a wildlife movement corridor. The lands adjacent to the Sycamore Island site are likely utilized as movement corridors by a variety of birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. While the proposed Project modification would not serve as a permanent physical dispersal or migration barrier for terrestrial wildlife, construction of the boat ramp, path, fishing pier and restroom facility may create temporary physical barriers and noise disturbance. Construction of the Project modification could disrupt nesting or breeding of wildlife species, a potentially significant impact. This is consistent with the findings in the Final EIR (Impact BIO-RECREATION-7). Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-REINTRO-3 would reduce impacts on nesting or breeding wildlife species to a less-than-significant level. See recommendations in Section a. above for implementation of Conservation Measures SWH-1, RAPTOR-1, RNB-1, and MBTA-1 to avoid and minimize potential impacts to nesting birds.

e, f. Conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

This topic was addressed in the Final EIR (under Impact BIO-CONSTRUCT-14) for the SCARF facility and the Final EIR concluded that this impact would be less than significant. Similar to the analysis provided in the Final EIR, the Sycamore Island site is also within the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan. Unlike the SCARF facility, the proposed Project modification would not be constructed immediately adjacent to the San Joaquin River (the proposed Project modification would be more than 200 feet away); therefore Natural Resource General Plan Policy of the Parkway Master Plan is not relevant to the proposed Project modification. As such, the proposed Project modification would be consistent with local policies protecting biological resources. There would be no additional impact.

Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a. Adverse change in the significance of a historical resource—*Less than Significant with Mitigation /No Additional Impact*

No structures or buildings currently exist on the Sycamore Island site, and the site does not contain any historical resources, as defined in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines. Potential effects on buildings or structures eligible for the CRHR as a result of recreational enhancements were addressed in the Final EIR, Impact CR-RECREATION-2. The Final EIR concluded that this impact was less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-CONSTRUCT-1a (Evaluate Cultural Resources for Eligibility for Inclusion in the CRHR, and Implement Appropriate Measures for Eligible Resources) and CR-CONSTRUCT-1b (Immediately Halt Construction if Cultural Resources are Discovered).

Per Mitigation Measure CR-CONSTRUCT-1a, a cultural resources assessment was conducted for the proposed Project modification. This assessment included a literature review to identify any previously recorded historical resources that could be affected by the proposed Project modification and coordination with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and local Native Americans to identify any ancestral or traditional cultural resources that may exist but have not yet been recorded. All of Sycamore Island had previously been surveyed by J&R Environmental Services (2011) to support the

River West Madera Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. According to the J&R Environmental Services report, a pedestrian survey that included the Sycamore Island site did not identify the presence of any historical resources at the Sycamore Island site (see **Attachment C**).

Consistent with the Final EIR, implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-CONSTRUCT-1b would minimize potential impacts to a less-than-significant level. As a result, the proposed Project modification would not cause a substantial adverse change to a historical resource and there would be no additional impact nor would additional mitigation be required.

b. Adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource— *Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

Construction of the proposed Project modification would involve ground-disturbing activities for construction of the boat ramp, restroom facility and parking area, path, and parking area. While surficial evidence of archeological resources has not been observed at the site and the site has been previously disturbed by gravel mining activities, it is possible that CRHR-eligible archaeological deposits could be encountered during construction. As described in the Final EIR (see Impact CR-RECREATION-1), if CRHR-eligible archaeological deposits to be identified as a result of project construction, and such activities render the deposits ineligible for the CRHR, a significant impact would result. The Final EIR indicated that implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-CONSTRUCT-1a and -1b would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

As described above, per Mitigation Measure CR-CONSTRUCT-1a, a cultural resources assessment was completed for the proposed Project modification (Attachment C) and based on the cultural resources assessment conducted of the entire Sycamore Island, no known archaeological resources are present within the project area.

Cultural resources staff also contacted the NAHC with a request for a search of the sacred lands files in the project area, and for a list of knowledgeable Native Americans who may have information about tribal resources in the project vicinity. The NAHC responded on September 15, 2015, noting that they had no information about Native American cultural resources at the Sycamore Island site (see Attachment C). The NAHC also provided a list of individuals who were recommended as potentially having knowledge about traditional or ancestral resources at the project location. These individuals (Table CUL-1) were contacted by mail September 17, 2015. Follow-up phone calls were made on October 22, 2015 to ensure that the letter was received by all contacts. No specific concerns have been expressed by any of those contacted, to date.

Table CUL-1. Native American Consultation

Organization/Tribe	Name of Contact	Letter Date	Telephone Follow-up Date	Comments
Chowchilla Tribe of Yokuts	Jerry Brown	September 17, 2015	October 22, 2015	Telephone number has been changed. Left voice mail.
Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government	Chairperson Robert Ledger, Sr.	September 17, 2015	October 22, 2015; email sent October 22, 2015	Spoke to Mr. Ledger via telephone. He did not recall seeing the letter but had heard about it from another tribe. He requested that the letter be emailed to him, as he was about to go into a meeting with Eric Smith and others, and it would be discussed. An email was sent to Mr. Robert Ledger, Sr., Mr. Eric Smith, and Mr. John Ledger as soon as the phone call ended. A copy of the email was added to the administrative record.
Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government	Eric Smith	September 17, 2015	October 22, 2015; email sent October 22, 2015	At the request of Mr. Robert Ledger, Sr. and the letter was resent via email to Mr. Robert Ledger, Sr., Mr. Eric Smith, and Mr. John Ledger for review.
Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government	John Ledger	September 17, 2015	October 22, 2015; email sent October 22, 2015	At the request of Mr. Robert Ledger, Sr., the letter was resent via email to Mr. Robert Ledger, Sr., Mr. Eric Smith, and Mr. John Ledger for review.
North Valley Yokusts Tribe	Chairperson Katherine Erolinda Perez	September 17, 2015	October 22, 2015	Left a voice message.
Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi	Chairperson Reggie Lewis	September 17, 2015	N/A	No phone or email contact to use as a follow up was supplied by the NAHC.
Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi	Mary Matola	September 17, 2015	N/A	No phone or email contact to use as a follow up was supplied by the NAHC.
Sierra Nevada Native American Coalition	Lawrence Bill	September 17, 2015	October 22, 2015	Spoke to Mr. Bill who expressed his general concern and displeasure over the historic treatment of Native American peoples by the U.S. Government and cultural resource professionals.
Southern Sierra Miwok Nation	Chairperson Lois Martin	September 17, 2015	October 22, 2015	Left a voice message.
Southern Sierra Miwok Nation	Les James	September 17, 2015	October 22, 2015	Left a voice message.
Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band	Chairperson Keneth Woodrow	September 17, 2015	October 22, 2015	Left a voice message.

Consistent with the Final EIR, implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-CONSTRUCT-1b during construction would ensure that any impacts on CRHR-eligible archaeological sites accidentally uncovered would be less than significant. Therefore, there would be no additional impact and no additional mitigation would be required.

c. Destruction of a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature — *No Impact / No Additional Impact*

The Sycamore Island area lies within an alluvial fan derived from granite sources. The soils consist of aggregate materials of loamy sand and loamy fine sand. As described in the Final EIR and in accordance with guidelines established by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists (1995), areas that consist of rock that is not of sedimentary origin and that have not been known to produce fossils are considered low sensitivity areas and monitoring is not required during project construction or operation. Further, when it can be demonstrated that the conditions of the unconsolidated sediments are such that fossils could not form in these sediments, and that any fossils found in the sediments could not be considered in situ, they would have minimal scientific value and an area would be considered low sensitivity.

