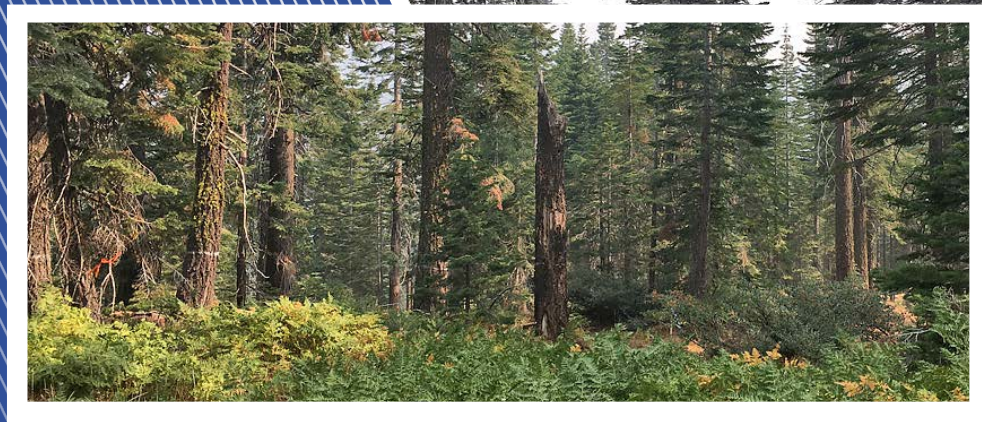


PROJECT-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS AND ADDENDUM TO THE CalVTP PEIR
Grouse Ridge Vegetation Treatment Project



Prepared for:

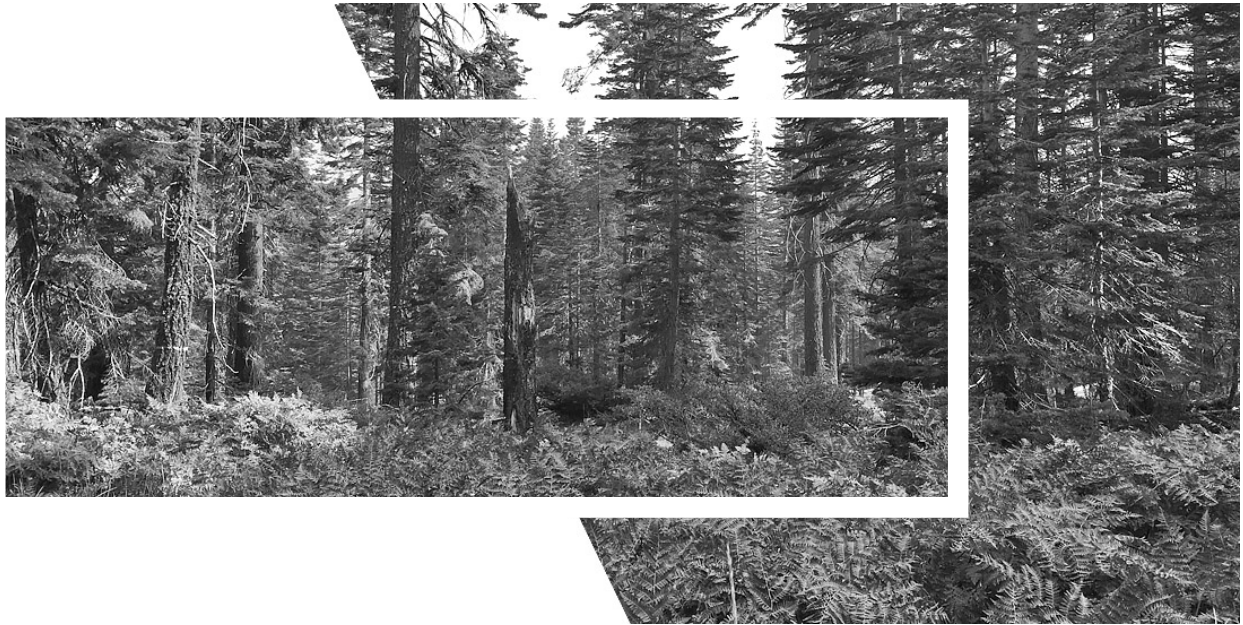
Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

UC Regents

December 2020

PROJECT-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS AND ADDENDUM TO THE CaIVTP PEIR

Grouse Ridge Vegetation Treatment Project



Prepared for:

UC Regents
Berkeley Forests
4501 Blodgett Forest Road
Georgetown, CA 95634

Contact:

Ariel Thomson Roughton
Research Forests Manager
530.333.4475

Prepared by:

Ascent Environmental, Inc.
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact:

Stephanie Rasmussen
Project Manager
916.842.3173

December 2020

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMEX	Adaptive Forest Management Experiment
Board	California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
CAAQS	California ambient air quality standards
CalVTP	California Vegetation Treatment Program
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
dbh	diameter at breast height
ELZ	Equipment Limitation Zone
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
GHG	greenhouse gas
GRRF	Grouse Ridge Research Forest
HCP	habitat conservation plan
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
MMRP	mitigation monitoring and reporting program
NAAQS	national ambient air quality standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCP	natural community conservation plan
NCIC	North Central Information Center
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSAQMD	Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
PEIR	Program Environmental Impact Report
project	Grouse Ridge Vegetation Treatment Project
PSA	Project-Specific Analysis
RPF	Registered Professional Forester
SPR	standard project requirement
SRA	State Responsibility Area
UAIC	United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
UC Regents	Regents of the University of California
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WLPZ	Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) evaluates the potential environmental effects of implementing qualifying vegetation treatments to reduce the risk of wildfire throughout the State Responsibility Area (SRA) in California. It was designed for use by state, special district, and local agencies to accelerate vegetation treatment project approvals determined to be within the scope of the PEIR. To support this effort, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is developing CalVTP training modules, including example Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) documents to help guide state and local agencies in preparing their own PSAs under the CalVTP PEIR.

In July 2020, the Regents of the University of California (UC Regents) submitted information regarding proposed vegetation treatments in the Grouse Ridge Research Forest (GRRF) to the Board to be considered for use as an example PSA in the statewide CalVTP training module. The Board selected the UC Regents' proposed vegetation treatment project to be used to prepare a PSA that will not only provide California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for the UC Regents to approve and implement the project but serve as an example PSA for other agencies seeking to use the CalVTP PEIR to accelerate approval of their own vegetation treatment projects.

The GRRF was acquired by Berkeley Forests in 2016 through Pacific Gas and Electric Company's land conservation program. The area has a history of logging, wildfire, and recent regeneration and is primarily used for research. The predominant research project at GRRF currently is the Adaptive Management Experiment (AMEX), which is a large-scale, replicated experiment designed to generate and track long-term changes in forest composition, structure, and function resulting from climate change (Berkeley Forests 2020).

1.2 CEQA LEAD AGENCY AND PROPOSED PROJECT

Serving as the lead agency under CEQA, UC Regents proposes to implement vegetation treatments on 1,134.3 acres of land within the GRRF in Nevada County (Figure 1-1). The proposed treatment types are ecological restoration and fuel break, and the treatment activities are manual, mechanical, herbicide, and prescribed burning treatments. These treatment types and treatment activities are consistent with those covered in the CalVTP PEIR. Ongoing maintenance of the proposed vegetation treatments would involve the same vegetation treatment activities as the original treatment (i.e., manual, mechanical, herbicide, and prescribed burning treatments).

1.3 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

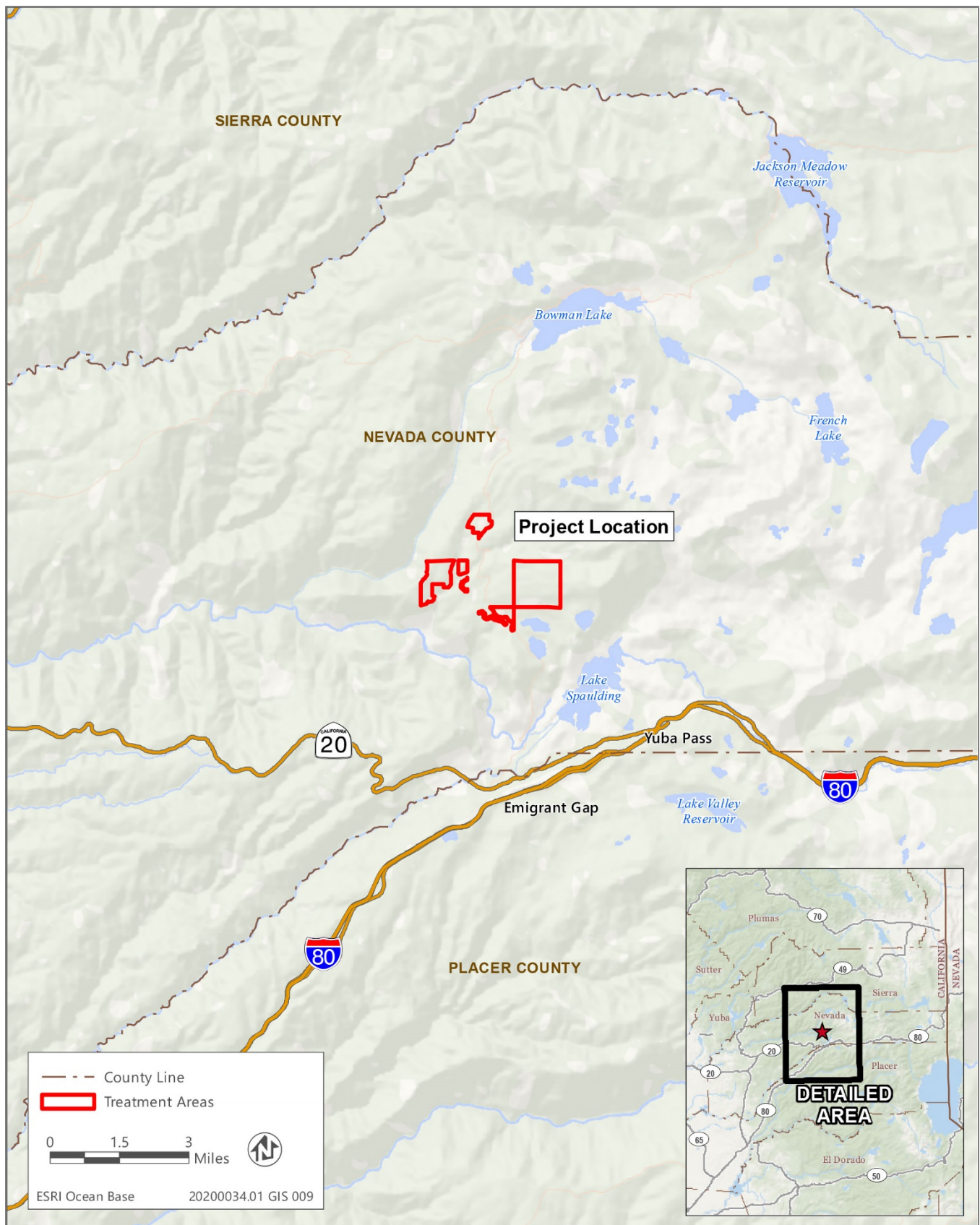
This document serves as the PSA to evaluate whether the proposed project is within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR. As described above, the treatment types and treatment activities are consistent with the CalVTP. Among the other criteria for determining whether a treatment project is within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR is whether it is within the CalVTP treatable landscape (i.e., the geographic extent of analysis covered in the PEIR). If a proposed vegetation treatment project is covered by the evaluation of environmental effects in the PEIR, it may be approved using a finding that the project is within the scope of the PEIR for its CEQA compliance, consistent with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2).

Portions of the proposed project treatment areas extend outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape. In total, the area outside of the treatable landscape is 405.8 acres; however, it is dispersed in small sections of the treatment areas (Figure 1-2). This scattered array of acres is located outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape because the boundary of the CalVTP treatable landscape was digitally developed and the large scale of the area did not allow high mapping resolution. Using desktop applications to apply buffers around geographic and topographic features and to demarcate jurisdictional boundaries (i.e., SRA and Local Responsibility Area, or LRA), the method resulted in some

treatable landscape areas that are shown on maps to be disjointed and scattered, and some that are in held LRA areas surrounded by SRA. If the areas of the proposed project outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape have essentially the same, or at least substantially similar, landscape conditions as the treatable landscape, the environmental analysis in the PEIR would be applicable.

