

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement has reviewed the proposed project described below to determine whether it could have a significant effect on the environment as a result of project completion. "Significant effect on the environment" means a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

NAME OF PROJECT: San José Family Camp Master Development Plan.

PROJECT FILE NUMBER: PP11-057

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of San José has developed an updated Master Plan which outlines all future improvements and upgrades necessary for full regulatory compliance and the long-term operation of Family Camp over the next 20 years. The Master Plan: a) documents existing conditions at Family Camp including a comprehensive evaluation of camp facilities (i.e., structural integrity problems, health/life/safety standards of camp buildings); b) addresses environmental management work required by the U.S. Forest Service; c) identifies opportunities to renovate camp facilities; d) improves infrastructure; and e) achieves full regulatory compliance.

The City has developed and is considering five Master Plan alternatives for Family Camp, with options pertaining to the dining hall, amphitheater, children's play area, and creek daylighting being the primary differences between the alternatives. In addition to the five Master Plan alternatives, a "closure of Family Camp" alternative and a "no project" alternative are also evaluated in the Initial Study.

PROJECT LOCATION & ASSESSORS PARCEL NO.: San José Family Camp is located on a 46.9-acre site in the Stanislaus National Forest in Tuolumne County, east of Groveland, California. APN 068-13-012 (Tuolumne County)

COUNCIL DISTRICT: N/A

APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION: City of San Jose, Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services, 200 East Santa Clara Street, Tower 9, San José, CA 95113 (Dave Mitchell, Parks Planning Manager; Phone: (408) 793-5528).

FINDING:

The Director of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement finds the project described above will not have a significant effect on the environment in that the attached initial study identifies one or more potentially significant effects on the environment for which the project applicant, before public release

of this draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, has made or agrees to make project revisions that clearly mitigate the effects to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT TO REDUCE POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS TO A LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT LEVEL

- I. AESTHETICS.** The project will not have a significant impact on aesthetics or visual resources, therefore no mitigation is required.
- II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES.** The project will not have a significant impact on agriculture or forest resources, therefore no mitigation is required.
- III. AIR QUALITY.** The project will incorporate standard Best Management Practice measures during construction and will not have a significant air quality impact, therefore no mitigation is required.
- IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.** The project could have potentially significant impacts on biological resources and sensitive habitats. Mitigation measures are identified below that will reduce these potential impacts to a less-than-significant level.
 1. MM BIO-1.1 Prior to any ground-disturbing activities that could potentially have direct impacts to aquatic, freshwater wetland or riparian habitats, a focused survey will be completed by a qualified wetland biologist to determine the precise limits of these habitats within Family Camp. The lateral limits of these regulated habitats within 100 feet of any proposed construction activities shall be delineated on the ground using wooden stakes, pin-flags or orange construction fencing.
 2. MM BIO-1.2 Future project improvement activities will be designed to avoid and minimize impacts to these sensitive habitats to the extent practicable through a combination of site improvement redesign and modification of construction methodology while still accomplishing project objectives. Possible improvement redesign and construction methodology options could include the following:
 - Locate new horseshoe pit in an area outside of riparian or wetland habitat;
 - Locate staging areas for construction activities outside of riparian and aquatic habitat;
 - When repairing or replacing bridges use designs that span the riparian and wetland habitats;
 - When repairing or lengthening the retaining wall, use a method that will minimize the chances of concrete or other noxious materials coming into contact with the active flow channel of the river.
 3. MM BIO-1.3 Aquatic, freshwater wetland, or riparian habitats that are temporarily impacted during construction from specific maintenance or renovation projects shall be restored to pre-existing contours and levels of soil compaction following project completion. The means by which such temporarily impacted areas will be restored shall be detailed in a mitigation plan (see MM BIO-1.4, below).

4. MM BIO-1.4 Unavoidable permanent fill of aquatic, freshwater wetland, or riparian habitats will be mitigated at a minimum ratio of 1:1 (mitigation area: impact area) by creation or restoration of similar habitat in Family Camp. Mitigation may be achieved through on-site restoration or creation of aquatic, wetland, or riparian habitats including removal of onsite fill or structures that results in a gain of wetland or aquatic habitats. For areas to be restored as mitigation for temporary or permanent impacts, the City of San José shall prepare and implement a regulated habitat mitigation plan. The City shall retain a qualified restoration ecologist or wetland biologist to develop the mitigation plan, which shall contain the following components (or as otherwise modified by regulatory agency permitting conditions):
 - Summary of habitat impacts and proposed mitigation ratios, along with a description of any other mitigation strategies used to achieve the overall mitigation ratios, such as funding of off-site improvements and/or purchase of mitigation bank credits.
 - Goal of the restoration to achieve no net loss of habitat functions and values.
 - Location of mitigation site(s) and description of existing site conditions.
 - Mitigation design shall include 1) existing and proposed site hydrology; 2) grading plan if appropriate, including bank stabilization or other site stabilization features; 3) soil amendments and other site preparation elements as appropriate; 4) planting plan (including an irrigation and maintenance plan and proposed remedial measures/adaptive management, etc.); 5) monitoring plan (including final and performance criteria, monitoring methods, data analysis, reporting requirements, monitoring schedule, etc.) and; 6) contingency plan for mitigation elements that do not meet performance or final success criteria.
5. MM BIO-2.1 Prior to approving construction (and preferably the year before actual construction is to occur, as the majority of these plants flower in the spring and summer) the City of San José shall hire a qualified plant ecologist to complete focused surveys during the published blooming period for Tompkin's sedge, big-scale balsamroot, Small's southern clarkia, Mariposa clarkia, Tuolumne fawn lily, Parry's horkelia, slender-stemmed monkeyflower and yellow-lipped pansy monkeyflower. The locations, blooming period, and specific habitat requirements of each of these eight species are outlined in the Initial Study Table 4.4-1 (IS, page 67, Section 4.4.1.4).
6. MM BIO-2.2 For each of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) listed plant species that could occur within the Master Plan improvement areas, a species-specific determination of potential significance will be completed after focused surveys are completed. Significance determinations will be completed by a qualified plant ecologist, using the results of the study are survey and existing special-status plant databases. If it is found that project impacts will permanently disturb or remove a regionally large or important population (containing five percent or more of the known individuals for the species within 50 miles of Family Camp, or if loss of said population would substantially reduce the range for the species), implementation of mitigation measures MM BIO-2.4 and MM BIO-2.5 (below) would reduce these impacts to a less than significant level.

