Notice of Preparation

To: **All Interested Parties**

Subject: **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Lead Agency and Address: California Department of General Services/Real Estate Services Division 707 Third St., 4th Floor West Sacramento, California 95605	**Consulting Firm Name and Address:** ECORP Consulting, Inc. 2525 Warren Drive, Rocklin, CA 95677
Contact Person and Phone Number: Terry Ash, Senior Environmental Planner Department of General Services / Real Estate Services Division/ Project Management and Development Branch / Environmental Services Phone: 916-376-3824 Email: terry.ash@dgs.ca.gov	**Contact Person and Phone Number:** Chris Stabenfeldt, Project Manager (916) 782-9100 cstabenfeldt@ecorpconsulting.com

The California Department of General Services (DGS) will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. DGS is preparing the EIR on behalf of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). The decision to prepare an EIR is based on the results of an Initial Study conducted by DGS (see attached). DGS will oversee the design and environmental review of the Proposed Project.

DGS is requesting information concerning the scope and content of the upcoming EIR from any and all interested parties. If you are an agency with statutory responsibilities in connection with the Proposed Project, your agency will need to use the EIR when considering your permit or other approval for the Project. A public scoping meeting will be held online via Zoom on **Tuesday, July 21, 2020 from 6–8 pm.** The scoping session is open to all interested parties and is accessible via the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84875055844?pwd=V2pEcWRCMHUrMjEzd0dJZ0c5dHI4Zz09.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than ***30 days*** after the publication of this notice. **The response deadline is July 31, 2020**. Please send your response to Ms. Terry Ash at the address shown above or via email. Please provide the name of a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Rector Reservoir Bypass Valve Project	**Project Location:** Rector Dam on Rector Creek, east of the Silverado Trail in Napa Valley near the Town of Yountville, California

Project Description

The following is a summarized description of the Rector Reservoir Bypass Valve Project. A more detailed description, including figures, is provided in the Initial Study attached to this NOP, available online at: http://www.ecorpconsulting.com/docs/Rector-NOP-IS.pdf.

Rector Creek flows from the east side of the Napa Valley and is a tributary to Conn Creek, which is a tributary to the Napa River. The State of California built Rector Dam in 1946 and CalVet has operated the dam and reservoir since that time to supply drinking water to the Veterans Home of California in Yountville, the Napa State Hospital, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Bay-Delta Region office, the Town of Yountville, and several local wineries. CalVet also supplies untreated water to the CDFW Silverado Fisheries Base (Fisheries Base), which includes a hatchery located along Rector Creek downstream of the dam, and to the CAL FIRE training facility, located at the base of Rector Dam. Water delivered to the Fisheries Base is returned to Rector Creek approximately 0.35 miles downstream of the spillway while water delivered to the other uses listed above are for consumptive purposes.

The stream reach below Rector Dam is accessible to anadromous fish. Neither CalVet's license to operate Rector Reservoir nor its water rights supporting those operations include specific instream flow release requirements. In response to a complaint filed in relation to the absence of specific instream flow release requirements, CalVet is proceeding in good faith to assess and implement minimum flow release requirements for Rector Reservoir and construct the needed infrastructure to facilitate these releases. In support of this effort a preliminary instream flow study was conducted to provide guidance in establishing an interim minimum flow release schedule at Rector Dam. DGS recognizes the need for further data collection and analysis needed in order to establish an effective and sustainable long-term minimum flow release schedule for Rector Reservoir and is currently in the process of conducting additional data collection and analysis.

Rector Creek Dam is a 164-foot-high earth-fill structure with a crest elevation of 381.5 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL). A tower with intake inverts at 270, 291, 307, 323, 335, and 339 feet above MSL supplies the low-level outlet, a 30-inch iron pipe. In order to facilitate long-term releases to Rector Creek below Rector Dam, CalVet proposes to construct a bypass water pipe to provide a constant flow back to the creek at a point immediately downstream of the dam. Based on a preliminary design report, CalVet would construct a "hot tap" (bypass valve) which would connect to the existing 36" diameter raw water main that runs beneath the dam and carries water from the reservoir's intake tower to the CalVet water treatment plant. The bypass valve would be installed between an existing 8" tap which serves the CDFW fish hatchery and a 6" tap which serves the fire training facility. Raw water to be released to Rector Creek will be carried form the bypass valve via a short pipeline to an outfall structure located on the bank of Rector Creek.

With the completion of the bypass valve facilities described above, CalVet would implement minimum flow releases to Rector Creek in accordance with the recommendations presented in the Rector Creek Preliminary Instream Flow and Stream Habitat Assessment prepared by Stillwater Sciences and dated December 2018. The EIR will analyze the implementation of the interim minimum flow release schedule and construction and operation of the bypass valve facilities at the project level. In recognition that, with the completion of ongoing long-term minimum release studies, permanent minimum flow release schedules may be implemented that could vary from the proposed interim schedule, the EIR will address the future establishment of a permanent schedule at a programmatic level.

As determined in the Project's Initial Study, the potential environmental effects to be addressed in the EIR include: Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology, Soils and Paleontological Resources; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Public Utilities and Services (primarily agricultural, municipal and industrial water supply) and Tribal Resources.