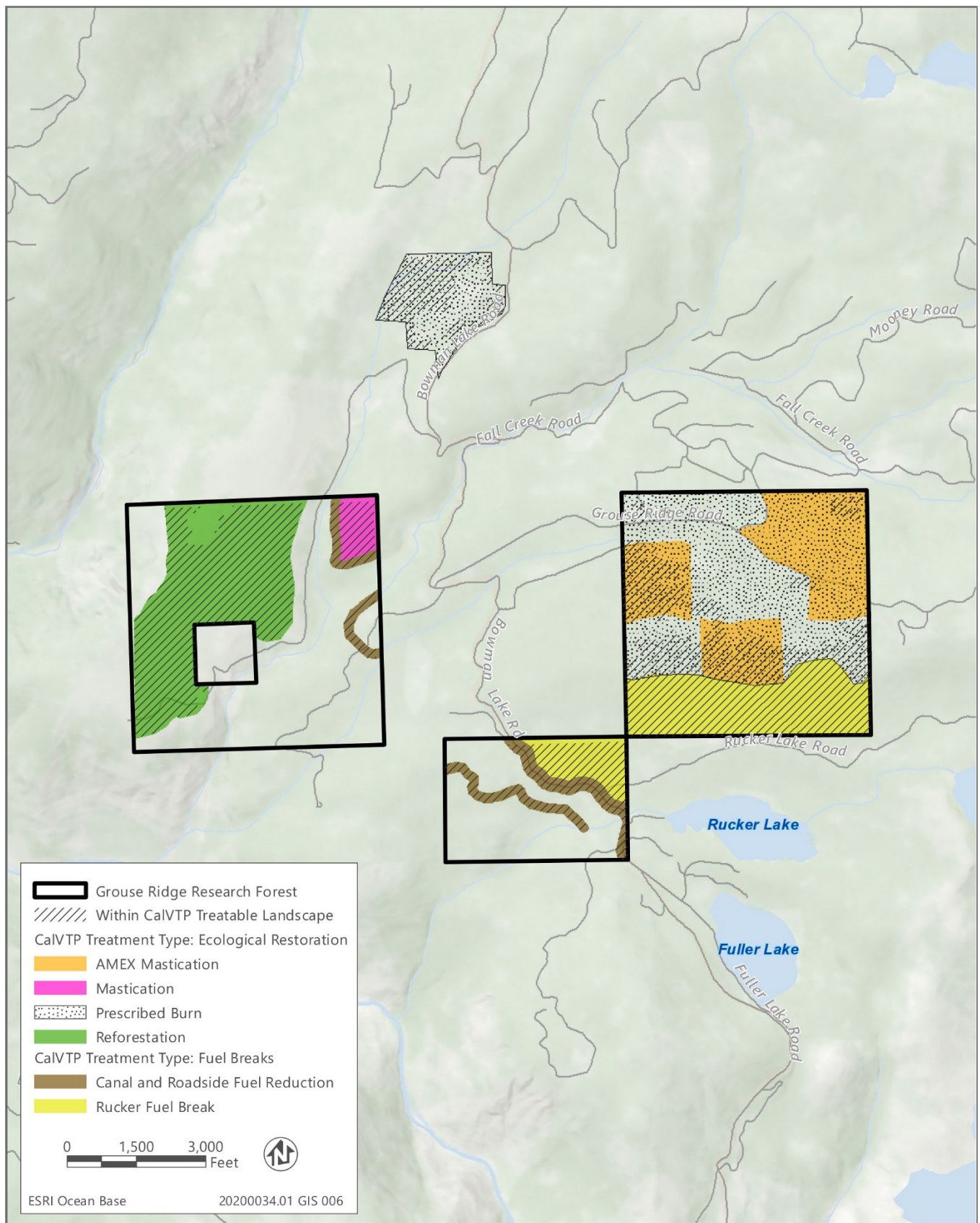
An Addendum to an EIR is appropriate when a previously certified EIR has been prepared and some changes or revisions to the project are proposed, or the circumstances surrounding the project have changed, but none of the changes or revisions would result in new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts, consistent with CEQA Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162, 15163, 15164, and 15168. In this case, there are no changed circumstances. There is a proposed revision to or change in the project, compared to the PEIR, which is the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape. The PSA checklist (refer to Section 3, "Project-Specific Analysis/Addendum") includes the criteria to support an Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR for the inclusion of proposed treatment areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape. The checklist evaluates each resource in terms of whether the later treatment project, including the "changed condition" of additional geographic area, would result in significant impacts that would be substantially more severe than those covered in the CalVTP PEIR and/or would result in any new impacts that were not covered in the PEIR.

This document serves as both a PSA and an Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR to provide CEQA compliance for the proposed vegetation treatments within and outside of the treatable landscape. The project-specific mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP), which identifies the CalVTP standard project requirements (SPRs) and mitigation measures (MMs) applicable to the proposed project, is presented in Attachment A. The SPRs identified in the MMRP have been incorporated into the proposed vegetation treatments as a standard part of treatment design and implementation.



Source: Adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

Figure 1-1 Regional Location of the Grouse Ridge Treatment Project



Source: Data received from UC Regents in 2020

Figure 1-2 Proposed Grouse Ridge Project Treatments

2 VEGETATION TREATMENT PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** Grouse Ridge Vegetation Treatment Project
2. **Project Proponent Name and Address:** UC Regents
Berkeley Forests
4501 Blodgett Forest Road
Georgetown, CA 95634
3. **Project Proponent Contact Person Information and Phone Number:** Ariel Thomson Roughton
(530) 333-4475
athomson@berkeley.edu
4. **Project Location:** Nevada City, CA 95959, Nevada County
Township 17N, Range 11E, Section 1, and 17N, 12E, Sections 5 & 7

Project includes four treatment areas: one north of Rucker Lake Road and along Grouse Ridge Road, one west of Bowman Lake Road and north of Fall Creek, one east of Rucker Lake and bisected by Bowman Lake Road, and one west of Bowman Lake Road. Approximately 5 miles northeast of the town of Omega and 21 miles northeast of Nevada City (Figure 1-2).
5. **Total Area to Be Treated (acres):** 1,134.3
6. **Description of Vegetation Treatment Project:**

a. **Initial Treatment**

The Grouse Ridge Vegetation Treatment Project (project) is proposed to improve overall forest health and provide watershed benefits. Objectives for the vegetation treatments are to:

- ▶ reforest and improve fire-damaged areas;
- ▶ reduce long-term fuel loading and improve habitat continuity;
- ▶ increase individual tree health and spacing;
- ▶ create a heterogeneous forest structure resilient to future natural disturbances and climate scenarios; and
- ▶ support and facilitate current, proposed, and future research and demonstration projects.

Proposed treatment types are fuel break and ecological restoration, and treatment activities would include mechanical and manual treatments, herbicide application, and prescribed burning. Herbicides proposed for use are glyphosate and imazapyr. Herbicide application would be limited to ground-based methods, such as using a backpack sprayer or painting herbicide onto cut stems. No aerial spraying of herbicides would occur. The following equipment would be used to implement the proposed treatments:

- ▶ Mastication – up to three compact tracked loaders with mulching head and up to three excavators with masticating head;
- ▶ Pile burn – one excavator with rack and thumb and one dozer with blade;
- ▶ Prescribed burn – one compact tracked loader with blade; and
- ▶ Site preparation – up to two excavators with rack and thumb, up to two dozers with blade, and one compact tracked loader with blade.

Implementation of initial treatments would require up to 10 crew members, along with their associated vehicles to travel to and from the treatment areas. Biomass from treatments would be disposed of either with pile burning

consisting of igniting biomass piles constructed either manually by hand-cut and hand-pile or mechanically with a dozer or excavator, or by lopping and scattering biomass in areas where material cannot safely be burned. Treatments would be scheduled to begin in January of 2021 depending on equipment/contractor availability, weather conditions, and other restrictions and would be completed by spring of 2024.

Through existing and new partnerships with local organizations, agencies, and schools, the vegetation treatment project would improve GRRF's capacity to be used as a demonstration site for students, landowners, and other stakeholders. Treatments are designed in collaboration through these partnerships to highlight different options available to forestland owners in the state. The proposed treatments are described in more detail below.

Ecological Restoration

Ecological restoration treatments would seek to return the landscape closer to native conditions where natural fire processes can be reestablished and habitat quality can be improved, including controlling and eliminating nonnative, invasive plants and excess fire fuel buildup from fire exclusion practices. Restoration activities would also seek to increase tree densities in previously burned areas that are now dominated with shrubs. The goals of these restoration activities are to enhance long-term carbon storage potential and restore the area's forest-dominated structure.

AMEX Mastication Treatment – AMEX mastication treatments would be conducted to support the ongoing long-term AMEX located in GRRF. The AMEX mastication treatment would occur on approximately 230.5 acres divided over three areas (Figure 1-2). Approximately 85 acres of this treatment area would be within the treatable landscape. Mastication and thinning would be used to treat understory trees and brush, reduce wildfire hazard, and increase carbon in residual trees. No trees greater than 10 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) would be removed. Mastication would assist in moving this area from a Condition Class 3 fire return interval departure (i.e., greater than 67 percent departed) to a more natural condition while simultaneously reducing surface and ladder fuels. Condition class is a function of the degree of departure from historical fire regimes. Condition Class 3 areas have the greatest departure from historic conditions, where fire behavior is uncharacteristic and vegetation composition is altered from the loss of the key components of an ecosystem. Treatments would reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire while also allowing the regeneration of trees for rapid carbon sequestration over the next 5 years. Mastication would focus on live and dead ladder fuels up to 10 inches dbh (with the exception of rock outcrops and protected/retention trees). The masticated fuel bed would have a depth of no more than 18 inches. In areas with sparse trees greater than 8 inches dbh (i.e., no canopy trees), smaller trees of the best vigor would be retained with approximately 16-foot spacing between retained trees. Biomass would be disposed of through the process of mastication, which would chip and distribute removed vegetation. In some areas, vegetation would be removed through the use of prescribed burning to consume masticated material. This treatment is anticipated to occur in 2021; prescribed burning is expected occur in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Mastication Treatment – Mastication of approximately 23 acres, 20 acres of which is within the treatable landscape, would occur to connect the fuel break treatments along Bowman-Spaulling Canal (see description below). Within this 25-acre area, the understory component of woody shrubs and seedlings would be masticated. Biomass would be disposed of through the process of mastication, which would chip and distribute removed vegetation. This treatment is expected to occur in 2021.

Prescribed Burn Treatment – Prescribed burning would be used to further reduce fuel loading in two distinct areas. Approximately 587.3 acres would be treated using prescribed burning, and 215.1 acres of the treatment area are within the treatable landscape. Pretreatment of vegetation would occur in all areas proposed for prescribed burning by mastication or manual treatments. All burning would occur in accordance with regulations regarding the use of prescribed fire. This would include preparation and implementation of a burn plan to be approved by Berkeley Forests; the University of Nevada, Reno; the landowner; and the University of California Cooperative Extension. It also would involve preparation and implementation of a burn permit from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) and a smoke management plan. This treatment is expected to occur in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Reforestation Treatment – This treatment would restore approximately 253 acres of fire-damaged lands. Approximately 232 acres of this treatment area are within the treatable landscape. Following wildfire in 2008, planting and follow-up vegetation treatments implemented previously in this area were limited in their effectiveness, resulting in two forest structures: one dominated by shrubs and few trees, and the other an overly dense monoculture of ponderosa pine. The objectives of this treatment are to enhance long-term carbon storage potential and restore the area’s forest-dominated, mixed-species structure. Treatment activities within this area would include mastication, planting using manual methods, and herbicide application. This is the only treatment area where herbicides would be used, and their use would be limited to the types and application methods described above. Planting would focus on the desired mix of species for forest structure, such as white fir, incense cedar, and sugar pine. Biomass for this treatment area would be piled using equipment and burned. Mastication and planting are expected to occur in 2021, and herbicide treatments are expected to occur in 2022 and 2023.

Fuel Breaks

In strategic locations, fuel breaks create zones of vegetation removal and ongoing maintenance, often in a linear layout, that reduce wildfire risk and support fire suppression by providing responders with a staging area or access to a remote landscape for fire control actions. Only shaded fuel breaks would be implemented within the treatment areas. In forested areas, the tree canopy would be thinned to reduce the potential for a crown fire to move through the canopy; however, larger trees would remain. The shade of the retained canopy also helps reduce the potential for rapid regrowth of shrubs and sprouting hardwoods and can reduce rill and gully erosion. Fuel breaks would be established along strategic locations, including adjacent to a road, canal, and high-use area.

Canal and Roadside Fuel Reduction Treatment – Shaded fuel breaks would be created along Grouse Ridge Road and the Bowman-Spaulding Canal to strategically reduce wildfire risk by using these existing features for fuel breaks, reduce damage to the canal, and improve evacuation capacity along the road during a wildfire. Treatments along Grouse Ridge Road would total approximately 27 acres and have an average width of 300 feet. Treatments along the canal would be approximately 38 acres and have an average width of 200 feet. Approximately 62 acres of this treatment area would be within the treatable landscape. The portion of forestland bordering the canal presents management challenges related to maintaining water quality. Historically, treatments have not occurred in the watercourse or domestic water buffer zones, creating a buildup of fuels. Treatments in this area would minimize woody debris and sediment deposition into the Bowman-Spaulding Canal. Treatment activities would include hand thinning, and biomass would be disposed of using hand piling and burning. In areas where burning of piles may not be logistically feasible, biomass would be removed by lopping and scattering the removed vegetation. No herbicide treatments would occur in riparian areas. Treatments along the canal are expected to occur in 2021 through 2022, and treatments along Grouse Ridge Road are expected to occur in 2022.

Rucker Fuel Break Treatment – The treatment area is in a popular recreation area just north and upslope of Rucker Lake with Grouse Ridge Campground, Carr Lake Campground, and Rucker Lake LDS Camp, which is a youth camp. High levels of human activity in this area increase wildfire ignition potential. A shaded fuel break would be created near potential ignition source locations (i.e., campground and youth camp). This treatment would reduce wildfire risk by creating a forest structure in which fire spread would be slowed, and it would increase the potential for success during the initial attack on wildfires. The fuel break would cover approximately 206 acres and have an average width of 1,250 feet. Approximately 200 acres of this treatment area is within the treatable landscape. Proposed treatment activities for this fuel break are mastication and hand thinning. Biomass would be piled using equipment or hand crews and burned. In areas where burning of piles may not be logistically feasible, biomass would be removed by lopping and scattering the removed vegetation. This treatment is anticipated to occur in 2022 and 2023.

Treatment Types

- Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction
- Fuel Break
- Ecological Restoration

Treatment Activities

- Prescribed Burning (Broadcast), 340 acres
- Prescribed Burning (Pile Burning), 320 acres
- Mechanical Treatment, 700 acres
- Manual Treatment, 120 acres
- Prescribed Herbivory, _____ acres
- Herbicide Application, 150 acres

Note: multiple treatment activities would be applied in some areas

Fuel Type

- Grass Fuel Type
- Shrub Fuel Type
- Tree Fuel Type

b. Treatment Maintenance

AMEX Mastication Maintenance Treatment – Whether use of prescribed burning for maintenance of the AMEX mastication area occurs would be determined in collaboration with the AMEX study. A combination of mastication and prescribed fire would be used at an interval of approximately every 5–10 years dependent on fuel conditions.