7. MM BIO-2.3 The proposed improvements will avoid impacts to known special-status plant populations on-site through a combination of site redesign and modification of construction methodologies (for example, the proposed location of the horseshoe pit or other proposed structure could be adjusted to avoid impacting the population; fencing could be erected around sensitive plant populations in the vicinity of construction activities to avoid impacts; or depending on the type of activity and species of plant involved, adjusting the timing of the activity (e.g., to disturbing the plants prior to seed set)). All populations of California State rare, and CNPS-listed plants (for which a determination of significance has been made under mitigation measure MM BIO-2.2) that are to be avoided shall be protected by a permanent buffer zone established prior to site grading. The buffer for any special-status plants on site shall be established at 50 feet from the perimeter of the population or the individual plants unless otherwise agreed upon by a qualified plant ecologist.
8. MM BIO-2.4 If avoidance of the California State rare and CNPS-listed plants (for which a determination of significance has been made under mitigation measure MM BIO- 2.2) is not possible, mitigation will be required in the form of funding future survey efforts and/or managing off-site populations of the species identified within the Stanislaus National Forest. Such surveys have the benefit of adding to the existing body of knowledge regarding the distribution of special-status species in the Stanislaus National Forest. Alternatively, funds and/or labor and materials shall be provided to preserve and manage existing documented populations of special-status plants on the Stanislaus National Forest. The money, labor, or materials shall be used to protect existing populations that are currently threatened. The funds may also be used to provide educational opportunities for these areas in the form of signage, exhibits or other printed materials documenting and describing the importance of preserving important natural resources such as special-status plant populations.
9. MM BIO-3.1 All project activities that take place in river or riparian habitat will be preceded by a pre-construction survey completed by a qualified biologist. If a western pond turtle or foothill yellow-legged frog is found it will be moved to appropriate habitat either up or downstream from the project site.
10. MM BIO-3.2 If a pond turtle or foothill yellow-legged frog is encountered during construction, activities in the vicinity shall cease until appropriate corrective measures have been implemented and it has been determined by a qualified biologist that the individual will not be harmed. Any western pond turtles or foothill yellow-legged frogs encountered during construction shall be allowed to move away from the area on their own prior to recommencement of construction activities.
11. MM BIO-4.1 Construction, maintenance, and renovation activities shall be scheduled to avoid the nesting season. If construction activities are scheduled to take place outside the nesting season, all impacts to nesting golden eagles will be avoided. The nesting season for golden eagles near Family Camp extends from March 1st through August 31st.
12. MM BIO-4.2 If it is not possible to schedule activities between September 1st and February 30th, then pre-activity surveys for nesting golden eagles shall be completed by a qualified ornithologist to ensure that no nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan. The surveys shall be completed no more than seven (7) days prior

to the initiation of activities. The ornithologist will inspect all trees and other potential nesting habitats at Family Camp and within 0.5 miles (where public access is available) of the activity area for nests. If an active nest is found, MM BIO-4.3 or MM BIO-4.4 shall be implemented.