Signature:	Chris Stabenfeldt, AICP	**Title:**	Program Manager
Date:	June 30, 2020	**Telephone:**	916-782-9100

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INITIAL STUDY
RECTOR RESERVOIR BYPASS VALVE PROJECT

SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Initial Study (IS) was prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (as amended) (California Public Resources Code Sections 21050 et seq.) and in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

Rector Dam is located on Rector Creek on the east side of the Silverado Trail in Napa County near the Town of Yountville, California. Rector Creek flows from the east side of the Napa Valley and is a tributary to Conn Creek, which is a tributary to the Napa River. The State of California built Rector Dam in 1946 and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) has operated the dam and reservoir since that time to supply drinking water to the Veterans Home of California in Yountville, the Napa State Hospital, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Bay-Delta Region office, the Town of Yountville, and several local wineries. CalVet also supplies untreated water to the CDFW Silverado Fisheries Base, which includes a hatchery located along Rector Creek downstream of the dam, and to the CAL FIRE training facility, located at the base of Rector Dam. Of these uses, water delivered to the fisheries base is returned to Rector Creek approximately 0.35 miles downstream of the spillway.

The License to operate Rector Dam does not include specific instream flow release requirements; however, California Fish and Game Code 5937 requires the owner or operator of any dam to allow sufficient flow to pass through or over the dam to keep fish downstream of the dam in good condition.

The proposed Rector Reservoir Bypass Valve Project (Project) would construct a bypass valve at the base of Rector Dam and a raw water pipeline connecting the valve to a proposed outfall structure on Rector Creek downstream of the dam. The proposed facilities would allow CalVet to divert and release water directly to Rector Creek for the purpose of maintaining minimum release flows to support Rector Creek fish resources. As part of the Project, CalVet will implement interim minimum release flows through the bypass facilities while additional long-term stream habitat studies are conducted. When those studies are complete, CalVet will implement a permanent schedule for minimum release flows to Rector Creek.

The California Department of General Services/Real Estate Services Division (DGS/RESD) will serve as the CEQA Lead Agency for this Project on behalf of CalVet, and has prepared this IS to determine the level of environmental review necessary for project approval. DGS has determined that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment: therefore, an EIR will be prepared for the proposed project. DGS will oversee the design and environmental review for the Project.

Section 1 of this Initial Study contains: 1) a project description; 2) a project overview with lead agency contact information; 3) a listing of issues found to have at least one potentially significant impact in the environmental checklist; 4) an explanation of the impact evaluation presented in the checklist; and 5) the environmental checklist itself. **Section 2** contains the Determination of Impact signed by the CEQA Lead Agency. **Section 3** includes a list of preparers of the Initial Study.

The environmental checklist identifies environmental issue areas that could be affected by the Project and lists the determination of whether the Project's effects on those areas are significant, potentially significant unless mitigation is incorporated, less than significant, or have no impact. The checklist also contains the rationale and support for each determination. The determination of impact is a statement following the checklist and shown in Section 4, endorsed by DGS the CEQA Lead Agency. DGS has concluded that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is appropriate to comply with CEQA.

1.1 Project Description

1.1.1 Project Location

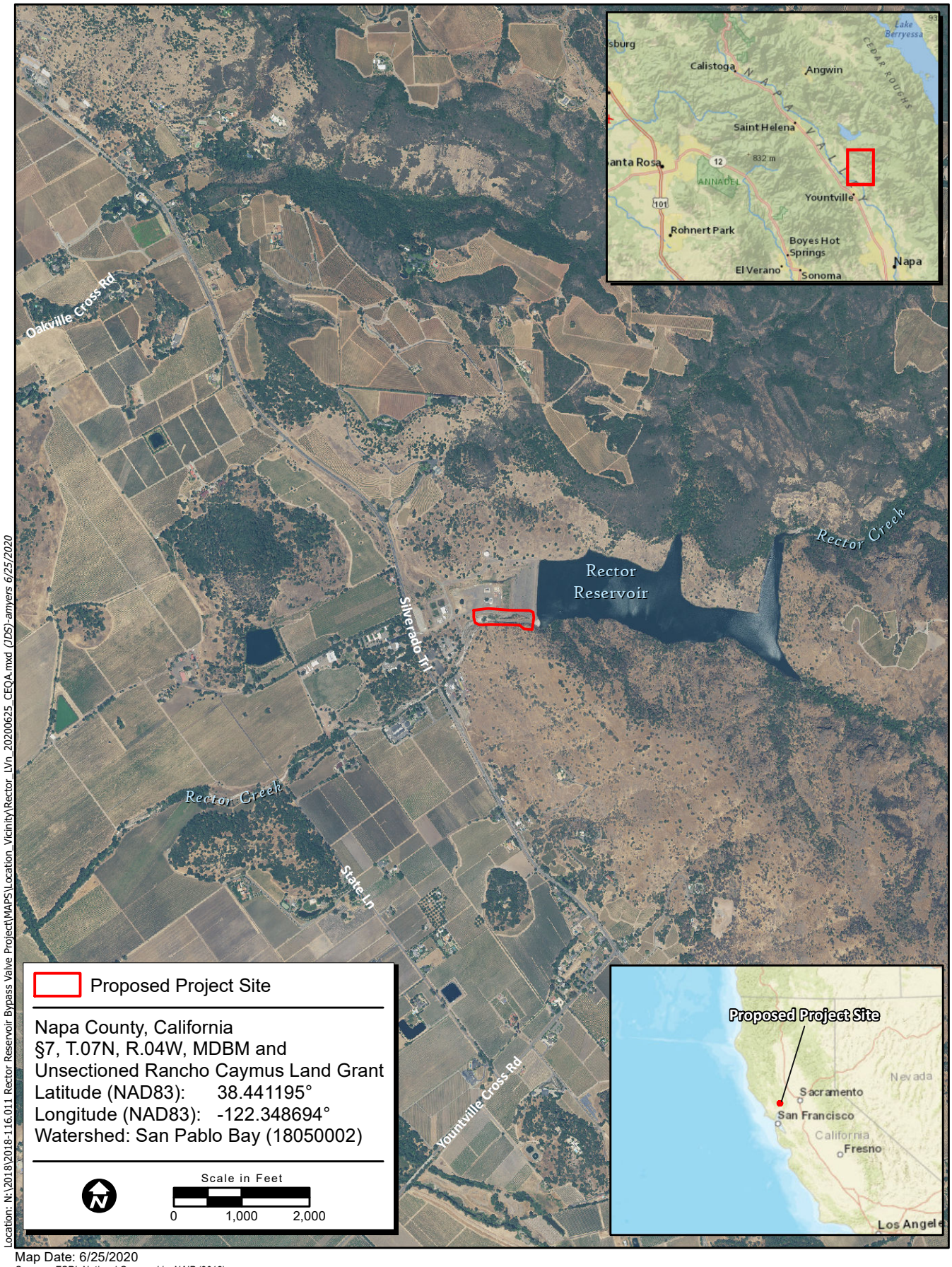
The Project is located at Rector Dam on Rector Creek, east of the Silverado Trail in Napa County near the Town of Yountville, California (see Figure 1. *Project Location and Vicinity*, Figure 2. *Project Site*, and Figure 3. *Proposed Facilities*).

