EXPLANATION OF RESPONSES TO INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

I. AESTHETICS

a) The project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the project will remove abandoned cannabis cultivation related materials, waste, and revegetate damaged deforested sites to produce a more natural and esthetically pleasing appearance.

b) The project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not disturb large trees or other scenic features in the process of restoring damaged sites.

c) The project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the work sites and their surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will restore the natural character of disturbed sites by removing trash, hazardous materials, and diversion tubing.

d) The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area of the worksites. Such an impact will not occur because none of the restoration project action items require installation of artificial lighting.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

a) The project will not 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 non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because most project worksites are located away from FMMP designated farmland.

b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Habitat restoration actions will not change existing land use.

c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned Timberland Production. Habitat restoration actions will not change existing land use.

d) There will be no loss of forest land and the project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The project will restore forestland.

e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment. Due to the project's location and nature, the project will not result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. Habitat restoration actions are either away from, or are compatible with, existing agricultural uses.

III. AIR QUALITY

a) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because implementation of the project does not create any features that would be a source of air pollution.

   The work window for restoration activities is generally limited from June 15 to November 1. The maximum duration of work at each site is 18 weeks per field season and all restoration activities must be completed during the 3 year grant agreement that applies to those restoration activities. Based on these constraints, the CDFW finds that each restoration activity will not likely adversely affect air quality plans through the use of vehicle and heavy equipment. Projects may require the use of heavy equipment to transport waste materials out of restoration sites; however, such activities will not all occur simultaneously.

b) The project will not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Such an impact will not occur because of the limited scope of construction activities and the fact that work sites are located in remote areas that are in overall attainment of air quality standards.

c) The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors). Such an impact will not occur because the project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.

d) The project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not significantly increase pollutant concentrations. Crewmembers removing hazardous materials will be appropriately HAZWOPER trained and will be wearing Personal Protective Equipment throughout the duration of clean up activities.

e) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. Project actions are designed to restore natural habitat conditions for salmonids and other species, and will not create any stagnant water that might produce objectionable odors. Projects are designed to remove waste and will reduce any objectionable odors at restoration sites.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

a) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Such an impact will not occur because project activities are designed to improve and restore stream and riparian habitat, to provide a long-term benefit to both anadromous salmonids and other fish and wildlife. The project is designed and will be implemented in a manner that will avoid short-term adverse impacts to rare plants and animals and

cultural resources during removal of cannabis cultivation related items and waste removal; the mitigation measures that will be implemented to avoid short-term impacts to rare plants, animals, and cultural resources are described in Appendices B, C, D, and E. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

Potential species impacts are as follows (mitigation measures are included in Appendix B):

i. Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and coastal cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*)

   Winter-run chinook has been listed as endangered by the state since 1989 and federally since 1994. Spring-run chinook was listed in 1999 as threatened by both the state of California and USFWS. Depending on the evolutionary significant unit (ESU) of the coho salmon, the species is listed either as threatened or endangered; federally since 1996 and by the state since 2005. In 1997, USFWS listed the distinct population segment (DPS) of the southern California steelhead as endangered. The four other DPS of steelhead (south central, central, Central Valley, and northern) have been federally listed as threatened as early as 1997. Although, coastal cutthroat trout is not federally or state listed as threatened or endangered, it is listed as a California species of special concern.

   Salmonids can be found throughout the coastal and inland river systems of north and central California. The salmonid lifecycle involves adults maturing in the ocean, migrating back to their home streams and spawning, embryos incubating, fry emerging, juveniles growing , and smolts migrating to the estuary to acclimate to saltwater and moving out into the ocean.

   Habitat loss and modification are believed to be the major factors determining the current status of salmonid populations. Conservation and recovery of salmonids depend on having diverse habitats with connections among those habitats. While all of the work proposed under this program will enhance habitat for one or more of these species, impacts to the species have the potential to occur during project implementation activities such as accidental spill of hazardous materials into soils that may leach into a watercourse. All impacts will be minimized to avoid take of these species by adhering to appropriate handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous material in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Furthermore, a hazardous material specialist will be on site during hazardous material cleanup activities.

ii. Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana Boylii*)
   The foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF) is a candidate species for state listing as threatened. The foothill yellow-legged frog inhabits lower elevation creeks, streams, and rivers. The species has a large geographic range and may be found throughout the project area. They breed in the spring and tadpoles

emerge in the summer. The FYLF require flowing water, are not found in standing water, and will stay close to streams during breeding season.