13. MM BIO-4.3 A qualified biologist shall determine the appropriate buffer to be established around the active nest in order to prevent its disturbance by project activities. The buffer shall be maintained until the young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist. Alternatively, the City may implement MM BIO-4.4.
14. MM BIO-4.4 The City shall retain a qualified biologist to monitor the golden eagle nest throughout implementation of any Master Plan activities within 0.5 miles of an active nest. If at any point the monitor determines that activities are adversely affecting the golden eagles, activities shall cease and MM BIO-4.3 shall be implemented.
15. MM BIO-5.1 Maintenance and renovation activities shall be scheduled to avoid the willow flycatcher nesting season. If activities are scheduled to take place outside the nesting season, all impacts to nesting willow flycatchers will be avoided. The nesting season for willow flycatchers within Family Camp extends from April 1st through August 31st.
16. MM BIO-5.2 If it is not possible to schedule the Master Plan activities between September 1st and March 31st, then pre-activity surveys for nesting willow flycatchers shall be completed by a qualified ornithologist to ensure that no nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan. These surveys shall be completed no more than seven days prior to the initiation of project activities. During the surveys, the ornithologist will inspect all potential nesting habitats, including trees and shrubs, in and immediately adjacent to the activity area for nests. If an active nest is found sufficiently close to work areas to be disturbed, the ornithologist will determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest (typically 50 to 100 feet), to ensure that no willow flycatcher nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan.
17. MM BIO-6.1 Maintenance and renovation activities shall be scheduled to avoid the purple martin nesting season. If activities are scheduled to take place outside the nesting season, all impacts to nesting purple martins will be avoided. The nesting season for purple martins within Family Camp extends from April 1st through August 31st.
18. MM BIO-6.2 If it is not possible to schedule the Master Plan activities between September 1st and March 31st, then pre-activity surveys for nesting purple martins shall be completed by a qualified ornithologist to ensure that no nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan. These surveys shall be completed no more than seven (7) days prior to the initiation of project activities. During the surveys, the ornithologist will inspect all potential nesting habitats, including trees and shrubs, in and immediately adjacent to the activity area for nests. If an active nest is found sufficiently close to work areas to be disturbed, the ornithologist will determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest (typically 50 to 100 feet), to ensure that no purple martin nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan.

19. MM BIO-7.1 A pre-activity survey for roosting bats shall be completed prior to any removal or renovation of buildings, particularly those with closed areas such as an attic space, or removal of trees greater than 12 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet above grade. The survey shall be completed by a qualified bat biologist holding a CDFG collection permit and a Memorandum of Understanding with CDFG allowing the biologist to handle and collect bats. No activities that would result in disturbance to active roosts shall proceed prior to the completed surveys. If no active roosts are found, then no further action is warranted. If a roost is present, a qualified bat biologist shall determine the species and number of individuals present. If pallid bats, Townsend's big-eared bats, fringed myotis, or large roosts of other species (as defined above) are present, mitigation measure MM BIO-7.3 or MM BIO-7.4 shall be implemented.
20. MM BIO-7.2 If the Family Camp operating season is to be extended to include year-round use, a survey for suitable bat hibernacula shall be completed by a qualified bat biologist prior to the onset of the species' hibernation period. The bat hibernation period extends from approximately October 15 to February 15. The survey shall include all Family Camp structures. If no potential hibernacula are found, no further action is warranted. If a potential hibernaculum is located, mitigation measure MM BIO-7.3 or MM BIO-7.4 shall be implemented.
21. MM BIO-7.3 If an occupied roost is found in a tree or structure that would be disturbed or removed as part of the Master Plan, the project may be redesigned to avoid the disturbance of the building or tree. If the roost is unoccupied at the time of the survey, the City of San José may choose to install bat exclusion devices to prevent bats from taking up occupancy of the structure prior to the onset of the proposed activity. If avoidance is not feasible, mitigation measure MM BIO-7.4 shall be implemented.
22. MM BIO-7.4 If an active nursery roost is located and the project activity cannot be redesigned to avoid removal or disturbance of the occupied tree or structure, disturbance shall not take place during the maternity roost season (March 15th to July 31st), and a disturbance-free buffer zone (determined by a qualified bat biologist) shall be observed during this period.

If disturbance of an active non-breeding bat roost cannot be avoided, the bat individuals shall be safely evicted between August 1st and October 15th or between February 15th and March 15th (as determined by a Memorandum of Understanding with CDFG). Bats may be evicted through exclusion after notifying CDFG. Appropriate one-way doors should be constructed and left in place for a minimum of two weeks with a minimum of three fair weather nights where temperatures are no colder than 50° F. The one-way doors should be installed the day prior to a night with no precipitation and forecast temperatures no colder than 50° F. Trees with roosts that need to be removed should first be disturbed at dusk, just prior to removal that same evening, to allow bats to escape during the darker hours.

23. MM BIO-8.1 To the extent feasible, construction activities should be scheduled to avoid the nesting season. If construction activities are scheduled to take place outside the nesting season, all impacts to nesting birds protected under the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code will be avoided. The nesting season for most birds in the mid-elevation Sierra Nevada extends from April 1st through August 31st.

24. MM BIO-8.2 If it is not possible to schedule construction activities between September 1st and March 31st then pre-construction surveys for nesting birds should be completed by a qualified ornithologist to ensure that no nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan. The surveys shall be completed no more than seven days prior to initiation of construction activities. The ornithologist will inspect all trees and other potential nesting habitats (e.g., trees, shrubs, ruderal grasslands, buildings) in and immediately adjacent to the impact areas for nests. If an active nest is found sufficiently close to work areas to be disturbed by construction, renovation or maintenance activities, the ornithologist will determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest (typically 250 feet for raptors and 50 to 100 feet for other species), to ensure that no nests of species protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code will be disturbed during project implementation.
25. MM BIO-8.3 If construction activities will not be initiated until after the start of the nesting season, all potential nesting substrates (e.g., bushes, trees, grasses, and other vegetation) that are scheduled to be removed, shall be removed prior to the start of the nesting season (prior to April 1st). This will preclude the initiation of nests in this vegetation, and prevent the potential delay of the project due to the presence of active nests in these substrates.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Excavation for the project could uncover buried archaeological resources. This impact will be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the mitigation measures listed below.