As with the evaluation in the Final EIR, the presence of loamy sand and loamy fine sand at the Sycamore Island site suggest that no paleontological resources exist at the Sycamore Island site. Therefore, there would be no additional impact.

d. Disturbance of any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries— *Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

For the same reasons described above, project construction has the potential to accidentally affect buried human remains. This impact would be potentially significant and is consistent with the finding in the Final EIR (see Impact CR-RECREATION-3). Implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-CONSTRUCT-1b and CR-CONSTRUCT-3 (Immediately Halt Construction if Human Remains are Discovered and Implement California Health and Safety Code) would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. This is consistent with the Final EIR; therefore there would be no additional impact or additional mitigation required.

Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact/
Would the Project modification:					
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 modification and potentially result in an on-site 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 wastewater disposal systems in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i. Seismic-related rupture of a known earthquake fault— No Impact / *No Additional Impact*

The Sycamore Island site is not located on any known "active" earthquake fault trace or an Alquist-Priolo Zone (DOC 2015a). The closest active faults include the Nunea Fault (approximately 6 miles northwest of the site), the Foothills Fault system (approximately 32 miles north of the site), the Great Valley Fault Zone (approximately 34 miles west of the site), the Ortigalita Fault (approximately 54 miles west of the site), and the San Andreas fault (approximately 61 miles west of the site) (CGS 2010). Therefore, no impact related to seismic-related rupture of a known earthquake fault would occur.

Although the Final EIR does not address this particular impact for recreational management activities, this issue was considered less-than-significant for the overall SCARF project. As such, the proposed Project modification would not result in an impact more severe than that which was disclosed in the Final EIR; there would be no additional impact.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking—*Less than Significant /No Additional Impact*

In the project vicinity, the presence of subsurface faults within the coastal foothills and along the eastern flank of the Sierra Nevada Mountains could result in the potential for seismic ground shaking in the region. However, the Sycamore Island site is in a region of low earthquake hazard and will likely experience lower levels of shaking less frequently in most earthquakes (CGS 2008; DOC 2015a). Most seismic events would likely go unnoticed by construction workers or recreational users at the Sycamore Island site. Ground shaking of similar magnitudes as large historic earthquakes could potentially result in negligible to slight damage in poorly designed and/or constructed structures. Components of the Project modification would be built consistent with current California Building Code (CBC) standards, which would further minimize any potential effects of strong seismic ground shaking.

Although the Final EIR does not address this particular impact for recreational management activities, this issue was considered less-than-significant for the overall SCARF project. As such, the proposed Project modification would not result in an impact more severe than that which was disclosed in the Final EIR; there would be no additional impact.

iii., iv. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and landslides—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

The Sycamore Island site slopes gradually from east to west into the lake. The steeper bluffs that delineate the San Joaquin River floodplain area are over 1,500 feet from the Sycamore Island site. Landslides at the Sycamore Island site would not be expected.

The Sycamore Island site is not located in a currently established State of California Seismic Hazards Zone for liquefaction. Soils underlying the site consists of loamy sands and loamy fine sands, moderately susceptible to the effects of liquefaction. However, potential ground shaking at the Sycamore Island site is not anticipated to be significant enough to result in liquefaction.

This topic was discussed in the Final EIR under Impact GEO-RECREATION-1, which required implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-RECREATION-1. This mitigation measure requires that a geotechnical investigation be conducted to evaluate subsurface soil and geologic conditions at recreation management sites. Since publication of the Final EIR and as more detailed design work has been developed, DWR has confirmed that no extensive geotechnical investigations would be required and that the proposed Project modification would be designed to withstand worst case soil conditions. Some boring and test pits may be needed to design the piles (Pers. comm., Lampa 2016). Because the proposed Project modification would be designed in compliance with CBC and based on worst case soil conditions, the proposed Project modification would not result in any new or more severe impacts than were disclosed in the Final EIR. There would be no additional impact or new mitigation required.

b. Substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil—*Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

Site grading and excavation activities necessary for installation of the boat ramp and parking area would result in approximately 217 cubic yards of soil excavation, of which up to 105 cubic yards could be used to raise the pad of the restroom foundation. Excess material would be either re-used at another location at Sycamore Island or disposed of at a nearby location such as a landfill. These disturbances would occur over a 16 to 20 month period and would create loose soils that could potentially be transported via stormwater runoff, causing loss of soil productivity and potential degradation of receiving waters. As the project footprint is approximately 1.5 acres, a Storm Water Pollution Protection Plan (SWPPP) would need to be prepared and implemented in compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity. Requirements regarding SWPPP implementation were discussed in the Final EIR under Impact HYD-CONSTRUCT-1.

This impact was addressed in the Final EIR under Impact GEO-RECREATION-2 for recreational enhancements. The Final EIR concluded that the impact was potentially significant, and prescribed several mitigation measures, which, if implemented, would reduce the impact to a level that is less than significant. Consistent with the Final EIR, the following mitigation measures would be implemented: GEO-CONSTRUCT-1a (Implement Construction Best Management Practices to Minimize Erosion and the Loss of Topsoil), GEO-CONSTRUCT-1b (Comply with Cal/OSHA Requirements for Excavation Slopes), and GEO-CONSTRUCT-1c (Design Cut-and-Fill Slopes to Minimize Erosion).

Impacts associated with the proposed Project modification would be consistent with those described in Impact GEO-RECREATION-2, and with implementation of the SWPPP and above mitigation measures, the Project modification would not result in any new or more severe impacts than were disclosed in the Final EIR. There would be no additional impact or additional mitigation required.

c. Location on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the proposed Project modification and potentially result in an on-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

As previously described, the Sycamore Island site is not located on a landslide prone area. Other potential effects from lateral spreading, liquefaction, or collapse would be minimized through adherence to current CBC standards and practices.

Consistent with the Final EIR, adherence to CBC standards would ensure this impact remains less than significant. As discussed under criteria a.iii, and a.iv, no extensive geotechnical investigations would be required and the proposed Project modification would be designed to withstand worst case soil conditions. The project modification would not have any new or more significant impacts than were disclosed in the Final EIR. There would be no additional impact or mitigation required.

d. Location on expansive soil, creating substantial risks to life or property— *Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

The Sycamore Island area is underlain by soils consisting of aggregate materials of loamy sand and loamy fine sand not prone to shrink-swell behavior. Although the Final EIR did not address this particular topic for recreation enhancement activities, the EIR did address this topic for the overall SCARF project (see Impact GEO-CONSTRUCT-2), which concluded that recommendations of the geotechnical study be implemented to minimize risks associated with expansive soils.

As previously described, DWR has confirmed that no extensive geotechnical investigations would be required and the proposed Project modification would be designed to withstand worst case soil conditions. There would be no additional impact or mitigation required.

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater— *No Impact - No Additional Impact*

The proposed Project modification would not involve the placement of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems. Similar to existing conditions, all domestic waste water from the proposed single-vault restroom would be internally contained and serviced at least twice a year. As no septic tank or alternative disposal system would be constructed at the Sycamore Island site, there would be no additional impact or mitigation required.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
a. Generate a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions which may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with a county-adopted climate action plan or another applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a. Generate a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions which may have a significant impact on the environment— *Less than Significant* / *No Additional Impact*

Construction of the proposed Project modification would generate GHG emissions from equipment exhaust, including exhaust from haul or equipment trucks and worker commutes. Operation of the proposed Project modification may generate some GHG emissions from limited maintenance vehicle trips and possibly increased visitor trips to the Sycamore Island Trout Pond, though these are not anticipated to be substantial.