1.1.2 Project Description

Rector Creek flows from the east side of the Napa Valley and is a tributary to Conn Creek, which is a tributary to the Napa River. As noted, the State of California built Rector Dam in 1946 and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) has operated the dam and reservoir since that time to supply drinking water to the Veterans Home of California in Yountville, the Napa State Hospital, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Bay-Delta Region office, the Town of Yountville, and several local wineries. CalVet also supplies untreated water to the CDFW Silverado Fisheries Base, which includes a hatchery located along Rector Creek downstream of the dam, and to the CAL FIRE training facility, located at the base of Rector Dam. Water delivered to the Fisheries Base is returned to Rector Creek approximately 0.35 miles downstream of the spillway while water delivered to the other uses listed above are for consumptive purposes.

The stream reach below Rector Dam is accessible to anadromous fish. Neither CalVet's license to operate Rector Reservoir nor its water rights supporting those operations include specific instream flow release requirements. In response to a complaint filed in relation to the absence of specific instream flow release requirements, CalVet is proceeding in good faith to assess and implement minimum flow release requirements for Rector Reservoir and construct the needed infrastructure to facilitate these releases. In support of this effort a preliminary instream flow study was conducted to provide guidance in establishing an interim minimum flow release schedule at Rector Dam. DGS recognizes the need for further data collection and analysis in order to establish an effective and sustainable long-term minimum flow release schedule for Rector Reservoir and is currently in the process of conducting additional data collection and analysis.

Rector Creek Dam is a 164-foot-high earth-fill structure with a crest elevation of 381.5 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL). A tower with intake inverts at 270, 291, 307, 323, 335, and 339 feet above MSL supplies the low-level outlet, a 30-inch iron pipe. In order to facilitate long-term releases to Rector Creek below Rector Dam, CalVet proposes to construct a bypass water pipe to provide a constant flow back to the creek at a point immediately downstream of the dam.



Location: N:\2018\2018-116.011 Rector Reservoir Bypass Valve Project\MAPS\Location_Vicinity\Rector_LVn_20200625_CEQA.mxd (JDS)-amyers 6/25/2020

Map Date: 6/25/2020

Sources: ESRI, National Geographic, NAIP (2018)

Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity

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2018-116.011 Rector Reservoir Bypass Valve Project