1. MM CR-1.1 A U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Permit for Archaeological Investigations on US Forest Service lands shall be obtained prior to any archaeological test investigations. A Native American monitor shall be on site during all on-site excavations.
2. MM CR-1.2 A qualified professional archaeologist shall complete archaeological explorations for the entire project site and fieldwork shall entail coring to appropriate depths where such ground disturbance is planned.
3. MM CR-1.3 A letter report shall be prepared by a qualified professional archaeologist at the end of field work to document the findings and the report shall be provided to the City of San Jose Environmental Principal Planner and US Forest Service for review and approval. The report shall assess what site areas do or do not contribute to site eligibility, and the proposed Master Plan improvements shall be modified to avoid all impacts to cultural resources, if required.
4. MM CR-1.4 In the event human remains are discovered during test excavations or future soil-disturbing activities as part of the Master Plan, there will be no further excavation or disturbance of the work site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains as determined by the professional archaeologist. The Tuolumne County Coroner will be notified and will make a determination as to whether the remains are of Native American origin or whether an investigation into the cause of death is required. If the Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) immediately. Once NAHC identifies the most likely descendants, the descendants will make

recommendations regarding proper burial, which will be implemented in accordance with Section 15064.5(e) of the CEQA Guidelines.

5. MM CR-1.5 During any future soil-disturbing activities as part of the Master Plan, the monitoring archaeologist will submit a report to the City of San José Environmental Principal Planner and the US Forest Service. If no resources are discovered during soil disturbing activities, the report will verify that the required monitoring occurred and that no items were discovered. If cultural resources were discovered, the report will contain a description of any resources found, a description of the monitoring and testing procedures used, resources analysis methodology and conclusions, and a description of the disposition/curatorship of the resources.
6. MM CR-1.6 During any subsequent phase of the Master Plan that may involve ground disturbance/excavation, a qualified archaeologist and a Native American monitor shall be present (pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and 7051, and Public Resources Code Sections 5097.98 and 5097.99).

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. The project could have potentially significant impacts in regard to geology and soils. Mitigation measures are identified below that will reduce these potential impacts to a less-than-significant level.

1. MM GEO 1-1 Prior to any amphitheater improvements as part of the Master Plan, a qualified geotechnical engineer shall be retained to assess the stability of soil at the top of the amphitheater seating area. The engineer will provide recommendations to prevent slope failure, and the report of findings shall be submitted to the City of San José Geologist for review and approval. All future design and construction must be completed following the recommendations of the reports.
2. MM GEO 1-2 Prior to any development at Family Camp a qualified geologist will survey and map all improvement areas to determine the potential for landslides on or adjacent to slopes with grades that exceed 30 percent. If unstable slopes are identified by the geologist, a qualified geotechnical engineer will be retained to provide recommendations on how to prevent slope failure prior to development. The report of findings shall be submitted to the City of San José Geologist for review and approval. All future design and construction must be completed following the recommendations of the reports.
3. MM GEO 2-1 The Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measures shall be implemented during all demolition, construction, maintenance, and renovation activities to ensure that disturbed areas are stabilized, appropriate erosion control measures are implemented during maintenance and renovation activities, and a spill prevention and response plan is prepared.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. The project will not have a significant impact due to greenhouse gas emissions, therefore no mitigation is required.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. The project may result in significant impacts associated with the presence and release of hazardous materials on the project site

during construction. Mitigation measures identified below will reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level.

1. MM HAZ-1.1 Prior to demolition or construction activities for the dining hall, soil samples will be collected in the vicinity of the petroleum-odor, and analyzed by a qualified environmental professional to determine the type and extent of release and potential health effects to construction workers. The analytical results will be compared against applicable hazardous waste criteria, and if necessary, the investigation will provide recommendations regarding management and disposal of affected soil and groundwater. In addition, a Soil Management Plan will be prepared to address handling of contaminated materials during construction. Any contaminated soil and/or groundwater found in concentrations above developed thresholds shall be removed and disposed of according to California Hazardous Waste Regulations. Special health and safety measures and/or soil management procedures may also be required during project construction. All soil and groundwater sampling results and any remediation and removal of contaminated soils and groundwater from the site, shall be provided to the Director of Planning prior to the start of any ground disturbance and/or issuance of grading permits, as applicable.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. The project will not have a significant hydrology and water quality impact, therefore no mitigation is required.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING. The project will not have a significant land use impact, therefore no mitigation is required.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. The project will not have a significant impact on mineral resources, therefore no mitigation is required.

XII. NOISE. The project will not have a significant noise impact, therefore no mitigation is required.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. The project will not have a significant population and housing impact, therefore no mitigation is required.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES. The project will not have a significant impact on public services, therefore no mitigation is required.