Canal and Roadside Maintenance Treatment – Maintenance of treatments along Grouse Ridge Road and the Bowman-Spaulling Canal would include mastication approximately every 10 years and potentially prescribed burning depending on fuel and forest conditions. Prescribed burns could occur as soon as 1 year after treatment and up to 5 years after treatment.

Mastication Maintenance Treatment – Maintenance treatments in this area would be the same as described above for Canal and Roadside Maintenance Treatments.

Prescribed Burn Maintenance Treatment – Maintenance treatments in these areas would be the same as described for the AMEX Mastication Maintenance Treatment, above.

Reforestation Maintenance Treatment – Depending on the success of initial treatments in this treatment area, follow-up herbicide and mastication treatments may be used. Herbicide use is likely to occur between two and five growing seasons after planting. No herbicide use is planned in this treatment area after five growing seasons.

Rucker Fuel Break Maintenance Treatment – Maintenance of the Rucker Fuel Break would include mastication treatments where operationally feasible approximately every 10 years and potentially prescribed burning depending on fuel and forest conditions. Prescribed burning could occur as soon as 1 year after mastication up to 5 years after mastication. Pile burning may also be used in maintenance of the Rucker Fuel Break.

Equipment that would be used to implement treatment maintenance would include compact tracked loaders with mulching heads, excavators with masticating heads, excavators with rack and thumb, a dozer with a blade, and compact tracked loaders with a blade. Maintenance treatments would require up to 10 crew members to implement, along with their associated vehicles to travel to and from the project area.

A network of permanent one-tenth-acre plots have been installed throughout the GRRF for research and monitoring. These plots were measured after the acquisition of GRRF and provide baseline data on stand characteristics, such as tree species composition, canopy cover, surface fuel loading, understory species composition, regeneration, and more. Following the completion of treatments, remeasurement of these plots would occur to gather data on the effectiveness and impacts of the varied treatment options being utilized. This research and monitoring would play an important role in the AMEX, led by the University of Nevada, Reno. After

the prescribed burn in the AMEX treatment area, data would be collected according to AMEX inventory protocols, and the data would be used to address the research questions being addressed by the AMEX project.

Treatment Types

- Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction
 Fuel Break
 Ecological Restoration

Treatment Activities

- Prescribed Burning (Broadcast), 340 acres
 Prescribed Burning (Pile Burning), 320 acres
 Mechanical Treatment, 700 acres
 Manual Treatment, 120 acres
 Prescribed Herbivory, _____ acres
 Herbicide Application, 150 acres

Fuel Type

- Grass Fuel Type
 Shrub Fuel Type
 Tree Fuel Type

Use of the PSA for Treatment Maintenance

Prior to implementing a maintenance treatment, the project proponent would verify that the expected site conditions as described in the PSA are present in the treatment area. As time passes, the continued relevance of the PSA would be considered by the project proponent in light of potentially changed conditions or circumstances. Where the project proponent determines that the PSA is no longer sufficiently relevant, the project proponent would determine whether a new PSA or other environmental analysis is warranted.

In addition to verifying that the PSA continues to provide relevant CEQA coverage for treatment maintenance, the project proponent would update the PSA at the time a maintenance treatment is needed when more than 10 years have passed since the approval of the PSA or the latest PSA update. For example, the project proponent may conduct a reconnaissance survey to verify that conditions are substantially similar to those anticipated in the PSA. Updated information should be documented.

7. Regional Setting and Surrounding Land Uses: The project area is situated in a rural area of Nevada City in Nevada County near Rucker Lake. The project area is on state- owned and private inholdings in the Tahoe National Forest. Surrounding land uses include recreation areas, camp grounds, and undeveloped forest lands.

8. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required: (e.g., permits)

Pesticide application permit will be obtained from Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner

Smoke management plan will be prepared for NSAQMD

Burn permit will be obtained from NSAQMD

Coastal Act Compliance

- The proposed project is NOT within the Coastal Zone
 The proposed project is within the Coastal Zone (*check one of the following boxes*)

- A coastal development permit been applied for or obtained from the local Coastal Commission district office or local government with a certified Local Coastal Plan, as applicable
- The local Coastal Commission district office or local government with a certified Local Coastal Plan (in consultation with the local Coastal Commission district office) has determined that a coastal development permit is not required

9. **Native American Consultation.** *For treatment projects within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR, Native American consultation for Assembly Bill 52 compliance has been completed. The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection conducted consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 during preparation of the PEIR.* Pursuant to CalVTP SPR CUL-2, Native American contacts in Nevada County were contacted on October 6, 2020, and included Grayson Coney, Cultural Director, Tsi Akim Maidu; Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Darrel Cruz, Cultural Resources Department, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Clyde Prout, Chairperson, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe; and Pamela Cubbler, Treasurer, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe. A response was received from United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria.

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this PSA and Addendum to the PEIR and the substantial evidence supporting it:

- I find that all of the effects of the proposed project (a) have been covered in the CalVTP PEIR, and (b) all applicable Standard Project Requirements and mitigation measures identified in the CalVTP PEIR will be implemented. The proposed project within the CalVTP treatable landscape is, therefore, **WITHIN THE SCOPE** of the CalVTP PEIR. For the proposed project areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape, no new circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information been identified requiring new analysis or verification. Project changes would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts. **NO ADDITIONAL CEQA DOCUMENTATION** beyond this PSA and Addendum to the PEIR is required.
- I find that treatments in proposed project areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape do not result in substantial changes in the project, no substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, and no new information of substantial importance has been identified. The inclusion of project areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape will not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts. None of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred; therefore, this **ADDENDUM** is adopted to address the project areas outside geographic extent presented in the PEIR.
- I find that the proposed project will have effects that were not covered in the CalVTP PEIR. These effects are less than significant without any mitigation beyond what is already required pursuant to the CalVTP PEIR. A **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project will have effects that were not covered in the CalVTP PEIR or will have effects that are substantially more severe than those covered in the CalVTP PEIR. Although these effects may be significant in the absence of additional mitigation beyond the CalVTP PEIR's measures, revisions to the proposed project or additional mitigation measures have been agreed to by the project partners that would avoid or reduce the effects so that clearly no significant effects would occur. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project will have significant environmental effects that are (a) new and were not covered in the CalVTP PEIR and/or (b) substantially more severe than those covered in the CalVTP PEIR. Because one or more effects may be significant and cannot be clearly mitigated to less than significant, an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** will be prepared.

Signature  Date December 18, 2020

Printed Name: Wendy Hillis Title: Campus Architect, Assistant Vice Chancellor

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3 PROJECT-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS/ADDENDUM

3.1 AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact AES-1: Result in Short-Term, Substantial Degradation of a Scenic Vista or Visual Character or Quality of Public Views, or Damage to Scenic Resources in a State Scenic Highway from Treatment Activities	LTS	Impact AES-1, pp. 3.2-16 – 3.2-19	Yes	AES-2, AQ-2, AQ-3	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AES-2: Result in Long-Term, Substantial Degradation of a Scenic Vista or Visual Character or Quality of Public Views, or Damage to Scenic Resources in a State Scenic Highway from WUI Fuel Reduction, Ecological Restoration, or Shaded Fuel Break Treatment Types	LTS	Impact AES-2, pp. 3.2-20 – 3.2-25	Yes	AD-4, AES-1 through AES-3	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AES-3: Result in Long-Term Substantial Degradation of a Scenic Vista or Visual Character or Quality of Public Views, or Damage to Scenic Resources in a State Scenic Highway from the Non-Shaded Fuel Break Treatment Type	SU	Impact AES-3, pp. 3.2-25 – 3.2-27	No	NA	None	NA	NA	NA

Notes:

LTS: less than significant; SU: significant and unavoidable.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New Aesthetic and Visual Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to aesthetics and visual resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion	
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	
[Identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Discussion

IMPACT AES-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would include mechanical treatments, manual treatments, herbicide treatments, and prescribed burning. The potential for these treatment activities to result in short-term degradation of the visual character of a treatment area was examined in the PEIR. The proposed treatments would occur on privately owned land and land owned by the UC Regents, where public recreation trails and the Rucker Lake Campground provide public viewpoints. There are no eligible or designated scenic highways with views of the project area (Caltrans 2019). Smoke from prescribed burning could also be visible from public viewpoints. The potential for the project to result in short-term substantial degradation of the visual character of the project area is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing scenic resources are essentially the same within and outside of the treatable landscape; therefore, the short-term aesthetic impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to the proposed treatments are AES-2, AQ-2, and AQ-3. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AES-2

Initial and maintenance treatments would include ecological restoration and shaded fuel break treatment types. The potential for these treatment types to result in long-term degradation of the visual character of an area was examined in the PEIR. The treatment areas occur on privately owned land and land owned by the UC Regents, where recreation trails and the Rucker Lake Campground provide public viewpoints. However, the treatment areas are not visible from any scenic highways. The potential for the project to result in long-term substantial degradation of the visual character of the project area is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing visual character is essentially the same within and outside of the treatable landscape; therefore, the long-term aesthetic impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to the proposed treatments are AD-4 and AES-1 through AES-3. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AES-3

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because no nonshaded fuel breaks are proposed.

NEW AESTHETIC AND VISUAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities covered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.2.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.2.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The

project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions pertinent to aesthetics and visual resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impact. Therefore, no new impact related to aesthetics and visual resources would occur.

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact AG-1: Directly Result in the Loss of Forest Land or Conversion of Forest Land to a Non-Forest Use or Involve Other Changes in the Existing Environment Which, Due to Their Location or Nature, Could Result in Conversion of Forest Land to Non-Forest Use	LTS	Impact AG-1, pp. 3.3-7 – 3.3-8	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Agriculture and Forestry Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to agriculture and forestry resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
		Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Discussion

IMPACT AG-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would include mechanical treatments, manual treatments, herbicide treatments, prescribed burning, and reforestation treatments. The project area includes conifer forest and small areas of montane hardwood, montane chaparral, and mixed chaparral habitats. Mastication treatment may include the removal of brush and trees that are less than 10 inches dbh. Vegetation remaining after treatments would be consistent with the definition of forest land as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g). Treatments would include the removal of trees in the understory to improve forest health, increase carbon sequestration, and reduce wildfire risk. Revegetation would occur after prescribed burning and would focus on increasing the presence of the desired mix of species for forest structure, such as white fir, incense cedar, and sugar pine. Treatments would improve forest stand conditions and would not result in conversion to a nonforest use. Vegetation management has the potential to improve the forest stand conditions by removing competitive vegetation and scarifying the forest floor conditions, allowing for natural seeding of tree species. The potential for proposed treatment activities to result in loss or conversion of forest land was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and intensity are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the

PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the composition of forested land as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the impact to forest land is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed project is consistent with the treatment types and activities covered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.3.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.3.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to agriculture and forestry resources would occur.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact AQ-1: Generate Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors During Treatment Activities That Would exceed CAAQS or NAAQS	SU	Table 3.4-1; Impact AQ-1, pp. 3.4-26 – 3.4-32; Appendix AQ-1	Yes	AD-4, AQ-1 - AQ-4, AQ-6	None	SU	No	Yes
Impact AQ-2: Expose People to Diesel Particulate Matter Emissions and Related Health Risk	LTS	Table 3.4-6; Impact AQ-2, pp. 3.4-33 – 3.4-34; Appendix AQ-1	Yes	HAZ-1, NOI-4, NOI-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AQ-3: Expose People to Fugitive Dust Emissions Containing Naturally Occurring Asbestos and Related Health Risk	LTS	Impact AQ-3, pp. 3.4-34 – 3.4-35	No	None	NA	NA	NA	NA
Impact AQ-4: Expose People to Toxic Air Contaminants Emitted by Prescribed Burns and Related Health Risk	SU	Impact AQ-4, pp. 3.4-35 – 3.4-37	Yes	AD-4, AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-6	NA (No feasible mitigation available)	SU	No	Yes
Impact AQ-5: Expose People to Objectionable Odors from Diesel Exhaust	LTS	Impact AQ-5, pp. 3.4-37 – 3.4-38	Yes	HAZ-1, NOI-4, NOI-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AQ-6: Expose People to Objectionable Odors from Smoke During Prescribed Burning	SU	Impact AQ-6, p. 3.4-38	Yes	AD-4, AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-6	NA (No feasible mitigation available)	SU	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant; SU: significant and unavoidable.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New Air Quality Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to air quality that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant		
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

Pursuant to SPR AQ-3, the project proponent will prepare a smoke management plan and submit it to NSAQMD prior to implementing any prescribed burning treatment. The smoke management plan will include fire behavior modeling and will be implemented by a state-certified burn boss. An Incident Action Plan, which identifies burn dates, burn hours, weather limitations, specific burn prescription, communication plan, medical plan, traffic plan, and other special instructions required by NSAQMD, will also be prepared by the project proponent for all proposed prescribed burning treatments. The Incident Action Plans will also identify the contact personnel with NSAQMD to coordinate on-site briefings, posting notifications, and weather monitoring during burning.