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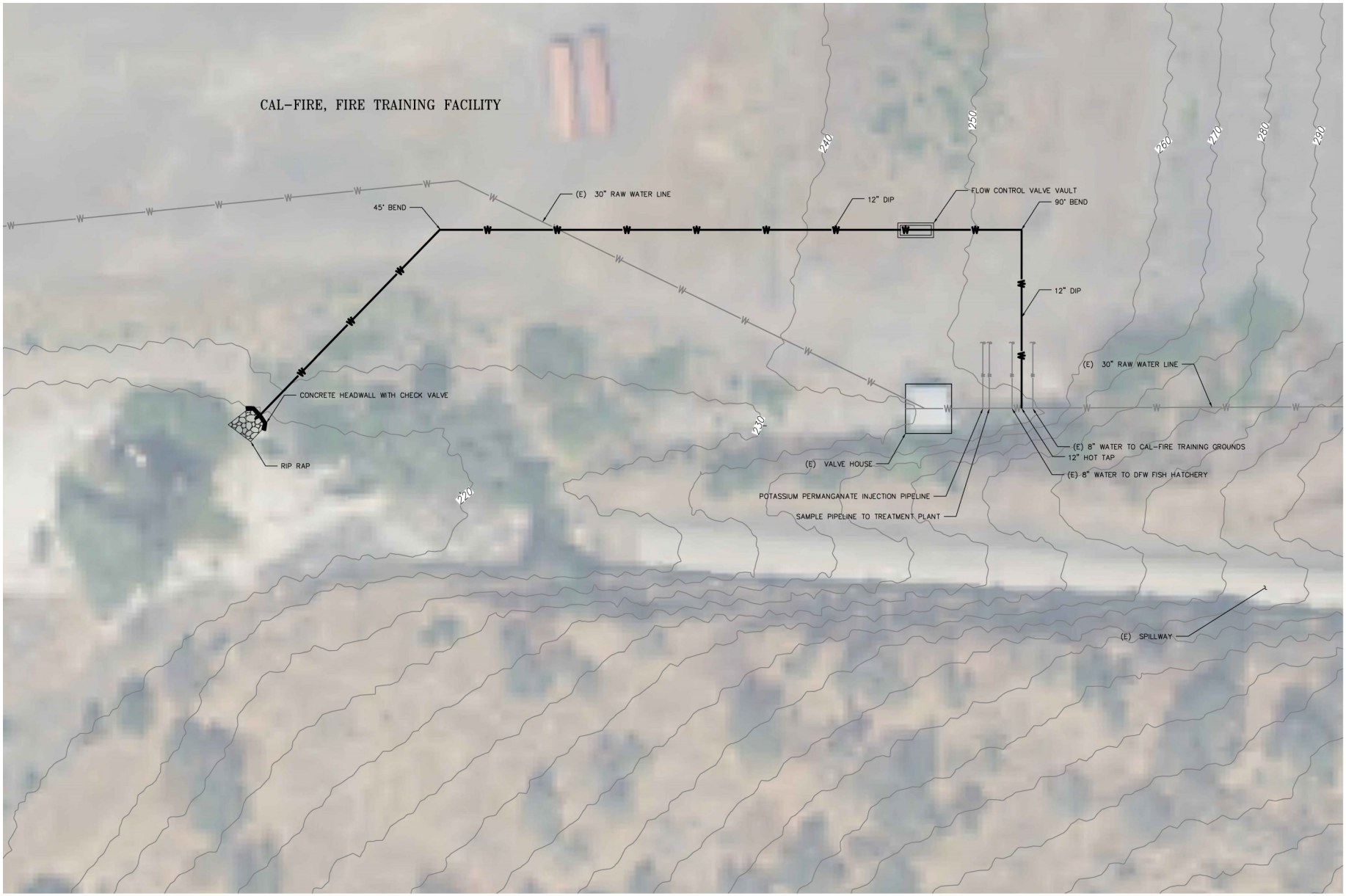
Figure 2. Project Site

2018-116.011 Rector Reservoir Bypass Valve



SITE PLAN

20' 10' 0 20'
SCALE: 1" = 20'

ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Figure 3. Proposed Facilities

2018-116.011 Rector Reservoir Bypass Valve

Based on a preliminary design report, CalVet would construct a "hot tap" (bypass valve) which would connect to the existing 36" diameter raw water main that runs beneath the dam and carries water from the reservoir's intake tower to the CalVet water treatment plant. The bypass valve would be installed between an existing 8" tap which serves the CDFW fish hatchery and a 6" tap which serves the fire training facility. Raw water to be released to Rector Creek will be carried from the bypass valve via a short pipeline to an outfall structure located on the bank of Rector Creek (see Figure 3).

With the completion of the bypass valve facilities described above, CalVet would implement minimum flow releases to Rector Creek in accordance with the recommendations presented in the Rector Creek Preliminary Instream Flow and Stream Habitat Assessment prepared by Stillwater Sciences and dated December 2018. The EIR will analyze implementing interim minimum releases schedule and construction and operation of the bypass valve facilities at the project level. In recognition that with the completion of ongoing long-term minimum release studies, permanent minimum flow release schedules may be implemented that could vary from the proposed release schedule, the EIR will address the future establishment of a permanent schedule at a programmatic level.

1.2 Project Overview

Project Title:	Rector Reservoir Bypass Valve Project
Lead Agency Name and Address:	California Department of General Services/Real Estate Services Division 707 Third St., 4th Floor West Sacramento, California 95605
Contact Person and Phone Number:	Terry Ash, Senior Environmental Planner Department of General Services / Real Estate Services Division/ Project Management and Development Branch / Environmental Services Phone: 916-376-3824 Email: terry.ash@dgs.ca.gov
Project Location:	Rector Dam on Rector Creek, east of the Silverado Trail in Napa County near the Town of Yountville, California.
Project Sponsor's Name and Address:	California Department of Veterans Affairs 1227 O Street, Suite 314 Sacramento, California 95814
Land Designations:	Agriculture, Watershed, and Open (Napa County General Plan) Agricultural Watershed (Napa County Zoning Code)

1.3 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

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

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture/Forestry Resources	☒ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☒ Energy
☒ Geology/Soils	☒ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☒ Hazards/ Hazardous Materials
☒ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☒ Noise	☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation/Traffic	☒ Tribal Resources
☒ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

1.4 Evaluation of Environmental Impact

In review of *Section 1.5 Environmental Checklist* the reader should note:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

5) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

6) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

7) The explanation of each issue should identify:

    a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question.
    b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

1.5 Environmental Checklist

1.5.1 Aesthetics

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				Yes
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				Yes
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			Yes	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			Yes	