Impacts to the FYLF have the potential to occur during project implementation activities such as (but not limited to) water diversion decommissioning and heavy equipment usage. All impacts will be temporary and will be minimized to avoid take of the species and habitat removal and/or degradation. Furthermore, all of the projects will improve habitat by removing waste, removing hazardous materials that can seep into the soil and streams, and decommissioning water diversions which will allow more water to remain in the streams.

iii. Pacific Fisher (*Pekania pennant*)

The West Coast DPS of the Pacific fisher is a candidate species for state listing as threatened. The Pacific fisher is a small nocturnal carnivorous mammal that prefers dense mature forest. Thus, they are rarely encountered. Their dens are usually far from cannabis cultivation sites (communication with CDFW biologist). The Pacific fisher has been negatively impacted by some cannabis cultivation practices. Pesticides are utilized at many cannabis cultivation sites to prevent animals from eating cannabis plants. Pacific fishers have ingested animals that have died from pesticide exposure at cannabis cultivation sites. Those pesticides then bio-accumulate in the tissues of Pacific fishers, which leads to their illness and/or death. The project's removal of the pesticides left behind at cannabis cultivation sites will benefit the Pacific fishers that are present near those sites.

iv. Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

In 1992, the marbled murrelet was federally listed as threatened and as endangered by the State. As coastal birds that range from Alaska to Santa Barbara County, CA, they can be found nesting and brooding along the California coastline in old-growth or mature forests from April to September and possibly using the same nest in successive years. In the winter, they can be found using the same habitat for roosting and courtship.

Noise from heavy equipment has the potential to cause nesting birds to abandon nests. Limiting such work (e.g. using heavy machinery to remove waste from sites) to the fall and winter months will greatly reduce adverse effects. Projects will not remove or degrade suitable habitat, only restore and protect habitat.

v. Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)

The Northern spotted owl has been federally listed as threatened since 1990, and in 2013 California listed it as a threatened species candidate. Old growth and mature forests of northwestern California and Pacific Northwest are the preferred habitat for these monogamous, territorial, medium-sized birds of prey. A pair of owls can occupy up to a 40 sq. km territory, nesting in hollow trees and cliff crevices from February to June.

Noise from heavy equipment has the potential to cause nesting birds to abandon nests. Preventing such work (e.g. using heavy machinery to remove waste from sites) from occurring during February to July will greatly reduce adverse effects. Projects will not remove or degrade suitable habitat, only restore and protect habitat.

vi. Siskiyou Mountains salamander (*Plethodon stormi*)

The Siskiyou Mountains salamander is California State listed as threatened. They are found in loose rock talus with high moisture and moderate humidity content in the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains in Northern California. They breathe through their skin, which limits them to damp environments. They are mostly active during wet and cool weather conditions and retreat during dry conditions.

Disturbing soils and loose rock talus during cleanup has the potential to impact these salamanders. This potential impact will be avoided by limiting work to times when conditions are dry, minimizing ground disturbance, and identifying and avoiding disturbance to all loose rock talus outcrops.

b) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies and regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Such an impact will not occur because the project actions are designed to correct past habitat degradation and restore and enhance riparian habitat and associated upland habitats. In accordance with the Regional General Permit 12 and the § 401 Water Quality Certification, project implementation is allowed during the summer dry season (generally June 15-November 1) to avoid impacts to aquatic habitats. Work that is permitted after November 1 is limited to hand planting of seedlings. Planting of seedlings generally occurs after December 1, or when there is sufficient rainfall to ensure the best survival chance of the seedlings. Mitigation measures to avoid impacts to riparian habitat are found in Appendix B: Mitigation measures, monitoring, and reporting program for the 2017 Cannabis Restoration Grant Program (§ IV subsection C).

Furthermore, the CDFW LSAs include project-specific terms and conditions that set out reasonable measures determined by the CDFW to be necessary to protect fish and wildlife resources that may be affected by the project.

c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by § 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. The project actions will have either no effect on wetlands or will be beneficial to wetlands.

d) The project will not substantially interfere 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. The project will

enhance the movement of anadromous fish by removing diversions from cannabis cultivation and removing pollutants and trash that may end up in streams.

e) The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because project actions are designed to restore biological resources. Existing trails and roads will be used to access sites. Care will be taken to not disturb any mature trees. Riparian vegetation will be reestablished where cannabis cultivation occurred; furthermore, only native plants will be used to enhance the riparian vegetation.

f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. Such a conflict will not occur because the project restoration actions will not have a significant adverse impact on any species or habitat. Project actions are designed to restore the natural character of the fish and wildlife habitat at each cannabis cultivation site. The project specifically supports the California Salmon, Steelhead Trout and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act (Fish and Game Code § 6900 et. seq.)