IMPACT AQ-1

Use of vehicles, mechanical equipment, and prescribed burning during initial and maintenance treatments would result in emissions of criteria pollutants that could exceed California ambient air quality standard (CAAQS) or national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) thresholds. The potential for emissions of criteria pollutants to exceed CAAQS or NAAQS thresholds was examined in the PEIR. Emissions of criteria air pollutants related to the proposed treatment are within the scope of the PEIR because the associated equipment and duration of use are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The SPRs applicable to this treatment project are AD-4, AQ-1 through AQ-4, and AQ-6. SPR AQ-5 would not apply because no naturally occurring asbestos is mapped within the treatment area. Emission reduction techniques included in Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would be infeasible for the project proponent to implement. Because the treatments would be implemented by a research forest group with limited funding, it is cost prohibitive to use equipment meeting the latest efficiency standards, including meeting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Tier 4 emission standards, using renewable diesel fuel, using electric- and gasoline-powered equipment, and using equipment with Best Available Control Technology. In addition, crew sizes would be small and may not all be employed with the same company. Therefore, carpooling may not be feasible to implement for most of the workers or recommended during an active COVID-19 outbreak. For these reasons, and as explained in the PEIR, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable.

The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions present and air basin in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AQ-2

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during initial and maintenance treatments could expose people to diesel particulate matter emissions. The potential to expose people to diesel particulate matter emissions was examined in the PEIR. Diesel particulate matter emissions from the proposed treatments are within the scope of the PEIR because the exposure potential is the same as analyzed in the PEIR, and the types and amount of equipment that would be used, as well as the duration of use, during proposed treatments are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions and sensitive receptors (i.e., exposure potential) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HAZ-1, NOI-4, and NOI-5. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AQ-3

This impact does not apply to the treatment project, because no naturally occurring asbestos is mapped in the treatment area (NRCS 2014).

IMPACT AQ-4

Prescribed burning during initial and maintenance treatments could expose people to toxic air contaminants, which was examined in the PEIR. The duration and parameters of the prescribed burns are within the scope of the activities addressed in the PEIR, and within the Mountain Counties Air Basin, air quality conditions are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR for Nevada County. Therefore, the potential for exposure to toxic air contaminants is also within the scope the PEIR. SPRs applicable to these treatment activities are AD-4, AQ-2, AQ-3, and AQ-6. All feasible measures to prevent and minimize smoke emissions, as well as exposure to smoke, are included in SPRs. No additional mitigation measures are feasible, and this impact would remain significant and unavoidable, as explained in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions present and air basin in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AQ-5

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during initial and maintenance treatments could expose people to objectionable odors from diesel exhaust. The potential to expose people to objectionable odors from diesel exhaust was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the exposure potential and the proposed activities, as well as the associated equipment and duration of use, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions and sensitive receptors present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HAZ-1, NOI-4, and NOI-5. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AQ-6

Prescribed burning during initial and maintenance treatments could expose people to objectionable odors. The potential to expose people to objectionable odors from prescribed burning was examined in the PEIR. The duration and parameters of the prescribed burn and the exposure potential are consistent with the activities addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, the resultant potential for exposure to objectionable odors from smoke is also within the scope of impacts covered in the PEIR. SPRs that are applicable to this treatment project are AD-4, AQ-2, AQ-3, and AQ-6. All feasible measures to prevent and minimize smoke odors, as well as exposure to smoke odors, are included in SPRs. No additional mitigation measures are feasible, and this impact would remain significant and unavoidable, as explained in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions present and sensitive receptors in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities covered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable regulatory and environmental conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.4.1, "Regulatory Setting," and Section 3.4.2, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to air quality that are

present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impact. Therefore, no new impact related to air quality would occur.

3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact CUL-1: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of Built Historical Resources	LTS	Impact CUL-1, pp. 3.5-14 – 3.5-15	Yes	CUL-1, CUL-7, CUL-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact CUL-2: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of Unique Archaeological Resources or Subsurface Historical Resources	SU	Impact CUL-2, pp. 3.5-15 – 3.5-16	Yes	CUL-1 – CUL-5, CUL-8	CUL-2	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact CUL-3: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource	LTS	Impact CUL-3, p. 3.5-17	Yes	CUL-1 – CUL-6, CUL-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact CUL-4: Disturb Human Remains	LTS	Impact CUL-4, p. 3.5-18	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant; SU: significant and unavoidable; LTSM: less than significant with mitigation.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to archaeological, historical, and tribal cultural resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
		Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

Consistent with SPR CUL-1, records searches of the 1,134.3-acre treatment area, including areas within and outside of the treatable landscape, were performed by the North Central Information Center (NCIC). The records search for the GRRF portion was conducted on July 24, 2020 (NCIC File No. NEV-20-101), and the search for the northernmost treatment area located west of Bowman Lake Road and north of Fall Creek Road was conducted on September 17, 2020 (NCIC File No. NEV-20-123). The searches revealed 10 archaeological sites within the treatment area, one historic (built environment) feature, and one multicomponent site consisting of both archaeological and historic features. The historic feature has been evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and was

found to have no historical significance and to have lost integrity of materials, design, and workmanship; therefore, it can be concluded that the historic feature is also not eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) and is not a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. The archaeological sites are predominantly from the historic period and consist of abandoned water conveyance systems, trash scatters, a transmission line, structure pads, and mining ditches. The two prehistoric archaeological sites contain bedrock milling features and lithic scatters; the multicomponent site consists of historic period trash and prehistoric flakes and points.

Consistent with SPR CUL-2, an updated Native American contact list was obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). On October 6, 2020, letters inviting the tribes to consult were mailed to the five tribal representatives indicated by NAHC. A response was received from United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria (UAIC). No other tribes responded. A September 29, 2020, search of NAHC's sacred lands database returned negative results.

IMPACT CUL-1

Proposed treatment activities include mechanical treatments and prescribed burning, which could damage historical resources. Use of herbicides and manual treatments would not damage historical resources. Although the NCIC records searches revealed one historic feature in the proposed treatment area, it is not a historical resource. However, built-environment structures that have not yet been recorded or evaluated for historical significance could be present within the treatment area. Structures (i.e., buildings, bridges, roadways) more than 50 years old that have not been evaluated for historical significance and are present in the treatment area will be avoided pursuant to SPR CUL-7. The potential for these treatment activities to result in disturbance to, damage to, or destruction of built-environment structures that have not yet been evaluated for historical significance was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the intensity of ground disturbance of the treatment project is consistent with that analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, the potential to encounter built-environment structures that have not yet been evaluated for historical significance in areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact to historical resources is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this impact are CUL-1, CUL-7, and CUL-8. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT CUL-2

Vegetation treatments would include mechanical treatments using heavy equipment that could churn up the ground surface during treatment as vegetation is removed; this may result in damage to known or previously unknown archaeological resources. The NCIC records search, which covered all treatment areas, revealed 10 archaeological sites and one multicomponent site; however, none of these have been evaluated for eligibility for listing in the NRHP or CRHR. Therefore, it is not known whether these sites would qualify as resources under CEQA. A survey will be conducted prior to treatment pursuant to SPR CUL-4 to identify any previously unrecorded archaeological sites; identified archaeological sites will be avoided or treated according to the provisions of SPR CUL-5. The potential for these treatment activities to result in inadvertent discovery and subsequent damage of unique archaeological resources or subsurface historical resources during vegetation treatment was examined in the PEIR. This impact was identified as significant and unavoidable in the PEIR because of the large geographic extent of the treatable landscape and the possibility that there could be some rare instances where inadvertent damage of unknown resources may be extensive. For the Grouse Ridge Treatment Project, SPRs and Mitigation Measure CUL-2 would require every reasonable effort to identify and protect resources. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the intensity of ground disturbance of the treatment project is consistent with that analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, the potential for discovery of archaeological resources is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact to unique archaeological resources or subsurface historical resources is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment include CUL-1 through CUL-5 and CUL-8. Mitigation Measure CUL-2

would also apply to this treatment to protect any inadvertent discovery. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT CUL-3

Native American contacts in Nevada County were contacted on October 6, 2020, and included Grayson Coney, Cultural Director, Tsi Akim Maidu; Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, UAIC; Darrel Cruz, Cultural Resources Department, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Pamela Cubbler, Treasurer, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe; and Clyde Prout, Chairperson, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe. A response was received from UAIC requesting consultation and maps of the project area. No other tribes responded. Proposed treatment activities include manual and mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, and herbicide application. The potential for treatment activities to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource was examined in the PEIR. As explained in the PEIR, while tribal cultural resources may be identified within the treatable landscape during development of later treatment projects, implementation of SPRs would avoid any substantial adverse change to any tribal cultural resource. Specifically, SPR-6 requires that the project proponent, in consultation with the culturally affiliated tribe(s), will develop effective protection measures for important tribal cultural resources located within treatment areas. Accordingly, the Tribe's recommendations have been integrated into SPR CUL-6 and SPR CUL-8. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the tribal cultural affiliations present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact to tribal cultural resources is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment include CUL-1 through CUL-6 and CUL-8. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT CUL-4

Vegetation treatment activities would include mechanical treatments using heavy equipment; these treatments may use excavators, dozers, and masticators, which could uncover human remains. The NCIC records search did not reveal any burials or sites containing human remains. The potential for treatment activities to uncover human remains was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the intensity of ground disturbance is consistent with that analyzed in the PEIR. Additionally, consistent with the PEIR, the project would comply with California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5 and 7052 and Public Resources Code Section 5097 in the event of a discovery of human remains. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, the potential for uncovering human remains during implementation of the treatment project is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape and treatment activities; therefore, the impact related to disturbance of human remains is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatment is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.5.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.5.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a changed circumstance to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to archaeological, historical, or tribal cultural resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to archaeological, historical, or tribal cultural resources or human remains would occur.

3.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact BIO-1: Substantially Affect Special-Status Plant Species Either Directly or Through Habitat Modifications	LTSM	Impact BIO-1, pp 3.6-131 – 3.6-138	Yes	BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-6, BIO-7, BIO-9, GEO-1, GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-5, GEO-7, HYD-4	BIO-1b	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact BIO-2: Substantially Affect Special-Status Wildlife Species Either Directly or Through Habitat Modifications	LTSM (all wildlife species except bumble bees) S&U (bumble bees)	Impact BIO-2, pp 3.6-138 – 3.6-184	Yes	BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-9, BIO-10, GEO-1, HYD-4	BIO-2a, BIO-2b	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact BIO-3: Substantially Affect Riparian Habitat or Other Sensitive Natural Community Through Direct Loss or Degradation That Leads to Loss of Habitat Function	LTSM	Impact BIO-3, pp 3.6-186 – 3.6-191	Yes	BIO-1 through BIO-4, BIO-6, BIO-9, GEO-1, GEO-4, GEO-5, GEO-7	BIO-3a, BIO-3b, BIO-3c	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact BIO-4: Substantially Affect State or Federally Protected Wetlands	LTSM	Impact BIO-4, pp 3.6-191 – 3.6-192	Yes	BIO-1, BIO-2, HYD-4	BIO-4	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact BIO-5: Interfere Substantially with Wildlife Movement Corridors or Impede Use of Nurseries	LTSM	Impact BIO-5, pp 3.6-192 – 3.6-196	Yes	BIO-1 through BIO-3, HYD-4	None	LTS	No	Yes
Impact BIO-6: Substantially Reduce Habitat or Abundance of Common Wildlife	LTS	Impact BIO-6, pp 3.6-197 – 3.6-198	Yes	BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-12	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact BIO-7: Conflict with Local Policies or Ordinances Protecting Biological Resources	No Impact	Impact BIO-7, pp 3.6-198 – 3.6-199	Yes	BIO-1, AD-3	NA	No Impact	No	Yes
Impact BIO-8: Conflict with the Provisions of an Adopted Natural Community Conservation Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan, or Other Approved Habitat Plan	No Impact	Impact BIO-8, pp 3.6-199 – 3.6-200	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Notes:

LTS: less than significant; LTSM: less than significant with mitigation.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New Biological Resources Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to biological resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant		
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

Pursuant to SPR BIO-1, an Ascent biologist conducted a data review of project-specific biological resources and a reconnaissance-level survey of the treatment area to identify and document sensitive biological resources and assess the suitability of habitat for special-status species.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s Fire and Resource Assessment Program vegetation layer was used to identify the habitat and vegetation types within the treatment area. The treatment area comprises approximately 1,134 acres, and vegetation types within this area include Sierran mixed conifer, white fir, montane hardwood-conifer, and red fir habitats and small areas of montane hardwood, montane chaparral, and mixed chaparral habitats. Table 3-1, below, includes a list of special-status plant and wildlife species with potential to occur within the treatment area. It was compiled by conducting a search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California for the nine U.S. Geological Survey quadrangles surrounding the treatment area (CNDDDB 2020; CNPS 2020) and by reviewing Appendix BIO-3 (Table 13a, Table 13b, and Table 19) in the PEIR (Volume II) for special-status plants and wildlife that could occur in the Sierra Nevada ecoregion, which encompasses the treatment area.

Ascent conducted a reconnaissance-level survey on September 16, 2020, to identify and document sensitive resources within the treatment area (e.g., aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities) and to assess the suitability of habitat within the treatment area for special-status plant and wildlife species. Vegetation communities and soil characteristics were identified, and incidental wildlife observations were recorded.

Based on implementation of SPR BIO-1, including review of occurrence data, species ranges, habitat requirements for each species, and habitat present within the treatment area as assessed during reconnaissance surveys, a complete list of all species with potential to occur in the vicinity of the project was assembled (Attachment B). Twelve of the special-status plant species and 10 of the special-status wildlife species from the complete list of species were determined to have potential to occur within the treatment area (Table 3-1). Pursuant to SPR BIO-7, the UC Regents conducted protocol-level surveys for special-status plants on June 24 and June 25, 2020, with a focus on the 12 special-status plants that could occur within the treatment area (UC Berkeley 2020a). No special-status plants were observed during protocol-level surveys. Thus, while 10 of the special-status plant species included in Table 3-1 that bloom during June have potential to occur in the treatment area based on the presence of habitat suitable for the species, they are not expected to occur in the treatment area since they were not detected during the protocol-level survey. Two of the special-status plant species identified as having potential to occur in the treatment area are not known to bloom in June (mingan moonwort and Donner Pass buckwheat) and would not have been detected during the protocol-level survey (Attachment B).