This impact was evaluated in the Final EIR (see Impacts GHG-RECREATION-1 and GHG-RECREATION-2). The Final EIR's impact analysis found that construction of recreational fishing enhancements could generate GHG emissions in excess of the construction significance threshold. To mitigate this potential impact, the Final EIR prescribed Mitigation Measure GHG-MANAGEMENT-1, which requires preparation of project-level quantitative analysis of construction-related GHG emissions and implementation of measures to reduce and/or offset emissions.

Per Mitigation Measure GHG-MANAGEMENT-1, a project-level quantitative analysis of construction-related GHG emissions was conducted for the proposed Project modification. GHG emissions that would be generated during construction of both the proposed Project modification and the SCARF are shown in **Table GHG-1.** As shown in the table, construction activities for the proposed Project modification would generate approximately 163 metric tons per year during the construction period. Approximately 251.6 metric tons per year would be generated by SCARF construction. The SJVAPCD recommends amortizing GHG emissions by the operational life of a project (estimated at 30 years for the proposed Project modification, and 9 years for the SCARF).

Construction emissions equal approximately 5.4 metric tons of CO_2e per year when amortized over the proposed Project modification's expected 30-year operation period. For SCARF, the construction emissions equal approximately 114 metric tons of CO_2e per year when amortized over the SCARF's expected 9-year operation period. When the amortized emissions for the two facilities are totaled, emissions are less than the SJVAPCD's approved zero equivalency value of 230 metric tons of CO_2e per year. Consequently, this impact is considered less severe than the finding in the Final EIR; there would be no additional impact and no additional mitigation required.

Table GHG-1. Construction-Related GHG Emissions Associated with the Proposed Project Modification

Construction Activity	CO2e (MT/year)
2017 emissions (Sycamore Island)	163
2017 emissions (SCARF)	251.6
Amortized emissions over project life (30 years for Sycamore Island)	5.4
Amortized emissions over project life (9 years for SCARF)	114
SJVAPCD threshold	230
Exceed threshold?	No

b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

As described above, construction and operation of the proposed Project modification would generate GHG emissions from use of construction equipment and vehicle and truck trips. Overall, the proposed Project modification's GHG emissions when combined with the SCARF's GHG emissions would be relatively minor and would not exceed significance thresholds. Applicable plans, policies and regulations include the Madera County General Plan, SJVAPCD regulations, and CARB's Scoping Plan and associated regulations. SJVAPCD's zero equivalency threshold for construction emissions is 230 metric tons CO_2e per year. This threshold is considered to be consistent with CARB's Scoping Plan.

This impact was considered in the Final EIR (Impacts GHG-RECREATION-1 and GHG-RECREATION-2). The Final EIR prescribed Mitigation Measure GHG-MANAGEMENT-1 to mitigate potentially significant construction-related GHG emissions, but acknowledged that this mitigation measure may not be feasible. Per Mitigation Measure GHG-MANAGEMENT-1, a quantitative GHG analysis was performed and the analysis concluded that the proposed Project modification's emissions would be consistent with the findings of the Final EIR; there would be no additional impact.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Be located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, be within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the study area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the study area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a-b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, disposal, or release of hazardous materials into the environment—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

Hazardous materials that would be used or transported to support the use and maintenance of the Project modification's construction equipment would include fuels, lubricating oil, grease, and/or hydraulic fluid. These materials would pose a potential hazard to construction workers, the public, and the environment if not handled properly or in the event of an upset. This impact was addressed in the Final EIR under Impact HAZ-RECREATION-1 for recreational enhancements. The Final EIR identified that this impact would be less than significant through adherence to requirements of the applicable provisions of the EPA, OSHA, Cal/OSHA, Cal/EPA, Cal EMA, and CUPA permitting processes, as well as of applicable county general plans. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with spill prevention and control measures would also be implemented to minimize any potential impacts from accidental contamination. As such, the potential for hazardous material releases to the environment from construction-related activities would be similar to those disclosed in the Final EIR; the proposed Project modification would have no additional impacts beyond what was considered in the Final EIR.

Operation of the restroom facilities would include semi-annual collection and transportation of human waste. Similar to the analysis provided in the Final EIR (see Impact HAZ-OP-1), operation of the proposed Project modification would pose minimal hazardous risks. Fuel used to power vehicles during project operations would pose a potential risk of exposure to workers. Operational activities would follow all federal, state, and local regulations in the event of an accidental spill or release of hazardous materials. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant; the proposed Project modification would have no additional impact.

c. Emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

There is no existing or proposed school within one-quarter mile of the Sycamore Island site. This topic was addressed in the Final EIR (see Impact HAZ-CONSTRUCT-1); the EIR concluded that this impact would be less than significant. As the proposed Project modification would not result in adverse effects on any existing or proposed schools; the Project would have no new impact.

d. Located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

The Sycamore Island site is not included on a hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code 65962.5. According to the state database search, there are no known underground storage tanks (UST), military sites, land disposal sites, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) cleanup or hazardous waste sites, or other cleanup sites within 0.75 miles of the Sycamore Island site (SWRCB 2015).

The Final EIR addressed this topic under Impact HAZ-RECREATION-2 and due to the lack of project-level information regarding the recreation management activities, the Final EIR prescribed Mitigation Measure HAZ-MANAGEMENT-3, which requires completion and implementation of recommendations following a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. Although the Sycamore Island site is not listed on DTSC's cleanup or hazardous waste sites, unknown contaminants could be present on the Sycamore Island site, which is considered to be a potentially significant impact. The Final EIR concluded that implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-MANAGEMENT-3 (Prepare Project-level Quantitative Analysis of Site-Specific Current and Historical Hazardous Materials, Implement Recommendations in the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and Comply with All Applicable Regulations) would reduce the risk of hazardous materials exposure to a less-than-significant level and the proposed Project modification.

Per Mitigation Measure HAZ-MANAGEMENT-3, a project-level Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was conducted for the proposed Project modification (see **Attachment D**). The scope of work for this assessment included the following:

- A regulatory database search of known underground storage tanks (USTs); landfills; hazardous waste generation, treatment, storage, and disposal facilities; and subsurface contamination in the surrounding area within specified radii of the subject property provided by Environmental Data Resources, Inc. (EDR).

- Review of geologic maps and literature from the EDR report for information on physical and hydrogeologic settings of the subject property.

- Research the subject property history by (a) reviewing aerial photographs covering the subject property and adjoining property; (b) reviewing topographic

maps; and (c) researching the availability of fire insurance maps and city directories of the subject property and vicinity.

- An attempt to conduct interviews with current property owners or representatives about the subject property usage and history.

- A site reconnaissance of the property for obvious evidence of potential contamination such as current hazardous materials storage or use; unusually stained soils, slabs, and pavements; drains, sumps, drums, tanks, and electrical transformers; stressed vegetation; and discarded hazardous materials containers.

- Contact with pertinent local regulatory agencies for information about the subject property usage and history.

- Evaluation of the information collected and preparation of a report summarizing findings, opinions, and conclusions.

The Sycamore Island site is currently used for parking and for accessing the Sycamore Island Trout Pond. Uses just to the north, east and west of the site include fishing ponds. Based on review of historical aerial photographs and topographic maps dating from 1920 to present, the Sycamore Island site appeared undeveloped until the 1963 when a rock and gravel plant was constructed on a large portion of Sycamore Island. Mining operations ceased in 2006 and in November 2006, the San Joaquin River Conservancy purchased the land for the purposes of preservation and restoration of the San Joaquin River's natural resources and to promote recreational use of the site as planned in the mining operation's reclamation plan and the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan (Madera County 2012).