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5. Ground disturbance at each site is unlikely; however, there is a chance soil replacement may need to occur in order to implement the project. Any potential impact will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B: Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program; Appendix D: Procedures for the Programmatic Evaluation of Paleontological Resources; and Appendix E: Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Archeological Resources for all work sites, where applicable. Resources identified during site-specific surveys will be protected before any ground-disturbing activities are permitted at a site. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5. While ground disturbance will be required to implement the project at some work sites that have the potential to affect archaeological resources, this potential impact will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program for all work sites. Resources identified during site-specific surveys will be protected before ground-disturbing activities are permitted at a site. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

c) The project will not directly or indirectly destroy any unique paleontological resources or sites, or unique geologic features. While ground disturbance to implement the project at some work sites has the potential to affect these resources, this potential impact will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program and Appendix D, Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Paleontological Resources for all work sites. Resources identified during site-specific surveys will be protected before ground-disturbing activities are permitted at a site. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

d) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. While ground disturbance will be required to implement the project at some work sites that have the potential to affect these resources, this potential impact will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program for all work sites. Resources identified during site-specific surveys will be protected before ground-disturbing activities are permitted at a site. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

a) The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving 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. Such an impact will not occur because the project does not create any structures for human habitation.

    i. The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the project does not create any structures for human habitation.

    ii. The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the project does not create any structures for human habitation.

    iii. The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project does not create any structures for human habitation.

b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because implementation of the restoration project is designed to reduce erosion and sedimentation. Contaminated soils may be replaced if possible. Revegetation will occur at many sites which will reduce erosion. Existing roads will be used to access work sites. Ground disturbance at most work sites will be minimal. The potential for soil loss associated with removal of waste and other cannabis cultivation related materials will be avoided through the implementation of the mitigation measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

c) Some project worksites may be on unstable soils; however, the project will not increase the risk of landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. The project actions are designed to stabilize conditions at these sites in order to reduce sediment delivery to salmonid habitat. Actions implemented to stabilize sites may not be successful in all cases, but site instability will not be increased relative to existing conditions.

d) Some project work sites will be located on expansive soil; however, the project will not create substantial risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will create no habitations, and the restoration actions will not create rigid structures that could be damaged by expansive soils.

e) The project will not create any sources of waste water requiring a septic system.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The project will emit greenhouse gases (GHG) through the use of fuel to operate vehicles and heavy equipment. The work window for restoration activities is generally limited from June 15 to November 1. Construction is limited to the annual eighteen week field season, and work must be completed within the three year term of the applicable grant agreement. However, for most projects, work does not occur throughout the entire eighteen-week field season, and most restoration activities do not take three years to implement. Some action items do not require heavy equipment use at the restoration site, but may use vehicles to transport materials. Furthermore, for an individual restoration action, GHG emissions may fluctuate during the implementation, as vehicles and equipment will be necessary to varying degrees. Projects may be completed in a single year of construction, or may require several years. Thus, the amount of time it takes to complete a restoration activity and the use of heavy equipment varies greatly among the actions. Although the project construction schedules and details are constrained by permit and grant conditions, the exact details cannot be specifically stated at this time. However, based on the short duration and small scale of the action items, the project will not generate a significant increase in GHG emissions above existing baseline levels because action items are discrete, limited in scope and implemented during a short time period.

a) The project will remove waste and any other material related to cannabis cultivation. Most bare sites will be revegetated. Additionally, if plants are removed to implement the restoration activity, the replanting ratio is 1:2 (for every plant removed, two native plants will be planted). Once established, native habitat restoration requires little to no maintenance and therefore little to no GHG emissions and will increase the presence of native plant species that sequester carbon dioxide.

b) Due to each action item's short duration, small scale, and minimal on-going maintenance, the project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG. The short term impacts to the GHG levels are less than significant. Furthermore, the long term impacts to the GHG levels from re-vegetation actions will aid in decreasing the GHG levels by reforesting areas where roads have been removed and where restoration work has been done.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

a) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. A hazardous material and hazardous waste assessment of each project site will be provided to CDFW prior to implementation of any on-the-ground work. Any potential significant impact associated with the accidental release of hazardous material cleanup will be avoided through implementation of appropriate handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste in accordance to applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Planting will not commence until hazardous materials have been removed from revegetation sites.