XV. RECREATION. The project will not have a significant impact on recreation, therefore no mitigation is required.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC. The project will not have a significant traffic impact, therefore no mitigation is required.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. The project will not have a significant impact on utilities and service systems, therefore no mitigation is required.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. The project will not substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, be cumulatively considerable, or have a substantial adverse effect on human beings, therefore no mitigation is required.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

Before 5:00 p.m. on **September 20, 2012**, any person may:

1. Review the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) as an informational document only;

or
2. Submit written comments regarding the information, analysis, and mitigation measures in the Draft MND. Before the MND is adopted, Planning staff will prepare written responses to any comments, and revise the Draft MND, if necessary, to reflect any concerns raised during the public review period. All written comments will be included as part of the Final MND.

Joseph Horwedel, Director
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement

Circulation period, from August 20, 2012 to September 20, 2012


Deputy

Revised 5-6-11 jam

Initial Study

San José Family Camp Master Development Plan

File No. PP11-057



August 2012

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This Initial Study of environmental impacts is being prepared to conform to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations §15000 et.seq.) and the regulations and policies of the City of San José, California.

This Initial Study evaluates the environmental impacts that might reasonably be anticipated to result from the implementation of San José Family Camp Master Development Plan. The City has utilized a municipal camp site and operated it as the San José Family Camp (Family Camp) through a Special Use Permit/Land Lease Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service since 1968. Family Camp is located in the Stanislaus National Forest in Tuolumne County, east of Groveland, California.

The City has discretionary approval over the San José Family Camp Master Plan, as lead agency under CEQA. This Initial Study serves as an informational document to be used in the decision-making process and does not recommend either approval or denial of the Master Plan. This Initial Study is a public document that discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that would result from the proposed alternatives.

The decision of whether or not to authorize renewal of a Special Use Permit/Land Lease Agreement with the City of San José and the U.S. Forest Service would be evaluated under a separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental document prepared by the U.S. Forest Service. This U.S. Forest Service authorization, along with completion of the CEQA process and approval of the Master Plan by the City, would be required prior to implementation of the Master Plan.

SECTION 2.0

PROJECT INFORMATION

2.1 PROJECT TITLE

PP11-057; San José Family Camp Master Development Plan

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

San José Family Camp is located in the Stanislaus National Forest in, Tuolumne County, east of Groveland, California. The 46.9-acre camp site includes a portion of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River and is just off State Route 120 on Cherry Lake Road, approximately 10 miles west of the northern entrance gate of Yosemite National Park. Refer to Figures 2.2-1 and 2.2-2.

2.3 LEAD AGENCY CONTACT

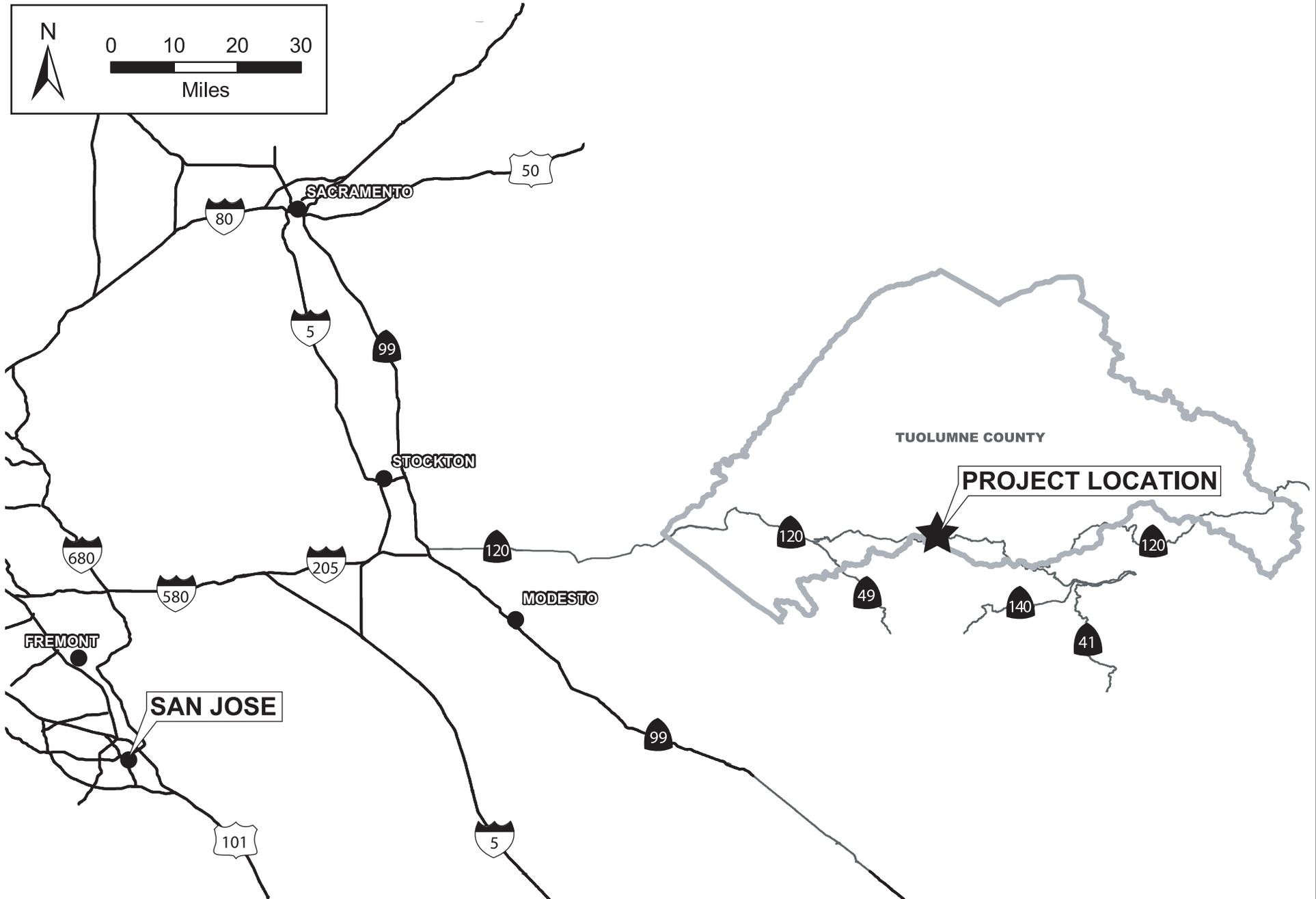
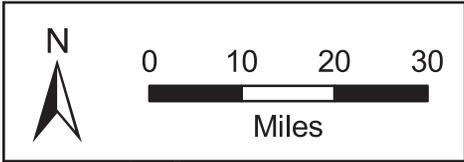
Bill Roth, Planner II
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2.4 PROJECT PROPONENT