According to the Phase I assessment (Horizon 2015), no recognized environmental conditions (RECs), historical recognized environmental condition (HRECs), or controlled recognized environmental condition (CRECs) or any other environmental issues of concern regarding hazardous materials were revealed for the Sycamore Island site.

For these reasons, this conclusion is considered less severe than the finding in the Final EIR; no additional impact would occur and no additional mitigation would be required.

e-f. Located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, be within 2 miles of a private airport or public airport and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the study area— ***No Impact / No Additional Impact***

The Sycamore Island site is not within 2 miles of a private or public airport, nor is it located within an airport land use plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan—*Less than Significant with Revised Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

The Final EIR addressed this topic under Impact HAZ-CONSTRUCT-3 and concluded that implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-CONSTRUCT-3, which requires implementation of a construction traffic management plan, would minimize potential impacts related to interference with an adopted emergency response plan. While Sycamore Island is not located near the SCARF site, construction of the proposed Project modification could result in similar impacts related to interference with an adopted emergency response plan in Madera County. Implementation of a modified Final EIR Mitigation Measure HAZ-CONSTRUCT-3 would minimize this impact; the text of the mitigation measure was modified to reflect the fact that the project would be located in Madera County instead of Fresno County. Text revisions made to this mitigation measure are shown in ~~strikethrough~~ and underline, below. With implementation of modified Mitigation Measure HAZ-CONSTRUCT-3, the proposed Project modification would have no additional impact, nor require additional mitigation.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-CONSTRUCT-3: Implement a Construction Management Plan to Minimize Interference with Emergency Response.

CDFW, DGS, or the construction contractor, in consultation with ~~the~~ Madera County, will prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan (TMP). CDFW will be responsible for ensuring that the plan is adequately developed and implemented. ~~CDFW will provide the TMP to the Fresno County Public Works and Planning Department and Caltrans. The TMP will include recommended traffic-control and traffic-reduction measures as identified in the Transportation Management Plan Guidelines issued by the Division of Traffic Operations Office of System Management Operations (Caltrans 2009).~~ CDFW will implement all traffic-control or traffic-reduction measures described in the TMP. In addition, to the extent feasible, construction-related traffic and any temporary road closures shall be scheduled during non-peak traffic periods.

~~The measures included in the TMP shall be consistent with any applicable guidelines outlined in the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and the Work Area Traffic Control Handbook.~~ The plan ~~will~~ shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following items:

- Defined location and timing of any temporary lane closures;
- Identification and provision for circumstances requiring the use of temporary traffic control measures, flag persons, warning signs, lights, barricades, and cones, etc. to provide safe work areas in the vicinity of the Sycamore Island site or along the haul routes, including for those roadway segments that have substandard width (less than 18 feet), and to warn, control, protect, and expedite vehicular and pedestrian traffic and access by emergency responders;
- Implementation of comprehensive traffic control measures, including scheduling of major truck trips and deliveries to avoid peak-hour traffic, placement of detour signs (if required), lane closure procedures (if required), flaggers (if required), placement of cones for drivers, and designated construction access routes and access points;

- Notification to adjacent property owners and public safety personnel regarding when major deliveries, detours, and lane closures will occur;
- Address the potential for construction-related traffic to impede emergency response vehicles and present a specific training and information program for construction workers to ensure awareness of emergency procedures from project-related accidents;
- Identification of haul routes for movement of construction vehicles that will minimize impacts on vehicular and pedestrian traffic and circulation and safety, and provision for monitoring surface streets used for haul routes so that any damage and debris attributable to the haul trucks can be identified and corrected by CDFW and/or DGS in coordination with the construction contractor;
- Development of a process for responding to and tracking complaints pertaining to construction activity, including identification of an onsite complaint manager; and
- Documentation of road pavement conditions for all routes that would be used by construction vehicles both before and after project construction. Roads damaged by construction vehicles will be repaired to the level at which they existed before project construction.

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— ***Less than Significant / No Additional Impact***

The Sycamore Island site is not in a designated wildland fire hazard area (CalFire 2007). However, most of the undeveloped site and adjacent areas of the San Joaquin River are covered with vegetation (e.g., shrubs, grasses, riparian habitat). During construction, use of equipment within or near vegetated areas could potentially present an ignition source and fire hazard. The Final EIR addressed this topic under Impact HAZ-CONSTRUCT-4 and identified a similar hazard for the SCARF.

The discussion of fire hazards was addressed in the Final EIR under Impact HAZ-CONSTRUCT-4 and Impact HAZ-MANAGEMENT-6. Consistent with the Final EIR, the proposed Project modification would be required to comply with the Public Resources Code requirements for construction activities at sites with forest-, brush-, or grass-covered land, and vegetation would be cleared, as necessary, for construction activities, which would minimize the Project modification's potential to expose people or structures to a significant risk of wildland fires. Similar to the findings in the Final EIR, this impact would be less than significant. There would be no additional impact or mitigation required.

Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, resulting in a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on site or off site?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on-site or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
h.	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect floodflows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
j.	Contribute to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a, f. Violate any water quality standards, waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade water quality—*Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

Construction of the proposed Project modification would require ground-disturbing activities such as the removal of vegetation, grading, excavation, and placement of fill materials. These activities would expose soils and increase the susceptibility to erosion, which may impact water quality. Additionally, in-water work and the setting of two pier piles could temporarily disturb sediments within the pond, temporarily increasing turbidity during construction activities.

This topic was addressed in the Final EIR under Impact HYD-RECREATION-1. As discussed in the Final EIR, the construction activities for recreational improvements are subject to the construction-related stormwater permits of the NPDES programs. Because the proposed Project modification would disturb more than one acre, a SWPPP in compliance with the SWRCB General Construction Permit would be required for construction activities. The SWPPP would identify BMPs to prevent or minimize the introduction of contaminants into surface waters from construction activities. BMPs for the proposed Project modification could include, but are not limited to, stabilization for soil stockpiles, establishment of perimeter silt fences, and stabilized construction entrances. The SWPPP will include site-specific structural and operational BMPs to ensure water quality standards and waste discharge requirements are met. These measures are described further in Mitigation Measures GEO-CONSTRUCT-1a and GEO-CONSTRUCT-1c.

Construction of the proposed Project modification would take place during summer/fall season when water levels are typically low to minimize the extent of in-water work. Construction of the fishing pier would involve pile driving of two 12-inch steel piles in the pond. In-water construction activities could result in sediment disturbance in the pond bed or slopes of the pond, which would cause turbidity and water quality impacts. While

this impact was not evaluated for recreational enhancements in the Final EIR, this particular issue was addressed for construction of the fish segregation weirs, which also involve in-water work (see Impact HYD-MANAGEMENT-1). Consistent with the Final EIR, Mitigation Measures GEO-CONSTRUCT-1a and GEO-CONSTRUCT-1c, which include slope protection and stabilization techniques would be implemented. These measures include, but are not limited to, the use of silt fences, reducing slope steepness, and redirecting surface drainage from the tops of slopes. During construction of the pier, Mitigation Measures GEO-CONSTRUCT-1a and GEO-CONSTRUCT-1c would help reduce erosion from occurring along the pond's edge and thereby help reduce turbidity impacts.