Discussion

a-b) CEQA Guidelines do not contain a specific definition of what constitutes a "scenic vista." What some may consider a scenic vista may not be considered that by others. For purposes of this IS, a scenic vista is defined as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public. Construction of the proposed Rector Dam Bypass Valve facilities will introduce new exposed piping and valve equipment in an area at the base Rector dam in an already industrialized location containing water conveyance and monitoring facilities, gravel roadways and parking areas and the dam spillway structure (see Figure 2). Proposed Project improvements are located exclusively on land owned and operated by CalVet and are remote from any public observation points. The Proposed Project also includes installation of an outfall adjacent to the Rector Creek stream channel approximately 100 feet downstream of the dam spillway. This too will be constructed on land owned by CalVet. As with the proposed bypass valve, the outfall would not be viewable from any public observation points given that properties adjacent to and north of the channel are owned by the State of California.

The area potentially affected by placement of the bypass valve, pipeline and outfall structure is limited and lacks any existing scenic resources such as mature trees, rock outcroppings or structures. As such, the Proposed Project would have no impact on scenic vistas or scenic resources.

c) The scenic character of the areas affected by the proposed project, namely, the areas in which the proposed bypass valve, pipeline and outfall would be installed, is dominated by Rector Dam and its spillway, water conveyance structures at the base of the dam, support facilities/structures, and the Rector Creek stream channel and adjacent areas of, at various locations, dense pockets of riparian vegetation. The CalVet water treatment plant is located approximately 300 yards west of the dam. Property to the west of the water treatment plant is operated by the Napa County Public Works Department and contains various structures and equipment storage areas. Views of the areas north and south of the project site are dominated by scenic wooded hillsides. Silverado Trail is located approximately one quarter mile west of the project site, but the proposed improvement areas are not visible from that roadway.

The relatively small size of the bypass valve above-ground structure, i.e., less than six feet high and ten feet long, and its location amongst existing conveyance structures suggests it would not significantly alter the scenic character of the area. The proposed outfall structure will also be relatively small in size, (less than 6x6x6 feet) and constructed primarily of concrete. While its placement adjacent to the stream channel would introduce a new structure to a relatively undeveloped section of streambank, the effect of the structure on the scenic character of the area which is already dominated by the dam, spillway, and related facilities would be less than significant.

d) The Project will not introduce new permanent sources of light.

1.5.2 Agricultural and Forest Resources

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?				Yes
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or with a Williamson Act contract?			Yes	
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))?				Yes
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				Yes

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?			Yes	

Discussion

a) As described above, the installation of proposed project facilities will occur exclusively within property owned and operated by CalVet. Areas potentially affected by installation of the bypass valve, pipeline and outfall are not designated as Prime or Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The Project does not propose to convert lands currently or historically (i.e., after completion of Rector Reservoir in 1946) used for agriculture. As such, the Project would have no impact for Item a).

b) As shown in the 2008-2030 Napa County Land Use Plan (as revised 12/20/2016) the County land use designation for the Project site and surrounding parcels is "Agricultural, Watershed, and Open Space." This designation occupies the largest amount of land in the unincorporated areas of Napa County and is intended to protect lands within this designation from being subdivided or converted to other land uses without a countywide vote.[1] As described above, the Project would not convert areas affected by valve, pipeline or outfall installation from agricultural use. The proposed facilities are considered consistent with existing uses on and adjacent to the Project Site. The Project Site is zoned as Agricultural Watershed (AW). As the Project is consistent with current and historical use of the Project site and does not substantially expand any of those uses, the Project is considered consistent with current zoning.

c-d) The Project is not located in an area zoned for Forestland nor would Project construction or operation directly or indirectly affect forest or timberland resources. The Project, therefore, would have no impact relative to Items (c) and (d).

e) No other changes to the existing environment would occur as a result of the Project that could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

[1] City of Calistoga General Plan Land Use Element. 2015

1.5.3 Air Quality

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	Yes			
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	Yes			
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	Yes			
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	Yes			
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	Yes			

Discussion

a-e) Project construction will require site preparation, excavation, grading, pipe and valve installation and construction of the proposed outfall structure. Air pollutant emissions associated with these activities are considered mobile sources and short term. While these activities will affect a relatively small area and be of short duration, these activities would generate dust and other pollutant emissions associated with heavy equipment operation. Emission of pollutants generated during these activities could adversely affect air quality and expose CalVet employees and contractors at Rector Reservoir and Water Treatment Plan to pollutants or objectionable odors. Although these are temporary impacts occurring only during project construction, they are considered ***potentially significant*** and warrant further evaluation in the Draft EIR.

No long-term impacts related to Project operation are anticipated.

1.5.4 Biological Resources

Would the project:

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

Discussion

a) The Project would construct a bypass valve in a previously disturbed area relatively devoid of native vegetation and near other existing water conveyance facilities. Excavation to install a raw water line between the bypass valve and the proposed outfall structure would occur as part of Project construction. An outfall structure to release water conveyed through the proposed pipeline and bypass valve into Rector Creek would be constructed. Removal of vegetation within the proposed pipeline alignment and at the outfall location could occur, potentially having a substantial adverse effect to special-status terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species through habitat modification. This is considered a potentially significant impact and will be evaluated in the Draft EIR.