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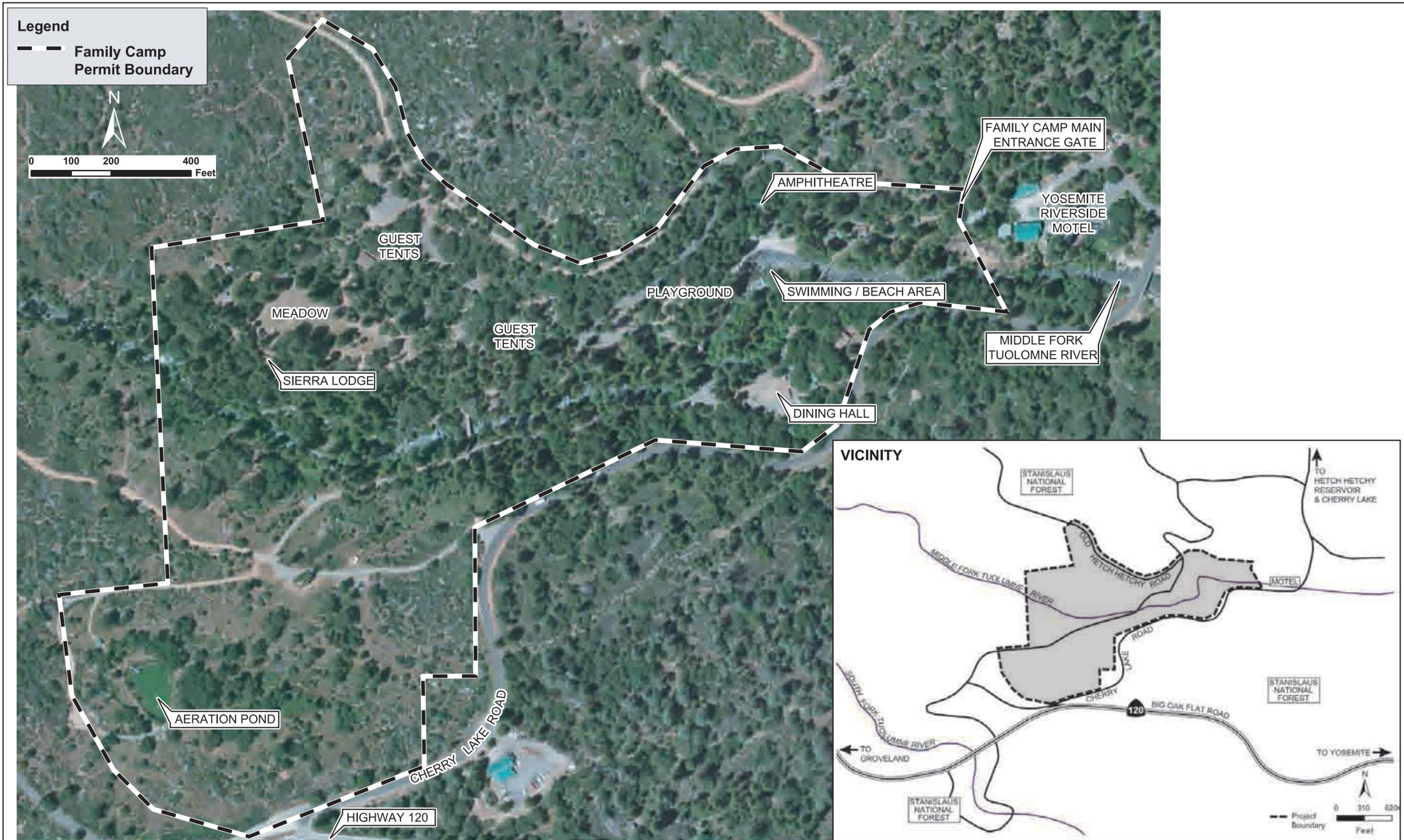
2.5 ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER

068-13-012 (Tuolumne County)



REGIONAL MAP

FIGURE 2.2-1



VICINITY MAP AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

FIGURE 2.2-2

3.1 BACKGROUND

The City of San José (the “City”) has utilized a municipal camp site and operated it as the San José Family Camp (Family Camp) through a Special Use Permit/Land Lease Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service (Groveland Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest) since 1968. The City has negotiated a new five-year Special Use Permit/Land Lease Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to continue operation of Family Camp. For all camps, clubs, and resorts operating under a Special Use Permit/Land Lease Agreement on U.S. Forest Service lands, a Master Development Plan (Master Plan) is required. A Master Plan is a comprehensive assessment of existing and future demands and the facility development required to meet those demands. The City has developed an updated Master Plan which outlines all future improvements and upgrades necessary for full regulatory compliance and the long-term operation of Family Camp.

The overarching objective of the Master Plan is to guide the future improvements to Family Camp over the next 20 years. To achieve this, the Master Plan: a) addresses those issues (both regulatory and physical) which will ensure the commitment by the City to oversee the operations and maintenance of the facilities in conjunction with the Friends of San José Family Camp¹; and b) addresses physical development of the camp facilities, including environmental priorities which would enhance the camp experience by providing a unique sense of place to campers and staff. To guide improvements at Family Camp, the Master Plan: a) documents existing conditions at Family Camp including a comprehensive evaluation of camp facilities (i.e., structural integrity problems, health/life/safety standards of camp buildings); b) addresses environmental management work required by the U.S. Forest Service; c) identifies opportunities to renovate camp facilities; d) improves infrastructure without changing the character of Family Camp; and e) achieves full regulatory compliance at the camp.

3.1.1 Existing Conditions at Family Camp

Family Camp is open generally from May to mid-October and use of the camp varies based upon the time of year. During spring and fall, the camp is open for family, group, and individual use. During these periods the camp is often occupied by community organizations such as scouts, YMCA, and special interest groups. Visitors often stay at the camp for early spring fishing. The Family Camp summer program runs from the middle of June to the middle of August and offer a campership program for San José residents with discounts for low-moderate income families. The Family Camp summer program constitutes the highest use period of the camp and it is supported by a full staff, complete in-house meal service, and a variety of structured activities. Families arrive throughout the week and stay an average of four nights. Each family stays in their own tent cabin. Meals are prepared by camp staff and served cafeteria-style in the dining hall.

¹ Friends of Family Camp is a volunteer organization that was established in 1973. The organization has approximately 450 members who complete maintenance activities and hold fundraisers to support Family Camp.

Family Camp facilities include a dining hall with a patio and deck area, a swimming area within the Middle Fork Tuolumne River which is created by a seasonal dam², an amphitheater, campfire circle, the Sierra Lodge which is used as an arts and craft building, restroom/bath/laundry units, staff units consisting of 26 cabins, the Family Camp caretaker's house, the assistant manager's cabin, and a total of 70 tent cabins consisting of 65 rentable guest tent cabins, and five tent cabins reserved for San José City staff and volunteers with Friends of Family Camp and the visiting nurses. Family Camp originally had 72 tent cabins; however, the 1999 Pilot Fire burnt down two of the tent cabins. Other camp recreational facilities include a softball field, an archery range, horseshoe pits located on an island in the Middle Fork Tuolumne River, a playground, hiking trails, and a shuffleboard court.

Family Camp has capacity to serve 390 campers per night housed within the rentable guest tent cabins. At capacity, the Camp has 40 to 60 employees and volunteers housed within 26 staff cabins, five tent cabins, the Family Camp caretaker's house, and the assistant manager's cabin.

It has been many years since Family Camp has made major improvements to its facilities and the deferred maintenance of the camp has led to deterioration of many of the camp buildings and infrastructure. Due to structural safety issues related to the dining hall, Family Camp was not in operation for the 2010 camp season and the 2011 pre-season. Critical items of concern are described below:

3.1.1.1 *Dining Hall*

The dining hall is surrounded by several mature trees, one of which is touching the building and causing damage to the roof eave. The exposed concrete foundations of the dining hall are visibly crumbling which has led to structural sagging of the building and deformed walls, and a cracked roof rafter indicates issues with past roof installation. Due to structural safety issues related to the dining hall, Family Camp was not in operation for the 2010 camp season and the 2011 pre-season. In 2011, the City installed braces to the exterior walls of the dining hall to provide a short-term solution for the major structural problems of the building. This is a temporary fix and eventually the building will need to be replaced.

3.1.1.2 *Amphitheater*

The Family Camp amphitheater seating structure does not meet current State Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Code compliance standards. The open tread steps in the aisle present a safety concern, particularly for small children who could fall through the wide spaces. The amphitheater was built in a drainage way and, at times, water has overtopped the bleacher area causing gulying under the seating and damaging the existing stage building. Additionally, it has been determined that the soil retaining system at the top of the existing amphitheater may be unstable and the slope behind the seating area may be prone to failure.

² The City of San José installs seasonal flashboards in the dam structure to create a swimming area in the river for the summer season.