The construction contractor would be required to have coverage under a CWA 404 permit, a CWA 401 water quality certification, and a 1602 streambed alteration agreement for the in-water construction activities, and implement any measures that these permits require to minimize turbidity-related impacts. Implementation of the above-referenced SCARF mitigation measures and compliance with permit conditions under the CWA 404 permit, CWA 401 water quality certification, and 1602 streambed alteration agreement would ensure that water quality impacts due to in-water construction work remain less than significant; no additional impact would occur.

b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, resulting in a net deficit in aquifer volume or lowering of the local groundwater table level—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

The construction of a new concrete boat ramp, ramp access to the fishing pier, three ADA parking spaces, pedestrian path, and the restroom foundation pad would create approximately 5,062 square feet (0.12 acre) of impervious surfaces. Shallow groundwater in the project vicinity is directly related to water levels of the San Joaquin River and off-channel ponds. Due to the small area of new impervious surfaces that would be created by the proposed Project modification, any effects of new impervious surface area on groundwater recharge would be less than significant.

During construction, shallow groundwater found at the Sycamore Island site may be encountered during excavation. Dewatering would follow the provisions of the General Construction Permit; however, the volume of perched groundwater to be dewatered is not anticipated to be substantial enough to affect aquifer storage or groundwater levels outside of the Sycamore Island site. This impact would be less than significant and is consistent with the Final EIR. There would be no additional impact.

c, e. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, resulting in substantial erosion or siltation on-site or off-site, or create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff—*Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

This particular topic was not addressed for recreational enhancements but was addressed for the SCARF facility; the EIR concluded that this impact would be less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-CONSTRUCT-1a and GEO-CONSTRUCT-1c.

Construction activities for the proposed Project modification would disturb up to 1.5 acres and create 0.12 acre of impervious surfaces (note that during final design and construction, these acreages could be somewhat larger or smaller). On-site runoff from impermeable surfaces such as the pedestrian path, restroom facility, and boat ramp would be routed overland, following existing stormwater drainage patterns and into the pond. Because the increase in impervious surfaces constitutes a small area and would generally follow the existing drainage pattern, runoff from the site would not substantially alter the drainage pattern such that erosion or siltation on-site or off-site could occur.

With implementation of BMPs outlined in the SWPPP and Mitigation Measure GEO-CONSTRUCT-1a, this impact would be less than significant. This impact would be consistent with the Final EIR and there would be no additional impact.

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 resulting in flooding on-site or off-site—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

This particular topic was not addressed for recreational enhancements but was addressed for the SCARF facility; the EIR concluded that this impact would be less than significant.

Construction of the proposed Project modification would alter the existing drainage pattern as described in the discussion above in item c. but would not appreciably increase the rate or amount of runoff resulting in flooding on- or off-site. Consistent with the Final EIR, this impact would be less than significant; there would be no additional impact.

g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal flood hazard boundary or flood insurance map or other flood hazard delineation map—*No Impact / No Additional Impact*

The proposed Project modification does not involve construction of new housing or other residential structures. There would be no impact.

h. Place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area resulting in impeding or redirect flood flows—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

The Sycamore Island site is an area subject to the 100-year flood (Zone AE), or having a 1 percent or greater annual chance of flooding and is within a designated floodway area (FEMA 2008). Because the proposed location of the restroom is in a designated floodway, the elevation of the vault would need to be at or above the base flood elevation. The new, single vault precast concrete toilet building would be constructed on an additional 3 feet of compacted fill and concrete in accordance with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board's California Code of Regulations, Title 23 standards. The total footprint of the elevated pad and restroom is minimal and would not significantly impede or redirect any potential flood flows. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant and there would be no additional impact.

i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding resulting from the failure of a levee or dam—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

This topic was addressed in the Final EIR (see Impact HYD-CONSTRUCT-7) for the overall SCARF facility. The Final EIR indicated that a 2005 investigation of Friant Dam surface storage options, the risk of dam failure from seismic hazards is low (Reclamation 2005). Dam failure from other structural weaknesses is also exceptionally unlikely. For these same reasons, the chance that construction workers or anglers present at the Sycamore Island Trout Pond would be exposed to catastrophic failure is also very unlikely. Therefore, consistent with the Final EIR, this impact is less than significant and there would be no additional impact.

j. Contribute to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow—*No Impact / No Additional Impact*

This topic was addressed in the Final EIR (see Impact HYD-CONSTRUCT-8) for the overall SCARF facility. Similar to the SCARF site, the Sycamore Island site is far removed from the risk of tsunamis or seiches. The site is located in a relatively flat area with sandy soils not prone to mudflows. For these reasons, there would be no impact related to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a. Divide an established community—*No Impact / No Additional Impact*

There are no established communities within or adjacent to the Sycamore Island site; therefore no impact would occur.

The location of the proposed Project modification is consistent with the analysis provided in the Final EIR, Impact LU-RECREATION-1, which analyzed the potential for enhancement of recreational ponds to divide an established community between Friant Dam and State Route 99. Impact LU-RECREATION-1 assumed that ponds identified for recreational enhancements would be located in former mining areas, open space, or agricultural land, and made a conclusion of no impact. As the Project modification is consistent with the Final EIR analysis, no additional impact would occur.

b. Conflicts with land use plans or policies—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

As described in Section 3.2, *Agriculture and Forestry Resources,* the Sycamore Island site is within Madera County's ARV-20 zoning district (Madera County, 2015a). Permitted uses in the ARV-20 district generally include agricultural uses and low-density, single-family residential uses (Madera County, 2015b). While the proposed Project modification would not include agricultural or single-family residential uses, it would not be out of character with rural land uses and is consistent with current land use.

The proposed Project modification would be consistent with the River West-Madera Master Plan (2012), which promotes opportunities for recreational and educational enjoyment, regional access, and the restoration and enhancement of the San Joaquin River and the surrounding natural environment. The River West-Madera Master Plan states that it is to be consistent with and incorporate all of the applicable goals, objectives, and policies of the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan and the Madera County General Plan (San Joaquin River Conservancy and Madera County, 2012). In particular, the Project modification would support the following goal and objectives from the River West-Madera Master Plan:

> Goal: Provide an outlet for multiple recreational opportunities that utilize and enhance access to existing resources within River West-Madera.
>
> Objectives:
> - Preserve existing fishing facilities and promote their continued use.
> - Ensure ADA access to as much of the site and facilities as feasible.

For the reasons described above and because the project would be limited to access improvements to an existing recreation area, potential conflicts with land use plans and policies would be less than significant. This conclusion is consistent with the analysis provided in the Final EIR, Impact LU-RECREATION-2. Because there would be no land use conflicts, Mitigation Measure LU-RECREATION-2 would not be required. No additional impact would occur.

c. Conflicts with any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan—*No Impact / No Additional Impact*

No habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans were identified in the Sycamore Island site vicinity, and therefore, would not conflict with such plans. This determination is consistent with the analysis provided in the Final EIR, Impact LU-RECREATION-3. No additional impact would occur.

Mineral Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a, b. Loss of availability of mineral resources—*No Impact / No Additional Impact*

While the Sycamore Island Trout Pond is an abandoned gravel mining pit enhanced for recreational fishing purposes, no active mines would be affected and the access and facility enhancements would not necessarily preclude future extraction of aggregate resources. Therefore, the proposed Project modification would not involve any activities that could directly or indirectly affect mineral production. This topic was dismissed from detailed consideration in the Final EIR due to the absence of potential for a significant impact. Consistent with the Final EIR, the proposed Project modification would have no impact on mineral resources; there would be no new impact.

Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification result in:				
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☒
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan area, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public-use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project site to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project site to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Checklist Reponses

a,d. Noise levels in excess of standards established in applicable local, state or federal standards, potential increase in ambient noise levels, and substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity—*Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

The Sycamore Island site is situated in a rural, open space area in Sycamore Island. Other than anglers at the Sycamore Island Trout Pond, there are no sensitive noise receptors nearby; the closest residences are approximately 0.3 mile (approximately 1,584 feet) north and south of the Sycamore Island site.