Short-term operation of the Project will establish interim minimum release flows while additional information is collected for the purpose of benefitting native fish species in Rector Creek and downstream. This information will be used to evaluate whether the environmental flows are sufficient to keep fish downstream of the dam in good condition. With the development of additional information and analysis, a schedule for long-term minimum release flows will be implemented. The effects of implementing short- and long-term minimum release flows in Rector Creek could have significant effects (either adverse or beneficial) on aquatic species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species and warrant further evaluation in the Draft EIR.

b-c) Construction and operation of the Project could have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat and other sensitive communities including freshwater emergent wetlands and will be evaluated further in the Draft EIR.

d) While construction activities related to the Project are not excepted to significantly affect the movement of wildlife or migratory fish species, the implementation of short-term and long-term minimum release flows in Rector Creek could alter the migratory behavior of native and/or non-native fish species that use Rector Creek to forage, spawn or rear young. This is a potentially significant impact and will be evaluated further in the Draft EIR.

e) The Project would install new facilities within the Rector Creek riparian corridor and stream channel and would implement short- and long-term minimum release flows in Rector Creek. This may or may not conflict with existing local policies or ordinances pertaining to the protection of biological resources. This issue will be evaluated further in the Draft EIR.

f) The Project is not located in nor would it affect resources included within any approved County or Regional Conservation Plan Natural Community Conservation Plan or Habitat Conservation Plan. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on such plans.

1.5.5 Cultural Resources

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	Yes			
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	Yes			
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	Yes			

Discussion

a) Construction activities for the Project, including excavation for valve, water pipeline and outfall construction, will disturb less than one acre of land. The potential effect of these activities on any significant historic resources is currently unknown and is, therefore, considered potentially significant. This issue will be evaluated in the Draft EIR.

b) CEQA guidelines state that an archaeological resource shall first be evaluated for historical significance as defined under subdivision (a) of Section 15064.5. If an archaeological site does not meet the criteria of a historical resource, it is then determined whether it meets the definition of a unique archeological resource under Section 21083.2 of the Public Resources Code. As with historic resources discussed above in Item a), the potential effect of Project construction activities on significant archeological resources is unknown and is therefore, considered potentially significant, warranting further evaluation in the Draft EIR.

c) While there is no reason to suspect the presence of human remains at the Project site, it is possible that currently unknown remains may occur and, therefore, further evaluation will be conducted for the Draft EIR.

1.5.6 Energy

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?			Yes	
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				Yes

Discussion

a) Construction activities for the Project will be limited to bypass valve and water pipeline installation and outfall construction. Project construction will be of short duration, lasting no more than one construction season. Standard construction practices will be used. Significant impact due to wasteful or inefficient energy consumption are not expected and are highly unlikely. Long-term implementation of the minimum release flow through Project facilities will be accomplished entirely via gravity without the use of pumps or other machinery and, therefore, energy required to operate the Project would be minimal.

b) For reasons present above and given the nature of the Project, it presents no conflict or obstruction to any state or local energy plans.

Geology and Soils

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significantly Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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.)				Yes
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				Yes
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				Yes
iv) Landslides?				Yes
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	Yes			
c) Be located in a geological unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	Yes			
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?				Yes
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				Yes

Discussion

a) The Project is a water infrastructure project and would not construct any inhabited structures nor would it induce the construction of inhabited structures. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact due to increased risk due to earthquake, seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure or landslide.

b) The effect of the Project on soil erosion, particularly in relation to the construction and operation of the proposed outfall structure on Rector Creek is unknown and, therefore, considered a potentially significant impact requiring further evaluation in the Draft EIR.

c) The geologic and soil conditions on which the Project would be located have yet to be evaluated, thus the stability or suitability of those conditions to support the proposed facilities is unknown. This is considered a potentially significant impact relative to Item c) and will be evaluated further in the Draft EIR. The effect of the Project on soil erosion, particularly in relation to the construction and operation of the proposed outfall structure on Rector Creek is unknown and, therefore, considered a potentially significant impact requiring further evaluation in the Draft EIR.

d) As noted, the Project would construct no permanent inhabited structures and, therefore, poses no risk to life and property through construction on expansive soil.

e) The Proposed Project would not introduce septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems and, therefore, would have no impact relative to Item e).

1.5.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	Yes			
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	Yes			

Discussion

a-b) Certain gases in Earth's atmosphere naturally trap solar energy to maintain global average temperatures within a range suitable for terrestrial life.[2] Those gases (primarily carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride) act as a "greenhouse" on a global scale. Those heat-trapping gases are known as greenhouse gases (GHG). The proposed construction of the bypass valve, pipeline and outfall would create temporary sources of GHG emissions. Although these emissions would be short-term and individually insignificant relative to the vast quantities of GHG contained in the earth's atmosphere, they must be accounted for because the impact from the emissions of GHGs is considered cumulative.

As noted, long-term operation of the Project would require minimal energy use. The potential for future GHG emissions would be limited largely to those generated during future maintenance activities. Long-term production of GHG is, therefore, considered insignificant.

[2] California Natural Resources Agency. *Final Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action: Amendments to the State CEQA Guidelines Addressing Analysis and Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Pursuant to SB97.* December 2009.