b) The project will not 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. Identification, collection, and removal of hazardous materials will be implemented in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. There is a small risk of an accident associated with the use of heavy equipment; that risk entails the potential release of fuel, oil, and coolant. The potential for accidental release will be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of the mitigation measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to level that is less than significant.

c) The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Such impact is avoided because the project work sites are located in remote areas and are not within one-quarter mile proximity of schools.

d) The project work sites are not located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

e) No project work sites are located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

f) No project work sites are located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

g) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project work sites are in remote areas and have no effect on emergency vehicle access.

h) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wild land fires. At work sites requiring the use of heavy equipment, there is a small risk of an accidental spark from equipment igniting a fire. The potential for accidental fire will be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of the mitigation measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. There is the potential of hazardous waste spill during cleanup of work sites that can leach into the watercourse; however, this will be avoided through implementation of appropriate handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

b) The project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. Restoration activities will return drainage to historic patterns thereby decreasing surface runoff and increasing infiltration to the ground water.

c) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the work sites in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Such an impact will not occur because the project actions are designed to remove illegal diversions and restore natural flows to streams.

d) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the work sites or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site. The project will decrease the risk of flooding through restoration activities that will return drainage to historic patterns, thereby increasing infiltration and decreasing surface runoff.

e) The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. No new sources of polluted runoff would be created. Removal of hazardous waste from restoration sites and removal of contaminated soils when possible will reduce sources of polluted runoff water.

f) The project will not substantially degrade water quality. The project will remove hazardous waste and contaminated soils where possible which will prevent or reduce further degradation of water quality.

g) The project will not place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on any flood hazard delineation map. No housing will be created as part of this project.

h) The project will not place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would significantly impede or redirect flood flows. The project will help to establish historic flows by removing illegal diversion and will not re-direct flows.

i) The project will not 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. No instream structures will be created.

j) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. Such an impact will not occur because project actions are designed to improve or stabilize conditions at the work sites. Restoration actions will reduce the chance of mudflow by stabilizing disturbed areas through revegetation. Project work sites are not located in areas at risk to inundation by seiche or tsunami.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING

a) The project will not physically divide an established community. The project sites are not located in established communities.

b) The restoration activities that comprise this project do not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Such an impact will not occur because the project's restoration activities are designed to be compatible with local land use plans and ordinances.

c) The project will not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because project actions are designed to improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat conditions without adversely affecting any other species or their habitats.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

a) The project will not 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. Such an impact will not occur because project actions are only designed to remove waste and illegal diversions and revegetate habitat within the project area.

b) The project will not 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. Such an impact will not occur because no mineral resource recovery will occur at the project work sites.

XII. NOISE

a) The project will not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of noise levels in excess of, standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. There may be a minor temporary increase in noise levels at those work sites requiring the use of heavy equipment. While short-term increase in noise will not produce a significant increase in the noise level in the general environment, there is a potential for equipment noise from backhoes and excavators to affect workers in close proximity. However, such an impact will not occur because personnel operating noisy equipment will be required to wear hearing protection. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant noise impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

b) The project will not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. Such an impact will not occur because only minor amounts of ground-borne vibration or noise will be generated short-term at those work sites requiring the use of heavy equipment.

c) The project will not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. The project will not result in permanent increase of noise levels. No equipment or structures will be permanently placed at project sites.

d) The project will not result in a substantial temporary, or periodic, increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. Such an impact will not occur because only minor amounts of noise will be generated temporarily at those work sites requiring the use of heavy equipment. At those sites near nesting or breeding sites for listed species, heavy equipment will only be used outside the sensitive periods for nesting or breeding, as described in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant noise impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

e) None of the project work sites are located within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

f) None of the project work sites are located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

a) The project will not induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.

b) The project will not displace any existing housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

c) The project will not displace any people and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) The project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. Issuance of restoration grants to government agencies could, in some cases, lead to minor increases in staffing to complete projects. Such increases will not lead to any significant adverse impacts, because the increases are short term and no significant construction will be required to accommodate additional staff.