The Madera County General Plan (1995) has a noise element that contains maximum allowable noise exposure for non-transportation noise sources. Between daytime hours (7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.), the hourly Leq (equivalent sound level) is 50 dB and the maximum level is 70 dB. During nighttime hours (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.), the hourly Leq is 45 dB and the maximum level is 65 dB.

Construction of the proposed Project modification would involve excavation and grading activities followed by construction of the proposed boat ramp, fishing pier, restroom facility, path, and parking area. Equipment that would be used includes an excavator, crane, dump trucks, grader, concrete truck, bulldozer, backhoe, compressors/jack hammers, barge, backhoe, compactor, front-end loader, forklift, skid-steer loader, and impact hammers. Construction activities would primarily occur over a 16-20 week period between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Typical noise levels generated from construction equipment are presented in **Table NOI-1**, below. It is anticipated that pile driving and use of either a jack hammer or truck would generate the highest noise levels with reference levels 101 dBA (pile driver) and 88 dBA (truck or jack hammer) at 50 feet.

Table NOI-1. Construction Equipment Noise Emission Levels

Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) 50 feet from Source[1]
Air compressor	81
Backhoe	80
Compactor	82
Dozer	85
Grader	85
Jack Hammer	88
Loader	85
Pile Driver (Impact)	101
Truck	88

Notes: dBA = A-weighted decibels

[1] The FTA's *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment* manual (2006) provided a list of reference levels in Table 12-1 of standard construction equipment at 50 feet from the source.

Source: FTA 2006.

FTA has established guidance on noise and vibration impact assessments for construction equipment (FTA 2006). FTA recommends that, for an approximate estimate of construction noise levels, the two loudest pieces of equipment should be used to analyze the anticipated noise levels at sensitive receptors, assuming the following:

- full power operation for a full 1-hour is assumed,
- there are no obstructions to the noise travel paths,
- typical noise levels from construction equipment are used, and
- all pieces of equipment are assumed to operate at the center of the Sycamore Island site.

Using these assumptions, the noise levels at specific distances can be obtained using the following equation:

$$L_{eq}(equip) = EL_{50ft} - 20log_{10}(D/50)$$

Where:

L_{eq} (equip) = the noise emission level at the receiver at distance D over 1 hour

EL_{50ft} = noise emission level of a particular piece of equipment at a reference distance of 50 feet

D = the distance from the receiver to the piece of equipment in feet

To add the two loudest pieces of equipment together, the following equation applies:

$$L_{total} = 10\ log_{10}(10^{\frac{L1}{10}} + 10^{\frac{L2}{10}})$$

Where:

Ltotal = the noise emission level of two pieces of equipment combined

L1 = the noise emission level of equipment type 1

L2 = the noise emission level of equipment type 2

Noise levels at the proposed Project modification's nearest sensitive receptors that would be generated by equipment used during project construction were estimated by using the FTA reference guide (FTA 2006). Using the equations above and the two loudest pieces of equipment, the noise levels at the nearest residence, located approximately 1,584 feet from the Sycamore Island site, would be 53.9 dBA. These estimates are both below the FTA's recommended threshold of 90 dBA and the County standard of 70 dB maximum. Because pile driving would be intermittent, it is anticipated that the noise level would also be below the County's standard hourly Leq of 50 dB.

It is possible that recreationalists in the vicinity of the Sycamore Island site (e.g., pedestrians in Sycamore Island) could be exposed to construction noise which exceeds these thresholds, and/or that would be considered an annoyance. Consistent with the Final EIR, implementation of Mitigation Measure NOISE-MANAGEMENT-1 (Implement Noise Control Measures for Construction Activities) would reduce temporary noise effects. Given that noise levels at the nearest sensitive receptor would below the FTA's 90 dBA threshold and with implementation of this mitigation measure, temporary construction noise generated by the proposed Project modification would not expose noise-sensitive land uses to noise levels that exceed standards in the Madera County General Plan. This finding is consistent with the Final EIR's conclusion (see Impact NOISE-RECREATION-1). There would be no additional impact or additional mitigation required.

b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

Installation of the two piles for the fishing pier would produce temporary vibration levels that could result in a significant effect only if the source amplitudes are relatively large and the distances between the activity and nearby receptors are sufficiently small. As the closest sensitive receptor is approximately 0.3 mile away from the Sycamore Island site, construction of the proposed Project modification would not result in excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. This impact would be less than significant; no additional impact would occur.

c. Substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project—*No Impact*

Once construction is complete, visitation and use of the Sycamore Island Trout Pond would be similar to existing conditions. Therefore, operational noise generated by the proposed Project modification would not substantially change and there would not be a permanently increase ambient noise levels at the Sycamore Island site. There would be no impact.

e,f. For a project located within an airport land use plan area, within 2 miles of a public airport or public-use airport, or within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the Sycamore Island site to excessive noise levels—*No Impact / No Additional Impact*

The Sycamore Island site is not within an airport land use plan area and is located over 2 miles away from the Fresno Yosemite International Airport and the Sierra Sky Park Airport. Therefore, the proposed Project modification would not expose construction workers or recreationalists to excessive noise levels associated with these airports. This finding is consistent with the Final EIR. Therefore, noise impacts associated with airports would not occur; there would be no new impact.

Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Displace a substantial number of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Displace a substantial number of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a. Induce population growth—*No New Impact*

This topic was dismissed from detailed consideration in the Final EIR due to the absence of potential for a significant impact.

The proposed Project modification would not include any residential homes or commercial businesses and would not extend any infrastructure that may facilitate population growth. The proposed Project modification would be limited to access improvements to the Sycamore Island Trout Pond. While the Sycamore Island site is currently used for parking and access to the Sycamore Island Trout Pond, the project improvements could increase use of the pond and greater Sycamore Island; however, any increase in visitors or use of the park is not anticipated to be substantial. As such, no new impact would occur.

b, c. Displace Population or Housing—*No New Impact*

No existing housing units exist on the proposed Project modification site. There would be no impact.

Public Services

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant with	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a. Result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a need for new or physically altered governmental facilities

This topic was dismissed from detailed consideration in the Final EIR due to the absence of potential for a significant impact.

i. Fire protection—*No New Impact*

Construction activities associated with the Project modification would take place on a site with some existing vegetation (see Section 3.4, *Biological Resources*). Operation of power tools and equipment during project construction could provide an ignition source and increase fire risk in the area. Storage of flammable materials (e.g., fuel) during project construction could also increase fire risk. However, project construction activities would follow the requirements for fire safety contained in the California Fire Code. Adherence to the requirements of the California Fire Code would ensure that potential

fire risk during project construction would be less-than-significant, and that no new fire protection facilities would be required.

Similarly, the boat ramp, ADA-compliant path and fishing pier, parking lot, and single vault restroom would be constructed to California Fire Code standards and would not appreciably increase the demand for fire protection demand in the area. No new impact would occur.

ii. Police protection—*No New Impact*

The proposed Project modification would improve public access to the Sycamore Island Trout Pond but is not anticipated to significantly increase visitation and use of the park. Therefore, the demand for police protection would be similar to existing conditions. No new impact would occur.

iii. Schools—*No New Impact*

The proposed Project modification does not include any residential development and would not substantially increase the local population. Therefore, the project would have no potential to increase demand for schools. No new impact would occur.

iv. Parks—*No New Impact*

The proposed Project modification includes access improvements to an existing recreational area, the environmental effects of which are evaluated throughout this document. The proposed access improvements are not anticipated to increase use of the Sycamore Island Trout Pond such that it would substantially accelerate the physical deterioration of the facility or other facilities at Sycamore Island. The proposed Project modification would also not increase the local population such that the demand for new recreational facilities would increase. No new impact would occur.

v. Other public facilities—*No New Impact*

The proposed Project modification would not increase the local population such as to increase demand for, or require construction of other public facilities. No new impact would occur.

Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
a. 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a. Increase use of existing parks or recreational facilities—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

Although visitation/use information was not available for the Sycamore Island Trout Pond specifically, between February and April 2014, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust estimated that approximately 80 people visited the Sycamore Island Recreation Area per day. During the annual fishing derby, attendance was greater, at approximately 350 people per day. In general, visitation/use of the overall Sycamore Island Recreation Area is highest during the spring and fall. The park is closed during winter (Meyers, pers. comm., 2015).

The proposed Project modification includes components that would improve fishing for the public and would improve accessibility to the Sycamore Island Trout Pond. Similar to existing conditions, once construction is completed, the proposed improvements would accommodate up to 12 vehicles. As described in Section 3.1, *Description of Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement*, these improvements would not increase capacity of this recreation area. While these improvements may attract more visitors in comparison to existing conditions, any increase in visitation levels is speculative at this point. The hours of operation would be the same as existing conditions. Similar to current conditions, the pond would be stocked with catchable-size rainbow trout from SJFH 1-2 times per month, depending on the annual allotment, between November and April. While it is possible that the proposed access improvements could attract more anglers, the Project modification is not anticipated to increase use of the Sycamore Island Trout Pond such that it would substantially accelerate the physical deterioration of the facility or other facilities at Sycamore Island. Further, as the proposed Project modification

would not increase the local population, it would not increase use of any other existing park or recreational facility. Therefore, consistent with the Final EIR, this impact would be less than significant; no additional impact would occur.

b. Creation of new or altered recreational facilities—*Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

This topic was addressed in the Final EIR, Impact REC-RECREATION-2. The Final EIR did not make a significance conclusion; rather, the EIR includes a table (Table 15-1) summarizing potential impacts of the recreational pond and enhancements.

The proposed Project modification involves alteration of the Sycamore Island Trout Pond and is the subject of this environmental checklist. As described throughout this checklist, impacts of the proposed improvements would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with implementation of mitigation measures described throughout this document. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant with mitigation, and there is no additional impact compared to the analysis in the Final EIR.

Transportation/Traffic

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a,b. Conflict with applicable circulation plans, ordinances, policies, or applicable congestion management programs—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

According to the Madera County General Plan, Policy 2.A.8 states that the County's roadway system shall be maintained at a minimum Level of Service D on all state and County roads (1995).

During construction of the proposed Project modification, up to 8 construction workers would be coming and going to the Sycamore Island site throughout the 16-20 week construction phase. Grading work would require approximately 50 haul truck trips, which would be spread across 6-7 days. During the grading phase, the proposed Project modification would generate approximately 16 round trips per day. Given that the Sycamore Island site is in a remote area and the small number of construction trips required for project construction, project construction is not anticipated to conflict with the County's level of service goal.

Once construction is completed, the facility would accommodate up to 12 vehicles. Visitation and use of the fishing pond is anticipated to be similar to existing levels. As a result, trips generated from the proposed Project modification would have a less than significant impact on roadways and intersections and would not conflict with local policies or applicable congestion management programs. This is consistent with the Final EIR; no additional impact would occur.

c. Change in air traffic patterns—*No New Impact*

As previously described, the Sycamore Island site is not in the vicinity of an airport. Therefore, the proposed Project modification would not result in a change in air traffic patterns. This particular topic was not addressed in the Final EIR. There would be no impact.

d. Increased hazards due to design features—*No New Impact*

The proposed Project modification would not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses. The proposed boat ramp, path, parking area, and restroom facility would be designed to current standards for safety. In particular, the parking lot and path would be ADA-accessible. As such, the proposed Project modification would not increase hazards and there would be no impact.

e. Inadequate emergency access— *Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

This particular impact for recreational enhancements was not addressed in the Final EIR. Emergency access effects associated with the overall SCARF project was addressed in Impact TR-CONSTRUCT-1.

The Sycamore Island site is not located near any public roadways and would not require closure of any traffic lanes. However, the proposed Project modification would require

transport of heavy equipment and construction materials from either Highway 41 or Highway 99 and would utilize Avenue 7 ½. The presence of slow-moving equipment and equipment on these highways and local road could temporarily impede emergency access. However, as discussed in the *Hazards and Hazardous Materials* section, implementation of modified Mitigation Measure HAZ-CONSTRUCT-3, which requires preparation and implementation of a Traffic Management Plan, would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. This is consistent with the Final EIR's conclusion for general SCARF construction activities. Therefore, there would be no additional impact or additional mitigation required.

f. Conflict with alternative transportation policies, plans, or programs— *Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

This particular impact for recreational enhancements was not addressed in the Final EIR. Potential impacts on alternative modes of transportation, such as blocking bicycle or pedestrian pathways on area roadways, as a result of overall SCARF construction was addressed in Impact TR-CONSTRUCT-2. Similarly, for the proposed Project modification, the presence of construction vehicles on local roads could temporarily conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation, taking into account all modes of transportation. Implementation of modified Mitigation Measure HAZ-CONSTRUCT-3 (see the *Hazards and Hazardous Materials* section, above) would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. This is consistent with the Final EIR's conclusion for general SCARF construction activities. Therefore, no additional impact would occur nor mitigation be required.

Utilities and Service Systems

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
Would the Project modification:				
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or an expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or an expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project modification from existing entitlements and resources, or would new or expanded entitlements be needed?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the Project modification that it has inadequate capacity to serve the Project modification's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f. Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project modification's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h. Encourage activities that resulted in the use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy, or used these resources in a wasteful manner?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a, e. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board or result in a determination by the local wastewater treatment provider that it has inadequate capacity to serve the Project modification's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

Construction of the proposed Project modification would generate minimal amounts of domestic wastewater, none of which would require treatment by the local wastewater treatment plant. Portable sanitary restrooms would be available for use by construction workers throughout the project construction phase.

During project operation, the proposed restroom facility would be serviced approximately twice a year, or as needed, and would not be connected to the municipal sewer system. Servicing of the restroom would involve pumping waste and wastewater out of the vault toilet and into a truck for disposal. Wastewater pumped from the toilet would be delivered to the local wastewater treatment plant for treatment and eventual discharge. Given the small scale of the restroom facility, the proposed Project modification is not anticipated to contribute to an exceedance of wastewater treatment requirements and the local wastewater treatment provider would have sufficient capacity to serve the project's demand.

This conclusion is consistent with the analysis provided in Final EIR Impact UTL-RECREATION-1. As such, no additional impact would occur.

b. Require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities— *Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

During project construction, any necessary non-potable water supplies (e.g., for dust mitigation, provide limited irrigation of landscaped or re-vegetated areas) would be minor and would likely be fulfilled by off-site water supplies trucked to the site. As described above, no wastewater requiring treatment at the wastewater treatment plant would be generated during project construction because sanitary portable restrooms would be used.

As described above, small amount of wastewater requiring treatment at the wastewater treatment plant may be generated during project operation from servicing of the vault toilet, but this would not be sufficient to require construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities.