Because GHG emissions caused by proposed construction activities would contribute to cumulative adverse conditions associated with GHG and their role in global warming, the Proposed Project could have a potentially significant impact on GHG and may be inconsistent with applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted to reduce GHG emissions. This impact, therefore, will be assessed further in the Draft EIR.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the project:

Environmental Issue		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	Yes			
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?	Yes			
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				Yes
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				Yes
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				Yes
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing in the project area?				Yes
g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				Yes
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?				Yes

Discussion

a) The Project construction would require the transport or disposal of hazardous materials and the temporary use of materials such as fuel and lubricants. These materials would be transported to, stored at, and used on the Project site. The storage and use of such materials, particularly in close proximity to Rector Creek could present a significant hazard to the environment of public safety if not properly handled. This issue will be further evaluated in the Draft EIR.

b) With the use of fuels, lubricants and other chemicals during Project construction, there is the potential for accidental release during the transport or use of these materials. This issue will be evaluated in the Draft EIR.

c) No school is located within 0.25 mile of the site of Project construction.

d) The Project site is not included on any list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The Project, therefore, would have no impact.

e-f) No existing or planned airport is located in the vicinity of the Project.

g) The construction of Project facilities would occur exclusively on CalVet property near the base of Rector Dam and adjacent to and in the Rector Creek stream channel just downstream. The Project construction activities will not pose any temporary or permanent impediment to public roadways or emergency response plans or evacuation routes.

h) None of the elements of the project would directly or indirectly provide for permanent residences that would relocate people into areas subject to wildfires. Therefore, the project would have ***no impact*** on hazards associated with wildland fires.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	Yes			
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			Yes	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would:				

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	Yes			
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;			Yes	
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	Yes			
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	Yes			
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?			Yes	
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	Yes			

Discussion

a) Activities associated with Project construction would require the use of heavy equipment and vehicles containing fuel, oil, and grease, as well as materials such as cements, paints, solvents, glues, cement, and cleaners. Fluids such as oil or grease could leak from construction vehicles or be inadvertently released in the event of an accident, potentially releasing petroleum compounds laden with metals and other pollutants. Unless properly managed, such releases could enter into Rector Creek through surface runoff or by subsurface absorption through soils, which in turn could result in adverse human health or environmental effects. This impact is considered potentially significant and will be evaluated further in the Draft EIR.

b) Construction of the Project would not require the use of groundwater. Implementation of the interim and long-term minimum release flows in Rector Creek will supplement flow in the creek relative to historic conditions that have occurred since completion of Rector Dam. As such, the Project is likely to enhance groundwater recharge and supplies in areas hydrologically connected to the creek. The potential impact of the Project relative to Item b), therefore, is considered less than significant.

c)

i. The effect of the Project on soil erosion, particularly in relation to the construction and operation of the proposed outfall structure on Rector Creek is unknown and, therefore, considered a potentially significant impact requiring further evaluation in the Draft EIR.

ii. The proposed pipeline would be buried and, upon Project completion, the area along the pipeline alignment would be restored to its grade. As such, the existing drainage characteristics of the Project site would not be substantially altered by Project construction.

iii. As noted above, the proposed project would not create or contribute new sources of runoff water. The potential for the project to result in polluted runoff either through inadvertent releases of fuel or chemicals during Project construction is discussed in Item a) above, and in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section of this Initial Study. The impact is considered potentially significant and will be evaluated further in the Draft EIR.

iv. As noted, the Project would install a bypass valve, water pipeline from the valve to a proposed outfall structure on Rector Creek. Installation of the outfall structure within the north bank of Rector Creek could affect stream hydraulics. The extent of this effect is currently unknown and, therefore, is considered potentially significant. This effect will be evaluated in the Draft EIR.

d) A tsunami is a series of large waves that are caused by earthquakes that occur on the seafloor or in coastal areas. The Project site is not located in an area subject to such hazard. Mudflows generally occur in areas having steep slopes of exposed soil. Seiches are standing waves created by seismically induced ground shaking (or volcanic eruptions or explosions) that occur in large, freestanding bodies of water. The Project is located adjacent to Rector Reservoir however the Project does not pose a significant risk of release of pollutants due to inundation that could occur in the event of a seiche created at the reservoir.

e) The potential impact of the Project on any applicable water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan is currently unknown and, therefore, considered potentially significant. This issue will be assessed further in the Draft EIR.

1.5.8 Land Use and Planning

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significantly Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				Yes
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			Yes	

Discussion

a) Project facilities would be constructed entirely on CalVet property adjacent to Rector Dam and Rector Creek. It would have no impact on any established community.

b) As noted, the Project would be constructed entirely on CalVet property adjacent to Rector Dam and Rector Creek and would be consistent with ongoing approved uses on the site which include the

operation and maintenance of Rector Dam and Reservoir, raw water conveyance, water treatment, and raw release to Rector Creek. As such, the Project is consistent with approved use of the site and poses no significant impact relative to Item b).

Mineral Resources

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			Yes	
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?			Yes	

Discussion

a-b) As noted, the Project would install a bypass valve, raw water pipeline between the valve and outfall structure, and the outfall itself. These activities would not adversely affect available mineral resources or access to mineral resources.

1.5.9 Noise

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	Yes			
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	Yes			
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				Yes

Discussion

a-b) Project construction activities such as grading, excavation, valve and pipe installation and outfall construction would generate temporary high noise levels and potential ground-borne vibration. The impact on sensitive receptors, however, is not yet known and is, therefore considered potentially significant. Analysis of this impact will be included in the Draft EIR. Long-term operation of the Project would entail water diversions through the bypass valve to the outfall. Diversions will be done via gravity and will not require the operation of pumps of other machinery. Therefore, noise levels related to Project operation would be less than significant.

c) Other than during construction, the Project would not introduce any new workers of residents to the Project site. The Project, therefore, would have no potential for significant impact relative to Item c).