Table 3-1 Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species That May Occur in the Treatment Area

Species	Listing Status ¹			Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Special-Status Plants					
Mingan moonwort <i>Botrychium minganense</i>	–	–	2B.2	Creekbanks in mixed conifer forest. 3,904–10,810 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present along streams in the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a). This species would not have been blooming during the June 2020 surveys.
Davy's sedge <i>Carex davyi</i>	–	–	1B.3	Subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. 4,790–10,597 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present in forested portions of the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a).
Sheldon's sedge <i>Carex sheldonii</i>	–	–	2B.2	Mesic sites; along creeks and in wet meadows. 3,937–6,611 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present along streams and in seasonal wetland habitat in the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a).
Northern coralroot <i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	–	–	2B.1	Wet, open to shaded, generally coniferous forest. In California, under firs, in partial shade. 3,986–5,709 feet in elevation. Blooms June–July.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present in mesic forested portions of the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a).
Starved daisy <i>Erigeron miser</i>	–	–	1B.3	Upper montane coniferous forest. Rocky, granitic outcrops. 5,085–9,104 feet in elevation. Blooms June–October.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present in forested portions of the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a).

Species	Listing Status ¹			Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Donner Pass buckwheat <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>torreyanum</i>	–	–	1B.2	Steep slopes and ridgetops; rocky, volcanic soils; usually in bare or sparsely vegetated areas. 6,086–8,596 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present in rocky areas of the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a). This species would not have been blooming during the June 2020 surveys.
Cantelow's lewisia <i>Lewisia cantelovii</i>	–	–	1B.2	Mesic rock outcrops and wet cliffs, usually in moss or clubmoss; on granitics or sometimes on serpentine. 1,083–4,495 feet in elevation. Blooms May–October.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present in rocky areas of the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a).
Saw-toothed lewisia <i>Lewisia serrata</i>	–	–	1B.1	Shaded, north-facing moss-covered, metamorphic rock cliffs. 2,953–4,708 feet in elevation. Blooms May–June.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present in rocky areas of the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a).
Closed-throated beardtongue <i>Penstemon personatus</i>	–	–	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, chaparral. Usually on north-facing slopes in metavolcanic soils. 3,494–6,955 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present in forested or brushy portions of the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a).
Stebbins' phacelia <i>Phacelia stebbinsii</i>	–	–	1B.2	Among rocks and rubble on metamorphic rock benches. 2,001–6,594 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present in rocky areas of the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a).
Sierra blue grass <i>Poa sierrae</i>	–	–	1B.3	Shady, moist, rocky slopes. Often in canyons. 1,198–4,921 feet in elevation. Blooms April–July.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present in rocky areas of the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a).
Alder buckthorn <i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	–	–	2B.2	Mesic sites. 4,692–7,005 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present along streams and in seasonal wetland habitat in the treatment area. This species was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted in June 2020 (UC Berkeley 2020a).
Special-Status Wildlife					
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	FD	SE FP	–	Ocean shore, lake margins, and rivers for both nesting and wintering. Most nests within 1 mile of water. Nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live tree with open	May occur. The treatment area contains some large trees and snags that may provide nesting habitat suitable for bald eagles. This species typically nests near water, and the

Species	Listing Status ¹			Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
				branches, especially ponderosa pine. Roosts communally in winter.	treatment area is located within 1 mile of Rucker Lake and Fuller Lake.
Golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	–	FP	–	Rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert. Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range; also, large trees in open areas.	May occur. The treatment area contains some large trees and snags that may provide nesting habitat suitable for golden eagles.
Northern goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	–	SSC	–	Within, and in vicinity of, coniferous forest. Uses old nests and maintains alternate sites. Usually nests on north slopes, near water. Red fir, lodgepole pine, Jeffrey pine, and aspens are typical nest trees.	May occur. The treatment area does not contain nesting habitat with late seral characteristics (e.g., high canopy closure) suitable for northern goshawk. However, there are several documented nests and designated Protected Activity Centers within U.S. Forest Service land adjacent to the treatment areas (U.S. Forest Service 2020).
Olive-sided flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i>	–	SSC	–	Nesting habitats are mixed conifer, montane hardwood-conifer, Douglas-fir, redwood, red fir, and lodgepole pine. Most numerous in montane conifer forests where tall trees overlook canyons, meadows, lakes, or other open terrain.	May occur. The treatment area contains forest habitat potentially suitable for nesting olive-sided flycatchers. There have been many observations of the species in the vicinity of the treatment area (eBird 2020).
Yellow warbler <i>Setophaga petechia</i>	–	SSC	–	Riparian plant associations in proximity to water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests in Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders.	May occur. The treatment area contains several mountain alder (<i>Alnus incana</i>) thickets associated with seasonal wetland habitat, which may provide nesting habitat suitable for yellow warbler. There have been many observations of the species in the vicinity of the treatment area (eBird 2020).
Pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	–	SSC	–	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for pallid bat is present within large trees, snags, or rocky areas within the treatment area.
Ringtail <i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	–	FP	–	Riparian habitats, forest habitats, and shrub habitats in lower to middle elevations. Hollow trees, logs, snags, cavities in talus and other rocky areas, and other recesses are used for cover. Usually found within 0.6 mile of a permanent water source.	May occur. The treatment area is within the range of this species and contains habitat potentially suitable for ringtail, including forest, shrub, and riparian habitat.
Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare <i>Lepus americanus tahoensis</i>	–	SSC	–	Boreal riparian areas in the Sierra Nevada. Thickets of deciduous trees in riparian areas. Dense thickets of young conifers (i.e., early seral stages of conifer forest) and chaparral composed of <i>Ceanothus</i> spp. and <i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp.	May occur. Riparian habitat within the treatment area consists of mountain alder thickets associated with seasonal wetland habitat. This habitat may provide habitat suitable for Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare. This species may also occur within portions of the treatment area containing dense thickets of young conifers (i.e., plantations) and brushy areas (e.g., containing <i>Ceanothus</i> spp. and <i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp.).

Species	Listing Status ¹			Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Spotted bat <i>Euderma maculatum</i>	–	SSC	–	Occupies a wide variety of habitats from arid deserts and grasslands through mixed conifer forests. Feeds over water and along washes. Feeds almost entirely on moths. Needs rock crevices in cliffs or caves for roosting.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for pallid bat is present within rocky areas within the treatment area.
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	–	SSC	–	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for Townsend's big-eared bat is present within large trees or human-made structures (e.g., bridges) within the treatment area.

¹ Legal Status Definitions:

California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR):

1B Plant species rare or endangered in California and elsewhere (not protected under the federal Endangered Species Act or California Endangered Species Act)

2B Plant species rare or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere (not protected under the federal Endangered Species Act or California Endangered Species Act)

CRPR Threat Ranks:

0.1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened; high degree and immediacy of threat)

0.2 Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened; moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

0.3 Not very threatened in California (less than 20 percent of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

State:

FP Fully Protected (legally protected)

SSC Species of Special Concern (no formal protection other than CEQA consideration)

SE State Listed as Endangered (legally protected)

Federal:

FD Federally Delisted

Sources: CNDDDB 2020; CNPS 2020; eBird 2020

IMPACT BIO-1

Treatment activities and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects to the 12 special-status plant species with suitable habitat within the treatment area. Six of these species—mingan moonwort, Davy's sedge, Sheldon's sedge, northern coralroot, Cantelow's lewisia, and alder buckthorn—are typically associated with wet areas (e.g., creekbanks, streams, wetlands, meadows). Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZs) ranging from 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all aquatic habitat (i.e., wet areas) within the treatment area will be implemented, which would avoid most adverse effects to these species.

Pursuant to SPR BIO-7, the UC Regents conducted protocol-level surveys for special-status plants on June 24 and June 25, 2020, with a focus on the 12 special-status plants that could occur within the treatment area (UC Berkeley 2020a). No special-status plants were observed during protocol-level surveys. Pursuant to SPR BIO-7, an additional protocol-level survey was conducted on September 23 and 24, 2020, to capture the late-blooming period of mingan moonwort and Donner Pass buckwheat. No special-status plants were found during the survey (UC Berkeley 2020b).

If special-status plants are identified during the September 2020 survey, Mitigation Measure BIO-1b will be implemented to avoid loss of identified special-status plants. Per Mitigation Measure BIO-1b, if special-status plants are identified during protocol-level surveys, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 50 feet will be established around the area occupied by the species within which mechanical treatment, manual treatment, herbicide application, and prescribed burning will not occur.

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status plants was examined in the PEIR. This impact on special-status plants is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The

inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape); therefore, the potential impact on special-status plants is also the same, as described above. SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-1 are SPRs BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-6, BIO-7, BIO-9, GEO-1, GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-5, GEO-7, and HYD-4. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-2

Treatment activities and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects to special-status wildlife species with suitable habitat within the treatment area, as described in the following sections.

Northern Goshawk

The treatment area does not contain nesting habitat suitable for northern goshawk because of the long-term management of the area for commercial timber harvest. However, there are several documented northern goshawk nests and designated Protected Activity Centers within U.S. Forest Service land adjacent to the treatment areas (U.S. Forest Service 2020). One of these nests is located southeast of the treatment areas, and several nests are located between the reforestation parcel and the AMEX mastication parcel (U.S. Forest Service 2020).

Treatment activities would not result in adverse effects on northern goshawk nesting habitat, because suitable nesting habitat is not present for the species. However, treatment activities that include the use of heavy equipment, multiple vehicles, or loud hand tools (e.g., chainsaws) could result in disturbance of nesting northern goshawks in adjacent nesting habitat, if these activities occur during the sensitive nesting season (February 15–September 15). The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status birds was examined in the PEIR. Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on habitat suitable for northern goshawk can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments within approximately 0.25 mile of documented nest sites outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., nesting season), then further mitigation would not be required. To avoid impacts on northern goshawk, a limited operating period during the nesting season (February 15–September 15) will be implemented for the mastication and canal and roadside fuel reduction treatments in the westernmost portion of the treatment area and a portion of the canal and roadside fuel reduction and Rucker fuel break treatments in the southernmost portion of the treatment area. This limited operating period will apply for mechanical treatments, manual treatments, herbicide application, and prescribed burning activities.

If the limited operating period is determined to be infeasible, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and protocol-level surveys for northern goshawk would be conducted within a 0.25-mile buffer surrounding the treatment areas that are within 0.25 mile of a documented nest prior to implementation of treatment activities to determine whether previously documented nests are active or additional nests have been established. Surveys for northern goshawk will be conducted pursuant to the *Northern Goshawk Inventory and Monitoring Technical Guide* (Woodbridge and Hargis 2006). If nesting northern goshawks are not identified during protocol-level surveys, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If nesting northern goshawks are identified during protocol-level surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of 0.25 mile would be established around active northern goshawk nests, and no treatment activities would occur within this buffer. This no-disturbance buffer distance of 0.25 mile has been established for the species by U.S. Forest Service protocols; it is larger than the general no-disturbance buffer of 100 feet provided in Mitigation Measure BIO-2b to provide adequate protection such that impacts would be maintained at less than significant, consistent with the PEIR.

Habitat function for northern goshawks would be maintained because treatment activities would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 10 inches dbh, which would be the most likely features to be used by this species due to the cover provided by these larger trees.

Other Special-Status Birds

Four additional special-status bird species may occur within the treatment area: bald eagle, golden eagle, olive-sided flycatcher, and yellow warbler. Habitat suitable for these species is present within and adjacent to the treatment area. Nesting habitat suitable for yellow warbler is present only within the mountain alder thickets associated with seasonal wetlands. Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, and herbicide application, conducted during the nesting bird season (February 1–August 31) could result in direct loss of active nests or disturbance to active nests from auditory and visual stimulus (e.g., heavy equipment, chainsaws, vehicles, personnel), potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of eggs or chicks. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status birds was examined in the PEIR.

Focused surveys for special-status bird nests have not yet been conducted; thus, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused nesting bird surveys for bald eagle, golden eagle, olive-sided flycatcher, and yellow warbler will be conducted prior to treatment activities. If no active bird nests are observed during focused surveys, then additional mitigation for these species would not be required. If active special-status bird nests are observed during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measures BIO-2a (for bald eagle and golden eagle) and BIO-2b (for olive-sided flycatcher and yellow-warbler) would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measures BIO-2a and BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 500 feet would be established around active bald eagle and golden eagle nests, and at least 100 feet around olive-sided flycatcher and yellow warbler nests, and no treatment activities would occur within these buffers until the chicks have fledged as determined by a qualified Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or biologist. Additionally, trees containing active or inactive bald eagle or golden eagle nests would not be removed pursuant to the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Habitat function for special-status birds would be maintained because treatment activities would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 10 inches dbh, which would be the most likely features to be used by these species due to the cover provided by these larger trees.

Special-Status Bats

Suitable habitat for three special-status bat species—pallid bat, spotted bat, and Townsend’s big-eared bat—is present within forest habitat and rocky areas in the treatment area. Conifer plantations with trees 20 years and younger, which are present in portions of the treatment area, do not provide habitat suitable for special-status bats because of the relatively small size of the trees. Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, and herbicide application, conducted within habitat suitable for bats during the bat maternity season (April 1–August 31) could disturb active bat roosts from auditory and visual stimuli (e.g., heavy equipment, chainsaws, vehicles, personnel) could result in abandonment of the roost and loss of young. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status bats was examined in the PEIR.