For these reasons, this analysis is consistent with the analysis provided in the Final EIR, Impacts UTL-RECREATION-1 and UTL-RECREATION-2. No additional impact would occur.

c. Require the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities—*Less than Significant / No New Impact*

The proposed Project modification is not anticipated to generate substantial quantities of stormwater, as it would only add a small amount of impervious area to the site (e.g., concrete ramp, restroom footprint, boat ramp). The project modification site is in an undeveloped recreational area and there are currently no stormwater collection facilities on or adjacent to the site. As is currently the case, stormwater generated at the Sycamore Island site would sheetflow overland to the Sycamore Island Trout Pond or via natural drainage patterns. No new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities would be required; therefore this impact would be less than significant.

While the particular topic was not evaluated in the Final EIR for the recreational fishing enhancements, the proposed Project modification would not increase the severity of previously identified stormwater impacts nor would it introduce a new significant impact.

d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

As described above, some non-potable water supplies may be used during project construction activities to wet exposed ground surfaces to minimize dust and provide limited irrigation of landscaped or re-vegetated areas. Limited quantities of potable water may also be required for construction personnel. The water needs related to construction activities would be relatively minor and likely fulfilled by off-site water supplies trucked to the site. Given the limited water supply needs for the project construction, it is expected that existing supplies are sufficient and available to serve the proposed Project modification. The proposed Project modification would not require any water during operation.

The construction effects described above are consistent with the analysis provided in the Final EIR, Impact UTL-RECREATION-2. Although the operational effects of recreational enhancements were not analyzed in the Final EIR, because the proposed Project modification would not result in any significant effects on water supplies, no additional impact would occur.

f-g. Comply with all applicable regulations related to solid waste and have available landfill capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

The proposed Project modification would generate some solid waste during construction. Site preparation would include clearing and grubbing (i.e., removal of vegetation and debris). All debris material would be disposed of off-site at an appropriate location selected by the construction contractor. Grading would involve removal of soil, some of which may be reused on-site for raising the vault restroom pad. Excavated soil that is not suitable for reuse would be disposed of at a local landfill or another suitable location. Project modification construction may involve disposal of a small amount of hazardous materials, such as used oil, lubricant, or hydraulic fluid, but the quantities of these materials would not be substantial. Hazardous material would be disposed of at an approved hazardous waste facility, likely either of the Safety Kleen Corporation facilities in Fresno County. The construction contractor, through conditions in the contract, would

be required to comply with all federal, state, and local statutes related to handling, transport, and disposal and hazardous waste.

During operation of the Project modification, garbage cans would be provided on the Sycamore Island site. As is currently the case, garbage would be collected periodically and sent to the local landfill located by the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust. The quantity of solid waste generated by the proposed Project modification would be small, and would not substantially affect landfill capacity.

The construction effects described above are consistent with the analysis provided in the Final EIR, Impacts UTL-RECREATION-3 and UTL-RECREATION-4. Operational effects of the recreational enhancements were not analyzed in the Final EIR; however because the proposed Project modification would not result in any significant impacts on landfill capacity and would comply with all applicable solid waste regulations, no additional impact would occur.

h. Encourage activities that resulted in the use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy, or used these resources in a wasteful manner?—*Less than Significant / No Additional Impact*

During Project modification construction, fuel would be used to operate equipment, such as excavators, dump trucks, backhoes, and forklifts. Fuel would also be required to power generators for operation of compressors and other electrically-powered equipment. Consistent with the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) in-use off-road diesel vehicle regulation, idling of off-road diesel vehicles used during construction would be limited to 5 minutes (with the exception of vehicles that need to idle to perform work, such as a crane providing hydraulic power to the boom), so as to avoid unnecessary fuel use and air emissions (CARB, 2014).

During project operation, similar to existing conditions, light duty trucks would be used by San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust staff to maintain the site. A larger truck would be used twice a year to pump waste and wastewater from the vault toilet. None of these activities would use substantial amounts of fuel or energy or use energy resources in a wasteful manner. The proposed Project modification would not be connected to the electrical power grid and would not require electricity during operation.

The Project's construction impacts described above are consistent with the analysis provided in the Final EIR, Impact UTL-RECREATION-5. Operational effects of the recreational enhancements were not analyzed in the Final EIR; however, because the proposed Project modification would not result in any significant impacts related to operational energy usage, no additional impact would occur.

Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation / No New Impact from those Identified in Final EIR	Less than Significant	No Impact
a. Does the Project modification 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, substantially 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Does the Project modification 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.)	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Does the Project modification have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion of Checklist Responses

a. Effects on environmental quality, fish or wildlife, and historic resources — *Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

With implementation of mitigation measures identified in this Environmental Checklist, the proposed Project modification does not 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 the important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

As discussed throughout this checklist, potentially significant impacts were identified for air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, hazards and hazardous materials, geology and soils, and transportation/traffic. However, implementation of mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR as well as modified Mitigation Measure HAZ-CONSTRUCT-3 would reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the proposed Project modification would not result in a more severe impact than what was disclosed in the Final EIR. There would be no additional impact.

b. Cumulative Impacts — *Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

As defined by the State of California, cumulative impacts reflect "the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time" (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15355[b]).

Other projects in the vicinity of the proposed Project modification include a few development projects planned in the City of Fresno including the El Paseo, Westlake, and Walmart project. None of these projects are located in the immediate vicinity of the Project modification site. The El Paseo project consists of a 238-acre mixed-use project planned to include retail, office park, hotel, and light industrial business park at the northwest gateway of Fresno. The Westlake project is a 450-acre project that would consist of residential and commercial uses developed around a man-made private lake in northwest Fresno. Lastly, a Walmart is planned to be built at 4080 W. Shaw Avenue in Fresno. Given the small scale of the proposed fishing improvements at Sycamore Island and with implementation of mitigation measures described throughout this Environmental Checklist, the proposed Project modification is not expected to make a cumulatively considerable contribution to cumulative impacts. This conclusion is consistent with the Final EIR; no additional impact would occur.

c. Effects on Human Beings— *Less than Significant with Mitigation / No Additional Impact*

Construction activities of the proposed Project modification could have potential adverse direct impacts on people due to impacts such as emission of air pollutants and GHGs, increased noise, and traffic in the project area. Mitigation measures identified in this Environmental Checklist would reduce these effects to less-than-significant levels. Once construction is completed, the proposed Project modification would improve fishing for the public and improve accessibility to the Sycamore Island Trout Pond. Although this specific criterion was not addressed in the Final EIR, this impact would not be more severe than those disclosed in the Final EIR.

5. FINDINGS

There will be no significant impact on environmental resources as a result of the proposed enhancements at Sycamore Island Trout Pond, as described in the environmental checklist (above) and as demonstrated by the analysis below and throughout this addendum.

Changes to the environment that could occur as a result of implementation of the Project modification have been previously described in the EIR for the SCARF and are categorized as having the following impacts on the environment: no impact, less than significant, or less than significant with mitigation. Impacts categorized as being less than significant with mitigation are addressed by the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, which is presented as Appendix D in the EIR. Construction and operation of the proposed accessibility improvements at the Sycamore Island Trout Pond, would result in environmental impacts similar or less severe than those previously disclosed in the Final EIR. Implementation of the following mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR would reduce any potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels: BIO-RECREATION-2, FISH-RECREATION-1, CR-CONSTRUCT-1b, CR-CONSTRUCT-3, GEO-CONSTRUCT-1a, HAZ-CONSTRUCT-3 (modified to reflect the Sycamore Island Trout Pond site) and NOISE-MANAGEMENT-1. Mitigation measures applicable to the proposed Project modification are presented in Attachment E.

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