1.5.10 Population and Housing

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				Yes
b) Displace substantial numbers of people or existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				Yes

Discussion

a) Implementation of the Project as proposed will increase long-term releases from Rector Reservoir to Rector Creek and, thus, potentially reduce the availability of water deliveries to CalVet residential, agricultural, and institutional customers. As such, the Project has no potential to induce substantial population growth either directly or indirectly.

b) As described above, the Project would not displace existing housing or residents. The Project, therefore, would have no impact relative to Item b), above.

Public Services

Would the project:

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

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Fire protection?				Yes
b) Police protection?				Yes
c) Schools?				Yes
d) Parks?				Yes
e) Other public facilities?				Yes

Discussion

a-e) For reasons presented above, the Project would not directly or indirectly cause or support any increase in residential use or employment. As such, demand for each of the public services listed above, would be unaffected by the Project.

Recreation

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				Yes
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				Yes

Discussion

a) For reasons presented above, the Project would not directly or indirectly cause or support any increase in residential use or employment. As such, the Project will not affect the levels of use of local recreational facilities.

b) The Project does not include recreational facilities or require their construction.

1.5.11 Transportation

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?			Yes	
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?			Yes	
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				Yes
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?			Yes	

Discussion

a-b) As described above the Project would not create new uses that would induce long-term increases in traffic to and from the area.

The Project, however, would generate short-term increases in traffic during Project construction. These increases would be temporary and limited to the periodic delivery of equipment and materials, and daily transport of construction personnel to and from the Project site. Traffic generated by Project construction personnel would vary on a daily basis but is not expected to exceed twenty vehicle trips per day. Transport of equipment to and from the project site would occur sporadically and would include concrete deliveries during construction of the outfall structure. The delivery of concrete to the Project site would occur over one to two days.

Project operations, i.e., implementation of interim and long-term minimum release flows, would generate no increases in future traffic.

c) The Project would not modify any existing roadways.

d) Project construction activities including excavation, pipeline installation, outfall construction and onsite equipment/materials would in no way block or impede emergency access to the Project site or Rector Dam and Reservoir. There is sufficient room at and around the Project site to ensure adequate access during Project construction.

1.5.12 Tribal Cultural resources

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	Yes			
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.	Yes			

Discussion:

i and ii) The potential impact of Project construction and operation on Tribal cultural resources is currently unknown. Potential Project impacts on these resources, therefore, is considered potentially significant and will be evaluated in the Draft EIR.

1.5.13 Utilities and Service Systems

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Yes			
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	Yes			

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				Yes
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?			Yes	
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				Yes

Discussion

a) The Project would not introduce any new residences or other permanent uses to the project area that would increase demand for wastewater treatment, storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities on utilities or service systems including wastewater treatment, storm water drainage, or water supply. Any impact of the Project relative to increased demand for these services, therefore, is less than significant. The Project however does propose the construction of facilities designed to divert and release raw water supplies from Rector Reservoir which, as discussed above, could have an adverse effect on a variety of environmental resources. As such, this impact is considered potentially significant and will be evaluated further in the Draft EIR.

b) Operation of the Project would require implementation of interim and long-term minimum release flows to Rector Creek from Rector Reservoir. Operation of the Project could, and likely would, substantially reduce water storage in Rector Reservoir and thus reduce the volume of water supply available to CalVet to serve existing and future water demand in certain circumstances. The impact of the Project on water supply is currently unknown and, therefore, is considered potentially significant. This issue will be evaluated in the Draft EIR.

c) The Project would not directly or indirectly increase demand for wastewater treatment.

d-e) Any solid waste generated by Project construction would be disposed of in a manner consistent with state and local standards. The Project is expected to generate only limited amounts of waste. No significant demolition of existing facilities is proposed nor is the export of excavated materials expected.

1.5.14 Wildfire

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				Yes
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				Yes
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or				Yes
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				Yes

Discussion

a-b) As noted previously, the Project would not construct permanent inhabited structures.

c) The installation of a bypass valve, water pipeline and outfall structure will not require the construction of fire-related infrastructure.

d) See a).

1.5.15 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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?	Yes			

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?.	Yes			
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	Yes			

Discussion

a) This Initial Study identifies a number of resource areas for which the proposed project could have a significant adverse impact. These areas include air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, hazardous materials, noise, utilities (i.e., water supply), and Tribal cultural resources. As discussed in the previous sections, each of the impacts identified as potentially significant are subject to further evaluation in the Draft EIR.

b) Project construction and/or operation has the potential to adversely affect environmental resources identified in this checklist. The incremental effect of the Project on these resources could be considered cumulatively considerable and will be subject to further evaluation in the Draft EIR.

c) Project construction activities could affect humans through short-term increases in air pollutant emissions and noise and the use of potentially hazardous materials in the construction process. Project operation has the long-term potentially to adversely affect the availability of water supply to serve existing and future users. The extent of these effects are currently unknown and will be subject to further analysis in the Draft EIR.

SECTION 2.0 DETERMINATION OF IMPACT

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

Chris Stabenfeldt	6/30/2020
Signature	Date
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Name	Title

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