Focused surveys for special-status bat roosts have not yet been conducted; thus, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for these species will be conducted within suitable habitat areas (e.g., excluding young plantations) prior to treatment activities. If special-status bat roosts are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b for special-status bats would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet will be established around active pallid bat, spotted bat, or Townsend’s big-eared bat roosts, and mechanical and manual treatments will not occur within this buffer. A no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet is necessary to protect sensitive roosts; this buffer size was adjusted to be larger than the general no-disturbance buffer of 100 feet provided in Mitigation Measure BIO-2b to provide adequate protection such that impacts would be less than significant under CEQA. If special-status bat roosts are identified in a treatment area where prescribed burning is planned, prescribed burning activities would be implemented outside of the bat breeding season, which is April 1–August 31 (Caltrans 2004).

Habitat function for special-status bats would be maintained because treatment activities would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 10 inches dbh, which would be the most likely features to be used by these species due to the cover provided by these larger trees.

Ringtail

Ringtail is primarily nocturnal and typically occurs in riparian areas, forests (including stands of various ages), and shrub habitats within approximately 0.6 mile of a permanent water source (CDFW 2005). This species may occur within portions of the treatment area that are within 0.6 mile of perennial creeks adjacent to the treatment area (i.e., Clear Creek, Fall Creek, Canyon Creek), the Bowman-Spaulding Canal, Rucker Lake, and Fuller Lake. Potential denning habitat includes rock outcrops, crevices, snags, large hardwoods, large conifers, and brush. Most of these habitats would be avoided, as trees and snags larger than 10 inches dbh would not be removed, and rocky areas would not be targeted for vegetation treatment. However, brush would be targeted for treatment and would not be avoided through implementation of other measures. Outside of the breeding season, resting ringtails would likely flee due to the presence of equipment, vehicles, personnel, or prescribed burning, and injury or mortality would not be expected. However, treatment activities, including mechanical treatments and prescribed burning, conducted during the ringtail maternity season (i.e., the period during which young would be present in a den, approximately April 15–July 31) could result in destruction of active dens within brush habitat or disturbance to active dens, potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of young, which may not yet be capable of fleeing.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on suitable habitat for ringtail can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., maternity season), then further mitigation would not be required. To avoid impacts on ringtail, a limited operating period during the maternity season (April 15–July 31) will be implemented in portions of the treatment area within 0.6 mile of permanent aquatic habitat for mechanical treatments and prescribed burning activities, if feasible. Manual treatments and herbicide application would not result in adverse effects on ringtail dens because personnel would conduct these activities on foot, and the likelihood of a den being inadvertently crushed or otherwise destroyed would be very low.

If this limited operating period is determined to be infeasible, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for ringtail would be conducted within suitable habitat areas (i.e., within 0.6 mile of permanent aquatic habitat) prior to implementation of mechanical treatments and prescribed burning. Surveys for ringtail will include the use of trail cameras, track plates, and other noninvasive survey methods to determine whether ringtails are present within the treatment area. If ringtails are not detected during focused surveys, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If ringtails are detected during focused surveys, then additional surveys would be required to determine whether an active ringtail den is present within the treatment area. If an active den is identified by a qualified RPF or biologist, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, a no-disturbance buffer would be established around the den, the size of which would be determined through consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. No treatment activities would occur within this buffer.

Habitat function for ringtail would be maintained because treatment activities would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 10 inches dbh, which would be the most likely features to be used by this species due to the cover provided by larger trees, and because rocky areas would not be targeted for vegetation treatment.

Sierra Nevada Snowshoe Hare

Habitat potentially suitable for Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare is present primarily within riparian areas (e.g., mountain alder thickets) in the treatment area, but may also be present within dense thickets of young conifers (i.e., early seral stages of conifer forest) and brush stands containing *Ceanothus* spp. and *Arctostaphylos* spp. Snowshoe hare young are precocial, meaning that they are born fully furred and are capable of locomotion very soon after birth. Outside of the breeding season, Sierra Nevada snowshoe hares within the treatment area would likely flee due to the presence of equipment, vehicles, personnel, or prescribed burning, and injury or mortality would not be expected. However, treatment activities, including mechanical treatments and prescribed burning, conducted within habitat suitable for the species during the maternity season (i.e., the period during which young would be present in a nest) could result in destruction of active nests (also known as “forms”) within brush or young forest habitat or disturbance to active nests, potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of young, which may not yet be capable of fleeing successfully. Young Sierra Nevada snowshoe hares have been observed from approximately June through July (Brylski et al. 1998).

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on suitable habitat for snowshoe hare can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., maternity season), then further mitigation would not be required. To avoid impacts on Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare, a limited operating period during the maternity season (June 1–July 31) will be implemented in portions of the treatment area that contain habitat suitable for this species (i.e., brush stands, thickets of young conifers, riparian areas) for mechanical treatments and prescribed burning activities, if feasible. Manual treatments and herbicide application would not result in substantial adverse effects on snowshoe hare nests, because on-site personnel would conduct these activities on foot, and the nests could be avoided to prevent inadvertently crushing or otherwise destroying them.

If this limited operating period is determined to be infeasible, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare will be conducted within suitable habitat prior to implementation of mechanical treatments and prescribed burning. Surveys for snowshoe hares will include walking transect surveys to determine whether Sierra Nevada snowshoe hares are present and actively nesting within the treatment area. If snowshoe hares or their nests are not detected during focused surveys, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If snowshoe hares or their nests are detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b will be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of sufficient size to prevent disturbance would be established around the nest, until the young have left the nest as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist.

Habitat function for Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare would be maintained or improved because treatment activities would result in creation of openings and early successional forest habitat (Sullivan 1995).

Conclusion

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status wildlife was examined in the PEIR. This impact on special-status wildlife is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (i.e., no resource is affected outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape); therefore, the potential impact on special-status wildlife is also the same, as described above. SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-2 are SPRs BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-9, BIO-10, GEO-1, and HYD-3. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-3

Initial treatment and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on sensitive habitats, including designated sensitive natural communities.

Data review and reconnaissance-level surveys of project-specific biological resources were performed according to SPR BIO-1. A list of sensitive natural communities with potential to occur within the treatment area was compiled by completing a CNDDDB search of the nine U.S. Geological Survey quads surrounding the treatment area (CNDDDB 2020) and reviewing Table 3.6-22 (pages 3.6-83–3.6-85) in the PEIR (Volume II) for sensitive natural communities that could occur in the Sierra Nevada ecoregion. Upon review of occurrence data and habitat present, sensitive natural communities with potential to occur in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships habitat types present in the treatment area are cup leaf ceanothus chaparral, ocean spray brush, choke cherry thickets, oak gooseberry thicket, bush chinquapin chaparral, bigleaf maple forest, California buckeye grove, tanoak forest, incense cedar forest, giant sequoia forest, fen, and *Darlingtonia seep*.

Cupped leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus perplexans*), oak gooseberry (*Ribes quercetorum*), bush chinquapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla*), and giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) do not occur within the vicinity of the treatment area, either because the species range does not extend into Nevada County or because the species has not been planted in the area (e.g., giant sequoia). Additionally, there are no *Darlingtonia* seeps in the treatment area. However, six sensitive natural communities listed have potential to occur within forest habitat in the treatment area: ocean spray brush, choke cherry thickets, bigleaf maple forest, California buckeye grove, tanoak forest, and incense cedar forest.

During the reconnaissance-level survey conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1, incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) was observed within the treatment area; however, where present, this species was not dominant and did not make up a large percentage of the canopy. While ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*), western choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), and tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) were not observed during reconnaissance-level surveys, these species are likely to occur in the treatment area. However, because they were not observed during the reconnaissance-level survey, it is unlikely that there are significant concentrations of these species or that these species are dominant where they occur. Additionally, the treatment area has been previously managed for timber harvest, and it is unlikely that these species would become established as dominant canopy species.

Riparian habitat consisting of thickets of mountain alder is present within the proposed AMEX mastication treatments and adjacent to these treatments where prescribed burning is proposed, associated with seasonal wetland habitat. Riparian vegetation is a sensitive habitat, and mountain alder thickets (which may also be fens) are sensitive natural communities. Pursuant to SPR BIO-3, these areas have been mapped and have been previously flagged for past projects. As described below under Impact BIO-4, Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would apply to these seasonal wetland areas, and no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be established to avoid impacts on the wetlands. These buffers would also result in avoidance of impacts on the riparian habitat (i.e., mountain alder thickets) associated with the wetlands. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within this buffer. In portions of the treatment area where prescribed burning is proposed, no fire ignition (and associated use of accelerants) will occur within the wetland buffer, and prescribed burning will not be used within the alder thickets associated with the wetlands unless a qualified RPF or biologist determines that the prescribed burn is within the normal fire return interval for the wetland vegetation types present, pursuant to Mitigation Measures BIO-3a and BIO-4. If impacts on these habitat areas cannot be avoided, Mitigation Measures BIO-3b and BIO-3c would apply, and compensatory mitigation would be required for unavoidable losses of mountain alder thicket habitat, which is a sensitive natural community and riparian habitat.

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on sensitive habitats, as described above, was examined in the PEIR. This impact on sensitive habitats is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (i.e., no resource is affected outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape); therefore, the potential impact on sensitive habitats is also the same, as described above. SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-3 are SPRs BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-6, BIO-9, GEO-1, GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-5, and GEO-7. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-4

Initial treatment and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on state-protected or federally protected wetlands. Most of the aquatic habitat in the vicinity of the treatment area has been excluded during the design of the treatments. However, based on review and survey of project-specific biological resources (SPR BIO-1), some portions of the treatment area contain portions of perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, as well as portions of seasonal wetland features (e.g., alder thickets). Under SPR HYD-4, WLPZs ranging from 50 to 150 feet will be established adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams within the treatment area (i.e., Clear Creek, Fall Creek), and Equipment Limitation Zones (ELZs) of at least 25 feet will be established around all Class III ephemeral streams (i.e., drainages within the westernmost treatment area) within the treatment area. Additionally, in portions of the treatment area where prescribed burning is proposed, no fire ignition (or use of associated accelerants) will occur within WLPZs; however, low-intensity backing fires may be allowed to enter or spread into WLPZs, pursuant to SPR HYD-4.

In addition to streams present within and adjacent to the treatment area, there are several seasonal wetland areas with associated riparian vegetation (i.e., alder thickets) within the proposed AMEX mastication treatment areas and adjacent to these treatment areas where prescribed burning is proposed. Because WLPZs established in SPR HYD-4

would not apply to seasonal wetland habitat, Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would apply. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-4, a qualified RPF or biologist will delineate the boundaries of these seasonal wetlands and associated riparian habitat and will establish a no-disturbance buffer of at least 25 feet with flagging or fencing. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within this buffer. In portions of the treatment area where prescribed burning is proposed, no fire ignition (and associated use of accelerants) will occur within the wetland buffer, and prescribed burning will not be used within the alder thickets associated with the wetlands unless a qualified RPF or biologist determines that the prescribed burn is within the normal fire return interval for the wetland vegetation types present, pursuant to Mitigation Measures BIO-3a and BIO-4. In addition, no herbicides will be used within this buffer.

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on state-protected or federally protected wetlands was examined in the PEIR. This impact on wetlands is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (i.e., no resource is affected outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape); therefore, the potential impact on wetlands is also the same, as described above. SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-4 are SPRs BIO-1, BIO-2, GEO-1, GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-5, GEO-7, HYD-1, and HYD-4. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-5

Initial treatment and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on wildlife movement corridors and nurseries because suitable habitat is present in the treatment area. Based on review and survey of project-specific biological resources (SPR BIO-1), the treatment area contains a modeled essential connectivity area characterized as "less permeable" and some natural landscape blocks within forested areas (CDFW 2020). Due to the nature of the proposed treatment activities and the previous management of the treatment area for timber harvest, implementation of these treatment activities would not result in a substantial change in the existing conditions that facilitate wildlife movement in the treatment area. Additionally, no known wildlife nursery sites or indications of nursery sites, such as deer fawning habitat or potential rookery trees with whitewash, were identified within the treatment area during implementation of SPR BIO-1. However, the natural habitat within the treatment area may be used for movement (e.g., mule deer migration) and cover for common wildlife species.

Habitat function within the treatment area would be maintained because treatment activities would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 10 inches dbh. Additionally, WLPZs and ELZs ranging from 25 to 150 feet will be implemented adjacent to all streams in the treatment area, which could function as wildlife movement corridors, pursuant to SPR HYD-4.

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on wildlife movement corridors and nurseries was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and extent of expected disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (i.e., no resource is affected outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape); therefore, the potential impact on wildlife movement corridors is also the same, as described above. SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-5 are SPRs BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, and HYD-4. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-6

Initial treatment and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects resulting in reduction of habitat or abundance of common wildlife, including nesting birds, because suitable habitat is present throughout the treatment area. Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, and herbicide application, conducted during the nesting bird season (February 1–August 31) could result in direct loss of active nests or disturbance to active nests from auditory and visual stimulus (e.g., heavy equipment, chainsaws, vehicles, personnel), potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of eggs or chicks.

Focused surveys for nesting birds have not yet been conducted; thus, SPR BIO-12 would apply, and for treatments implemented during the nesting bird season, a survey for common nesting birds will be conducted within the treatment area by a qualified RPF or biologist prior to treatment activities. If no active bird nests are observed during focused surveys, then additional measures would not be required. If active nests of common birds or raptors are observed during focused surveys, feasible impact avoidance strategies will be implemented to avoid disturbance to the nest, such as establishing an appropriate buffer around the nests, modifying treatments to avoid disturbance to the nests, or deferring treatment until the nests are no longer active as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist.