XV. RECREATION

a) The project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities. Such an impact will not occur because the project actions will restore terrestrial and aquatic habitat and will not significantly alter human use or facilities at existing parks or recreational facilities. Overall, the restoration of sites is expected to increase recreation opportunities. Cleanup of sites impacted by cannabis cultivation will become less dangerous due to the removal of hazardous materials and the diminished likelihood of these sites becoming re-inhabited by growers. These areas may become more inviting to hiking and fishing in public and private forestland, however, these areas are so remote that an increase in recreational activities is not anticipated to be significant.

b) The project does not include recreational facilities and does not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. However, the cleanup of Whitethorn Grove may help expand guided hiking tours through that privately-owned land, which currently occur on a regular basis for the purpose of educating the public about various restoration projects.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

a) The project will not conflict with any applicable plans, ordinances or policies that establish measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation systems. Such a conflict will not occur because the project will result in only minor temporary increases in traffic to primarily wild land sites during implementation of habitat improvement measures.

b) The project will not conflict, either individually or cumulatively, with any applicable congestion program established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways. Such an impact will not occur because the habitat improvement actions will not generate a significant amount of traffic at each individual work site and because the work sites are dispersed throughout the coastal counties.

c) The project will not result in any change in air traffic patterns.

d) The project will not alter roads in any way that will substantially increase hazards to transportation. The project will consist of waste cleanup, removal of diversions, possible removal of contaminated soils, and revegetation. Alteration of roads will not be done and there will be no incompatible uses of equipment.

e) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve road construction.

f) The project will not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

a) The project will not cause substantial adverse change in the significance a of tribal cultural resource listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resource Code 5020.1(k). Soil replacement and removal of waste with heavy equipment may cause ground disturbance that may impact tribal cultural resources. However, this potential impact will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B: Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program; Appendix D: Procedures for the Programmatic Evaluation of Paleontological Resources; and Appendix E: Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Archeological Resources for all work sites, where applicable. Resources identified during site-specific surveys will be protected before any ground-disturbing/cleanup activities are permitted at a site. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

b) The project will not cause substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource determined by the CDFW to be significant pursuant to the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. Restoration sites will consist mainly of cleanup and revegetation. The CDFW will apply the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of the Public Resources Code section 5024.1 to potential tribal cultural resources identified during site-specific surveys and will consider the significance of the resource to California Native American tribes. Tribal cultural resources identified during site-specific surveys will be protected before any ground-disturbing activities are permitted at a site. Potential impacts to tribal cultural resources due to clean up, soil replacement, or ground disturbance activities will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B: Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program; Appendix D: Procedures for the Programmatic Evaluation of Paleontological Resources; and Appendix E: Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Archeological Resources for all work sites, where applicable. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

a) The project will not produce wastewater.

b) The project will not require, or result in the construction of, new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not produce wastewater.

c) The project will not cause significant adverse environmental effects associated with the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities.

d) The project will have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources.

e) The project will not produce wastewater.

f) The project will require disposal of waste in a landfill. However, the impacts of the waste to the landfill are less than significant as the projects are spread out and waste from each site will end up in various landfills. Furthermore, the disposal of the waste from each site will be a one time event. The project will not be a source of continuous waste.

g) The project will comply with federal, state, and local statues and regulations related to solid waste. Project proponents will collect permits required to appropriately collect, remove, and dispose of all waste at each project site.

XIX. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) The project does have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. However, the potential is reduced to less than significant by implementing the mitigation measures in Appendix B: Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program. The project shall be implemented in a manner that will avoid short-term adverse impacts to rare plants and animals, and cultural resources during construction. The project activities are designed to remove waste, hazardous materials, illegal diversions, contaminated soils, and revegetate sites impacted by cannabis cultivation, which will provide long-term benefits to both anadromous salmonids and other fish and wildlife.

b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because potential adverse impacts of the project are only minor and temporary in nature. It is the goal of the project that the beneficial effects of removal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, contaminated soils, illegal diversions, and revegetation will allow the re-establishment of natural habitat at project sites.

c) The project does have environmental effects that may cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Due to the nature of cannabis cultivation practices, hazardous materials will be encountered; however, persons entering each project site will be properly trained with regards to hazardous material

identification and handling, consistent with their level of their involvement. Potential adverse effects on humans will be avoided through the implementation of appropriate handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. Furthermore, restoration activities shall not commence until remediation is complete and the risk to human health and the environment has been abated.