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on these resources was examined in the PEIR. The potential for adverse effects on common wildlife, including nesting birds, is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and extent of expected disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (i.e., no resource is affected outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape); therefore, the potential impact on common wildlife, including nesting birds, is also the same, as described above. SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-6 are SPRs BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-12. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-7

As a constitutionally created state entity, the UC Regents are not subject to local governments' regulations, including city and county general plans and zoning ordinances. Nonetheless, it is the UC Regents' policy to evaluate proposed projects for consistency with local plans and policies. The only applicable local ordinance relevant to biological resources is the Nevada County Code, which contains a section regarding trees (Section L-II 4.3.14, "Trees"). This section includes measures to protect and preserve "landmark" and "heritage" trees and groves in the county. Landmark trees include any oak 36 inches dbh or greater or any tree with a size, a visual impact, or an association with a historically significant structure or event that has resulted in it being marked for preservation. Heritage trees include hardwood trees designated by the Board of Supervisors to be of historical or cultural value, outstanding specimens, unusual species, or of significant community benefit. No trees within the treatment area meet these definitions. There would be no conflict with local ordinances as a result of implementation of treatment activities.

The potential for treatment activities to result in conflict with local policies or ordinances was examined in the PEIR. The potential for the treatment project to conflict with local policies or ordinances is within the scope of the PEIR because vegetation treatment projects implemented under the CalVTP that are subject to local policies or ordinances would be required to comply with any applicable county, city, or other local policies, ordinances, and permitting procedures related to protection of biological resources, per SPR AD-3. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, the existing regulatory conditions and biological resources present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential for conflicts with local policies or ordinances is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-8

Implementation of the proposed vegetation treatment and maintenance treatments would not result in a conflict with adopted habitat conservation plans (HCPs) or natural community conservation plans (NCCPs) because the treatment area is not within the plan area of any adopted HCP or NCCP. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, the conditions related to applicability of HCPs and NCCPs present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape (i.e., it is not within the plan area of any adopted HCP or NCCP); therefore, the potential for conflicts with an adopted HCP or NCCP is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatment is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined that they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.6.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.6.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to biological resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to biological resources would occur.

3.6 ENERGY RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact ENG-1: Result in Wasteful, Inefficient, or Unnecessary Consumption of Energy	LTS	Impact ENG-1, pp. 3.9-7 – 3.9-8	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Energy Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to energy resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion			
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant			
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Discussion

IMPACT ENG-1

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during initial treatment and treatment maintenance activities would result in the consumption of energy through the use of fossil fuels. The use of fossil fuels for equipment and vehicles was examined in the PEIR. The consumption of energy during implementation of the treatment project is within the scope of the PEIR because the types of activities, as well as the associated equipment and duration of proposed use, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, the existing energy consumption is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the energy impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

NEW ENERGY RESOURCE IMPACTS

The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable regulatory and environmental conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.9.1, "Regulatory Setting," and Section 3.9.2, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land outside the treatable landscape in the proposed treatment area constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to energy resources would occur.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact GEO-1: Result in Substantial Erosion or Loss of Topsoil	LTS	Impact GEO-1, pp. 3.7-26 – 3.7-29	Yes	GEO-1 – GEO-8, AQ-3, AQ-4	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact GEO-2: Increase Risk of Landslide	LTS	Impact GEO-2, pp. 3.7-29 – 3.7-30	Yes	GEO-1, GEO-4, GEO-7, GEO-8, AQ-3	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Geology and Soils Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to geology and soils resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant		
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

The project area is located in the central portion of Nevada County, which generally comprises sedimentary and metasedimentary (Paleozoic Marine Metasedimentary) and volcanic (Cenozoic Volcanic) formations (Nevada County 1995). Dominant soil types within the treatment areas include Lorack-Smokey-Cryumbrepts, wet complex, McCarthy-Ledmount-Crozier complex, Huysink-Horseshoe complex, and Smokey-Lorack-Cryumbrepts, wet complex. These soil types are well drained (NRCS 2019).

Because most of the soils within the county are underlain with dense bedrock, most areas have moderate or low risk of landslides (Nevada County 1995).

IMPACT GEO-1

Initial treatment and maintenance treatments would include mechanical treatment, manual treatment, and prescribed burning. All of these activities would result in vegetation removal and soil disturbance. The potential for these treatment activities to cause substantial erosion or loss of topsoil was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the use of and type of equipment, extent of vegetation removal, and intensity of prescribed burning are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, the soil characteristics of the project area are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact related to soil erosion is also the same, as described above. SPRs

applicable to this treatment project are GEO-1 through GEO-8, AQ-3, and AQ-4. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT GEO-2

Initial and maintenance treatments would include vegetation removal in areas with steep slopes. However, no historic or active landslides have been documented within the project area. In addition, the risk of deep-seated landslides is low to moderate in the project vicinity (Nevada County 1995). The potential for treatment activities to increase landslide risk was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the extent of vegetation removal, intensity of prescribed burning, and required avoidance of steep slopes and areas of instability are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the range of slopes and landslide conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape. Therefore, the potential impact related to landslide risk is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment project are GEO-1, GEO-4, GEO-7, GEO-8, and AQ-3. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW GEOLOGY AND SOILS IMPACTS

The proposed treatment is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.7.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.7.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to geology and soils that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to geology and soils would occur.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact GHG-1: Conflict with Applicable Plan, Policy, or Regulation of an Agency Adopted for the Purpose of Reducing the Emissions of GHGs	LTS	Impact GHG-1, pp. 3.8-10 – 3.8-11	Yes	None	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact GHG-2: Generate GHG Emissions through Treatment Activities	PSU	Impact GHG-2, pp. 3.8-11 – 3.8-17	Yes	AQ-3	GHG-2	SU	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant; PSU: potentially significant and unavoidable.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New GHG Emissions Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to GHG emissions that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant		
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

IMPACT GHG-1

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment and prescribed burning during initial and maintenance treatments would result in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Consistency of treatments under the CalVTP with applicable plans, policies, and regulations aimed at reducing GHG emissions was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed activities, as well as the associated equipment, duration of use, and resultant GHG emissions, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the same plans, policies, and regulations adopted to reduce GHG emissions apply in the areas outside the treatable landscape, as well as areas within the treatable landscape; therefore, the GHG impact is also the same, as described above. SPR GHG-1 is not applicable to the proposed project; the UC Regents are not subject to the requirement to provide information to inform reporting under the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection’s Assembly Bill 1504 Carbon Inventory Process, because this project is not a registered offset project. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT GHG-2

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment and prescribed burning during initial and maintenance treatments would result in GHG emissions. The potential for treatments under the CalVTP to generate GHG emissions was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed activities, as well as the associated equipment and duration of use, and the intent of the treatments to reduce wildfire risk and GHG emissions related to wildfire are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. Mitigation Measure GHG-2 would be implemented and would reduce GHG emissions associated with the prescribed burning. However, emissions generated by the treatment would still contribute to the annual emissions generated by the CalVTP, and this impact would remain significant and unavoidable, consistent with, and for the same reasons described in, the PEIR. SPR AQ-3 is also applicable to this treatment and will contain the description of feasible GHG reduction techniques implemented per Mitigation Measure GHG-2. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the climate conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the GHG impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW IMPACTS RELATED TO GHG EMISSIONS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable regulatory and environmental conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.8.1, "Regulatory Setting," and Section 3.8.2, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions pertinent to the climate conditions that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to GHG emissions would occur.

3.9 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact HAZ-1: Create a Significant Health Hazard from the Use of Hazardous Materials	LTS	Impact HAZ-1, pp. 3.10-14 – 3.10-15	Yes	HAZ-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact HAZ-2: Create a Significant Health Hazard from the Use of Herbicides	LTS	Impact HAZ-2, pp. 3.10-15 – 3.10-18	Yes	HAZ-5 – HAZ-9	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact HAZ-3: Expose the Public or Environment to Significant Hazards from Disturbance to Known Hazardous Material Sites	PS	Impact HAZ-3, pp. 3.10-18 – 3.10-19	Yes	NA	HAZ-3	LTS	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant; PS: potentially significant.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Hazardous Materials, Public Health and Safety Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts related to hazardous materials, public health and safety that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
		Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

IMPACT HAZ-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would include mechanical treatments, manual treatments, and prescribed burning. These treatment activities would require the use of fuels and related accelerants, which are hazardous materials. The potential for treatment activities to cause a significant health hazard from the use of hazardous materials was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the types of treatments and associated equipment and types of hazardous materials that would be used are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, the exposure potential and regulatory conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the hazard material impact is also the same, as described above. SPR HAZ-1 is applicable to this treatment. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HAZ-2

Initial and maintenance treatments within the reforestation treatment area would include herbicide application to non-target plant species using ground-based methods, such as using a backpack sprayer or painting herbicide onto cut stems. No aerial spraying of herbicides would occur. Herbicides would not be used within any of the other treatment areas. The potential for treatment activities to cause a significant health hazard from the use of herbicides was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the types of herbicides (i.e., glyphosate and imazapyr) and application methods that would be used, which are limited to ground-based applications, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. In addition, herbicides would be applied by licensed applicators in compliance with all laws, regulations, and herbicide label instructions, consistent with herbicide use described in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the exposure potential is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the hazardous materials impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs HAZ-5 through HAZ-9 are applicable to this treatment. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HAZ-3

Initial and maintenance treatments would include soil disturbance and prescribed burning, which could expose workers or the environment to hazardous materials if a contaminated site is present within the project area. The potential for workers participating in treatment activities to encounter contamination that could expose them or the environment to hazardous materials was examined in the PEIR. The treatment areas are private property, and the public does not have access to the treatment areas. This impact was identified as potentially significant in the PEIR because hazardous materials sites could be present within treatment sites, and soil disturbance or burning in those areas could expose people or the environment to hazards. As directed by Mitigation Measure HAZ-3, database searches for hazardous materials sites within the project area have been conducted, and no hazardous materials sites were identified within 0.25 mile of the treatment areas (DTSC 2020; CalEPA 2020; SWRCB 2020) (Attachment C). Therefore, this impact is less than significant. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the potential to encounter hazardous materials and the regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the hazardous materials impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact, and no additional mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.10.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.10.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to hazardous materials that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to hazardous materials, public health, or safety would occur.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact HYD-1: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through the Implementation of Prescribed Burning	LTS	Impact HYD-1, pp. 3.11-25 – 3.11-27	Yes	HYD-1, HYD-4, GEO-4, GEO-6, AQ-3	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact HYD-2: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through the Implementation of Manual or Mechanical Treatment Activities	LTS	Impact HYD-2, pp. 3.11-27 – 3.11-29	Yes	HYD-1, HYD-2, HYD-4, HYD-6, GEO-1, GEO-4, GEO-7, GEO-8, BIO-1, HAZ-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact HYD-3: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through Prescribed Herbivory	LTS	Impact HYD-3, p. 3.11-29	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Impact HYD-4: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through the Ground Application of Herbicides	LTS	Impact HYD-4, pp. 3.11-30 – 3.11-31	Yes	HYD-1, HYD-5, BIO-4	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Impact HYD-5: Substantially Alter the Existing Drainage Pattern of a Treatment Site or Area	LTS	Impact HYD-5, p. 3.11-31	Yes	HYD-4, HYD-6, GEO-1, GEO-2, GEO-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to hydrology and water quality that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant		
[Identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

The project area is located in the South Yuba River watershed (Nevada County 1995). Hydrologic features in the project vicinity include Bowman-Spaulding Canal and Clear Creek, which are within the treatment areas; Fuller Lake, Rucker Lake, and Rucker Creek, immediately southeast of the treatment areas; Lake Spaulding, southeast of the treatment areas; and Blue Lake, east of the treatment areas. Fall Creek and Trap Creek also transverse east to west between the northern and southern treatment areas.

IMPACT HYD-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would include prescribed burning. Ash and debris from treatment areas could be washed by runoff into adjacent drainages and streams. Although most treatment areas have been designed to avoid streams and watercourses, WLPZs ranging from 50 to 150 feet will be implemented for any watercourses that are within treatment areas pursuant to SPR HYD-4. The potential for prescribed burning activities to cause runoff and violate water quality regulations or degrade water quality was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the use of low-intensity prescribed burns and associated impacts to water quality are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the surface water conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the water quality impact from prescribed burning is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-1, HYD-4, GEO-4, GEO-6, and AQ-3. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HYD-2

Initial treatment would include mechanical and manual treatments. Although most treatment areas have been designed to avoid streams and watercourses, WLPZs ranging from 50 to 150 feet will be implemented for any watercourses that are within treatment areas pursuant to SPR HYD-4. The potential for mechanical and manual treatment activities to violate water quality regulations or degrade water quality was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of

the PEIR because the use of heavy equipment and hand-held tools to remove vegetation and associated impacts to water quality are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the surface water conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the water quality impact from manual and mechanical treatments is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-1, HYD-2, HYD-4, HYD-6, GEO-1 through GEO-4, GEO-7, GEO-8, BIO-1, and HAZ-1. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HYD-3

This impact does not apply to the proposed project, because prescribed herbivory is not a proposed treatment activity.

IMPACT HYD-4

Initial and maintenance treatments would include the use of herbicides to manage understory growth. Herbicide application would be limited to ground-based methods, such as using a backpack sprayer or painting herbicide onto cut stems. All herbicide application would comply with EPA and California Department of Pesticide Regulation label standards. The potential for the use of herbicides to violate water quality regulations or degrade water quality was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the use of herbicides to remove vegetation and associated impacts to water quality are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, surface water conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the water quality impact from use of herbicides is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-1, HYD-5, and BIO-4. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HYD-5

Initial and maintenance treatments could cause ground disturbance and erosion, which could directly or indirectly modify existing drainage patterns. The potential for treatment activities to substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a project site was examined in the PEIR. This impact to site drainage is within the scope of the PEIR because the types of treatments and treatment intensity are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, surface water conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the impact related to alteration of site drainage patterns is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-4, HYD-6, GEO-1, GEO-2, and GEO-5. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY IMPACTS

The proposed treatment is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.11.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.11.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to hydrology and water quality that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to hydrology and water quality would occur.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING, POPULATION AND HOUSING

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact LU-1: Cause a Significant Environmental Impact Due to a Conflict with a Land Use Plan, Policy, or Regulation	LTS	Impact LU-1, pp. 3.12-13 – 3.12-14	Yes	SPR AD-3	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact LU-2: Induce Substantial Unplanned Population Growth	LTS	Impact LU-2, pp. 3.12-14 – 3.12-15	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Land Use and Planning, Population and Housing Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to land use and planning, population and housing that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion	
		Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

IMPACT LU-1

Initial treatment and treatment maintenance activities would occur on property owned by the UC Regents and private property. Because the project would be implemented by a project proponent that is a state agency, it would not be required to comply with local plans, policies, or regulations; however, the project proponent would voluntarily operate consistently with local governance. As noted in Section 3.5, "Biological Resources," above, treatment activities would be implemented consistent with the Nevada County Code, which contains a section regarding trees (Section L-II 4.3.14, "Trees"). As noted in Section 3.12, "Noise," below, treatment activities would take place during daytime hours consistent with the County Noise Ordinance. The potential for vegetation treatment activities to cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment types and activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent considered in the PEIR. However, land uses in the project area are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the land use impact is also the same, as described above. No conflict would occur because the project proponent would adhere to SPR AD-3. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT LU-2

The potential for initial treatments and maintenance treatments to result in substantial population growth as a result of increases in demand for employees was examined in the PEIR. Impacts associated with short-term increases in the demand for workers during implementation of the treatment project are within the scope of the PEIR because the number of workers required for implementation of the treatments is consistent with (less than) the crew size analyzed in the PEIR for the types of treatments proposed (i.e., 10–20 workers for prescribed burns, two to 10 workers for mechanical treatments, and up to 10 workers for manual treatments). In addition, the proposed project would not require the hiring of new employees. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, the population and housing characteristics of the project area are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the population and housing impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

NEW LAND USE AND PLANNING, POPULATION AND HOUSING IMPACTS

The proposed project is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.12.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.12.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing conditions that are pertinent to land use and planning, population and housing that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to land use and planning, population and housing would occur.

3.12 NOISE

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact NOI-1: Result in a Substantial Short-Term Increase in Exterior Ambient Noise Levels During Treatment Implementation	LTS	Impact NOI-1, pp. 3.13-9 – 3.13-12; Appendix NOI-1	Yes	AD-3, NOI-1, NOI-4, NOI-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact NOI-2: Result in a Substantial Short-Term Increase in Truck-Generated Single-Event Noise Levels During Treatment Activities	LTS	Impact NOI-2, p. 3.13-12	Yes	NOI-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Noise Impacts: Would the treatment result in other noise-related impacts that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant		
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

IMPACT NOI-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would require heavy, noise-generating equipment. The potential for a substantial short-term increase in ambient noise levels from use of heavy equipment was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the number and types of equipment proposed, and the duration of equipment use, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The proposed treatments would not require the use of helicopters, which was the loudest type of equipment evaluated in the PEIR. The Nevada County Zoning Ordinance exempts noise related to construction activities, which would also apply to vegetation treatment activities. However, the treatment activities would be limited to daytime hours Monday through Friday, which would avoid the potential to cause sleep disturbance to residents during the more noise-sensitive evening and nighttime hours. SPRs applicable to this treatment are NOI-1, NOI-4, and NOI-5. Because there are no sensitive receptors (i.e., schools, hospitals, or rural residences) within 1,500 feet of the treatment areas, SPR NOI-6 would not apply. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the exposure potential (i.e., lack of sensitive receptors) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the noise impact is also

the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT NOI-2

Initial and maintenance treatments would involve large trucks hauling heavy equipment to the project area. These haul truck trips would be on remote rural roads where residential receptors would not be affected. The potential for a substantial short-term increase in Single-Event Noise Levels was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the number and types of equipment proposed are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The haul trips associated with the treatment would occur during daytime hours, which would avoid the potential to cause sleep disturbance to residents during the more noise-sensitive evening and nighttime hours. SPR NOI-1 is applicable to the proposed treatments. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the exposure potential is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the noise impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW NOISE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.13.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.13.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to noise that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to noise would occur.

3.13 PUBLIC SERVICES, UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact UTIL-1: Result in Physical Impacts Associated with Provision of Sufficient Water Supplies, Including Related Infrastructure Needs	LTS	Impact UTIL-1, p. 3.16-9	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact UTIL-2: Generate Solid Waste in Excess of State Standards or Exceed Local Infrastructure Capacity	PSU	Impact UTIL-2, pp. 3.16-10 – 3.16-12	No	NA	None	NA	NA	NA
Impact UTIL-3: Comply with Federal, State, and Local Management and Reduction Goals, Statutes, and Regulations Related to Solid Waste	LTS	Impact UTIL-2, p. 3.16-12	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Notes:

LTS: less than significant; PSU: potentially significant and unavoidable.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New Public Services, Utilities and Service System Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to public services, utilities and service systems that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant		
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

IMPACT UTIL-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would include prescribed burning, which may require an on-site water supply if the burn goes out of prescription. If needed, water would be supplied from water trucks. The potential increased demand for water was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the PEIR because the size of the area proposed for prescribed burn treatments, amount of water required for prescribed burning, and water source type are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the water supplies present in the

areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the water supply impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT UTIL-2

Initial and maintenance treatments would generate biomass as a result of vegetation removal within the treatment areas. Biomass generated by mechanical and manual treatments would be disposed of either with pile burning or by lopping and scattering biomass in areas where material cannot safely be burned. This impact was identified as potentially significant and unavoidable in the PEIR because biomass hauled off-site could exceed the capacity of existing infrastructure for handling biomass. For the proposed treatment project, no biomass would be hauled off-site; therefore, there is no potential to exceed the capacity of existing infrastructure, and this impact does not apply to the proposed project.

IMPACT UTIL-3

This impact does not apply to the proposed project, because biomass generated from the proposed treatments would be disposed of on-site.

NEW IMPACTS TO PUBLIC SERVICES, UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.16.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.16.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatments would be undertaken are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to public services, utilities, or service systems would occur.

3.14 RECREATION

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact REC-1: Directly or Indirectly Disrupt Recreational Activities within Designated Recreation Areas	LTS	Impact REC-1, pp. 3.14-6 – 3.14-7	Yes	REC-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Recreation Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to recreation that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion			
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant			
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Discussion

The treatment areas occur on private and state-owned inholdings within the Tahoe National Forest. No recreational facilities are within the treatment areas; however, Rucker Lake Campground and the Fuller Lake picnic site are located immediately southeast of the treatment areas. The South Yuba Ridge Trail runs through the westernmost treatment area.

IMPACT REC-1

There are no designated recreation areas within the treatment areas; however, there is one public trail, the South Yuba Ridge Trail, that runs through the westernmost treatment area. Dispersed recreation occurs on adjacent Tahoe National Forest lands. Treatment activities could result in temporary closure of or limit access to the South Yuba Ridge Trail segment that runs through the treatment area during some treatment activities. Initial and maintenance treatments would not restrict access to or otherwise affect the other adjacent recreation sites. The potential for vegetation treatment and maintenance activities to disrupt recreation activities was examined in the PEIR. The potential for the proposed treatment project to impact recreation is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and intensity are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, the availability of recreational resources within the project area is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the impact to recreation is also the same, as described above. The SPR applicable to this treatment is REC-1. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

NEW RECREATION IMPACTS

The proposed project is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.14.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.14.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions pertinent to recreation that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. The SPR applicable to this impact is REC-1. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to recreation would occur.

3.15 TRANSPORTATION

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact TRAN-1: Result in Temporary Traffic Operations Impacts by Conflicting with a Program, Plan, Ordinance, or Policy Addressing Roadway Facilities or Prolonged Road Closures	LTS	Impact TRAN-1, pp. 3.15-9 – 3.15-10	Yes	AD-3, TRAN-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact TRAN-2: Substantially Increase Hazards due to a Design Feature or Incompatible Uses	LTS	Impact TRAN-2, pp. 3.15-10 – 3.15-11	Yes	AD-3, HYD-2, TRAN-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact TRAN-3: Result in a Net Increase in VMT for the Proposed CalVTP	PSU	Impact TRAN-3, pp. 3.15-11 – 3.15-13	Yes	NA	None	LTS	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant; PSU: potentially significant and unavoidable.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New Transportation Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to transportation that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant		
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

IMPACT TRAN-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would temporarily increase vehicular traffic along several roads in the project area, including Bowman Lake Road and Grouse Ridge Road. The potential for a temporary increase in traffic to conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing roadway facilities or prolonged road closures was examined in the PEIR. The proposed treatments would be short term, and temporary increases in traffic related to treatments are within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment duration and limited number of vehicles (i.e., heavy equipment transport, crew vehicles for crew members) associated with the proposed treatments are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. In addition, the proposed treatments would not all occur concurrently, and increases in vehicle trips associated with the treatments would be dispersed on multiple roadways. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic

extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing transportation conditions (e.g., roadways and road use) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the transportation impact is also the same, as described above. The SPR applicable to this treatment is TRAN-1. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT TRAN-2

Initial and maintenance treatments would not require the construction or alteration of any roadways. However, the proposed treatments would include prescribed burning, which would produce smoke and could potentially affect visibility along nearby roadways such that a transportation hazard could occur. The potential for smoke to affect visibility along roadways during implementation of the treatment project was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the PEIR because the burn duration is consistent with that analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing transportation conditions (e.g., roadways and road use) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the transportation impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-2 and TRAN-1. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT TRAN-3

Initial and maintenance treatments could temporarily increase vehicle miles traveled (VMT) above baseline conditions because the project area is in a remote location and would require vehicle trips to access the treatment areas. This impact was identified as potentially significant and unavoidable in the PEIR because implementation of the CalVTP would result in a net increase in VMT. However, as noted under Impact TRAN-3 in the PEIR, individual vegetation treatment projects under the CalVTP are reasonably expected to generate fewer than 110 trips per day, which would cause a less-than-significant transportation impact for specific later activities, as described in the *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts*, published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR 2018). Initial treatments are expected to require up to 10 crew members. Therefore, even if multiple treatments occur simultaneously, the crew sizes would be sufficiently small that the total increase in VMT would not exceed 110 trips per day. In addition, as mentioned above, the increase in vehicle trips would be dispersed to multiple roadways. Temporary increases in VMT are within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the PEIR because the number and duration of increased vehicle trips is consistent with that analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing transportation conditions (e.g., roadways and road use) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the transportation impact is also the same, as described above. This impact would be less than significant.

NEW IMPACTS TO TRANSPORTATION

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.15.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.15.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to transportation that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to transportation would occur.

3.16 WILDFIRE

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact WIL-1: Substantially Exacerbate Fire Risk and Expose People to Uncontrolled Spread of a Wildfire	LTS	Impact WIL-1, pp. 3.17-14 – 3.17-15	Yes	HAZ-2 through HAZ-4	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact WIL-2: Expose People or Structures to Substantial Risks Related to Post-Fire Flooding or Landslides	LTS	Impact WIL-2, pp. 3.17-15 – 3.17-16	Yes	AQ-3, GEO-1 through GEO-5, GEO-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes:

LTS: less than significant.

NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Wildfire Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts related to wildfire that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant		
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

IMPACT WIL-1

Initial treatment and treatment maintenance would include prescribed burning and mechanical treatments using heavy equipment, both of which could pose a risk of wildfire ignition or risk of a prescribed fire escaping its control lines. The potential increase in exposure to wildfire during implementation of treatments was examined in the PEIR. Increased wildfire risk associated with prescribed burning and use of heavy equipment in vegetated areas are within the scope of the PEIR because the types of equipment and treatment duration of the proposed project are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the wildfire risk of the project area is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the wildfire impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HAZ-2 through HAZ-4. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT WIL-2

Initial treatment and treatment maintenance would include prescribed burning, and steep slopes are present within the treatment area. The potential for post-fire landslides was examined in the PEIR. Potential exposure of people or structures to post-fire landslides is also examined within the PEIR because the severity and duration of the proposed

prescribed burn are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the post-fire landslide risk of the project area is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the wildfire impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this impact are AQ-3, GEO-2 through GEO-5, and GEO-8. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

NEW WILDFIRE IMPACTS

The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable regulatory and environmental conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.17.1, "Regulatory Setting," and Section 3.17.2, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to wildfire that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to wildfire risk would occur.

4 LIST OF PREPARERS

UC Regents (Lead Agency)

William Stewart..... Co-Director, Berkeley Forests
Ariel Thomson Roughton.....Project Manager, Research Stations Manager, Berkeley Forests
Robert York.....Cooperative Extension Specialist, UC Berkeley
Raphael Breines.....Senior Planner

Ascent Environmental, Inc. (CEQA Compliance)

Curtis E. Alling, AICP.....Principal
Heather Blair.....Project Director
Stephanie Rasmussen.....Project Manager; Air Quality; Energy Resources; Geology, Soils and Mineral Resources;
Hazardous Materials, Public Health, and Safety; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use
and Planning, Population and Housing; Noise; Public Services,
Utilities, and Service Systems; Transportation
Alta Cunningham.....Archaeological, Historic, and Tribal Cultural Resources
Lara Rachowicz, Ph.D.....Biological Resources
Allison Fuller.....Biological Resources
Ally Kerley.....Aesthetics and Visual Resources, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Recreation, Wildfire
Lisa Merry.....GIS Specialist
Gaiety Lane.....Publishing Specialist
Michele Mattei.....Publishing Specialist
Brian Perry.....Graphic Specialist

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