3.1.1.3 *Playground*

The older wooden portion of the playground does not meet current ADA Code compliance standards and is boarded up and blocked off from use.

3.1.1.4 *Wildlife*

Family Camp is not in compliance with Forest Service policy that requires camping facilities to have bear-proof waste bins and food storage lockers.

3.1.1.5 *ADA Accessibility*

Family Camp was developed in the first half of the twentieth century prior to enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. Family Camp was not initially designed to accommodate the movement of those with disabilities. Since the ADA became law, many alterations have been made to Family Camp including construction of wheelchair ramps, accessible restrooms, and four accessible camper tents. The City is making an ongoing effort to make Family Camp facilities ADA accessible.

3.1.1.6 *Drainage*

Manmade features such as trails and graded areas that were built on the naturally steep terrain of Family Camp have led to noticeable erosion and drainage issues, which have resulted in damage to structures at the camp and sediment loading in the river.

3.2 OVERVIEW AND COMPARISON OF MASTER PLAN ALTERNATIVES

The City has developed and is considering five Master Plan alternatives (1 through 5) for Family Camp. Options pertaining to the dining hall, amphitheater, children’s play area, and creek daylighting are the primary differences between the five Master Plan alternatives. A ‘closure of Family Camp’ alternative and ‘no project’ alternative are also evaluated in this document (Alternative 6 and Alternative 7, respectively). Table 3.2-1 provides a summary comparison of Alternatives 1 – 7.

Table 3.2-1: Family Camp Alternatives Comparison Table					
Alternative No.	Alt. Name	Master Plan Camp Facility Improvements			
		Dining Hall	Children’s Play Area	Amphitheater	Creek Daylighting
1	MP-1	Enlarged Dining Hall/ Nature Center	Relocate	Relocate	Daylight from Road to River
2	MP-2	Enlarged Dining Hall/ Nature Center	Renovate within Existing Footprint	Relocate	Partial Daylighting
3	MP-3	Enlarged Dining Hall/ Nature Center	Renovate within Existing Footprint	Renovate within Existing Footprint	No Daylighting
4	MP-4	Two-Story Dining Hall within Existing Footprint	Renovate within Existing Footprint	Renovate within Existing Footprint	No Daylighting
5	MP-5	One-Story Dining Hall within Existing Footprint	Renovate within Existing Footprint	Renovate within Existing Footprint	No Daylighting
6	CC	Close Camp – Removal of all facilities and restore to natural state.			
7	NP	No Project - All facilities and operation remain as existing condition.			

This section describes and compares the alternatives considered for the Family Camp Master Plan project. This section also presents the project alternatives in comparative form, highlighting the primary differences between each alternative and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision-makers and the public. Some of the information used to compare the alternatives is based upon the design of the alternative and some of the information is based upon the environmental, social, and economic effects of implementing each alternative. Section 3.3 provides a more detailed description of each alternative.

3.2.1 Overview of Dining Hall Options

The existing Family Camp dining hall is approximately 6,500 square feet and includes a dining hall with a 200-person maximum seating capacity, a kitchen with a second-story storage area, an office, a

recreational lounge room, and a first aid station. As mentioned previously, the dining hall has structural issues and needs to be replaced to assure safe, long-term operation of the facility. The three options being considered under the Master Plan alternatives to resolve issues associated with the dining hall consist of the following:

- a) remove the existing dining hall and construct a new enlarged two-story dining hall/nature center;
- b) remove the existing dining hall and construct a new two-story dining hall within the existing dining hall footprint; or
- c) remove the existing dining hall and construct a new one-story dining hall within the existing footprint.

3.2.2 Overview of Children’s Play Area Options

The existing Family Camp children’s play area is not in compliance with current State ADA compliance standards. Additionally, there may be environmental concerns pertaining to erosion due to the location of the playground near the Tuolumne River, which is closer than permitted under the Forest Service’s Riparian Conservation Policy. The playground needs to be renovated for continued operation in compliance with applicable regulations. The two options being considered to resolve issues associated with the children’s play area consist of the following:

- a) rebuild the children’s play area within its existing footprint; or
- b) relocate the children’s play area to a new site near the meadow.

3.2.3 Overview of Amphitheater Options

The existing Family Camp amphitheater bleacher/stage facilities were designed in 1938 and now have drainage and code issues. Additionally, the amphitheater does not comply with the standards set by the ADA. This facility needs to be renovated for continued operation in compliance with applicable regulations. The two options being considered under the Master Plan alternatives to resolve issues associated with the amphitheater facilities consist of the following:

- a) rebuild and repair the existing bleachers with new bleachers of a similar style or with concrete seating steps, and build a rock-lined swale around the western edge of the facility to solve drainage issues; or
- b) relocate and replace the amphitheater bleachers and stage facilities to the northeast of the existing amphitheater location.

3.2.4 Overview of Creek Options

The creek that runs under the existing amphitheater drains into the Tuolumne River through a series of underground culverts. Various options are being considered under the Master Plan alternatives that pertain to the creek, including:

- a) daylighting the creek from the entrance road culvert to the river;
- b) partial daylighting of the creek; or
- c) leave the creek as-is, running through the existing underground culvert.

3.3 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES 1 – 7

3.3.1 Master Plan Alternative 1

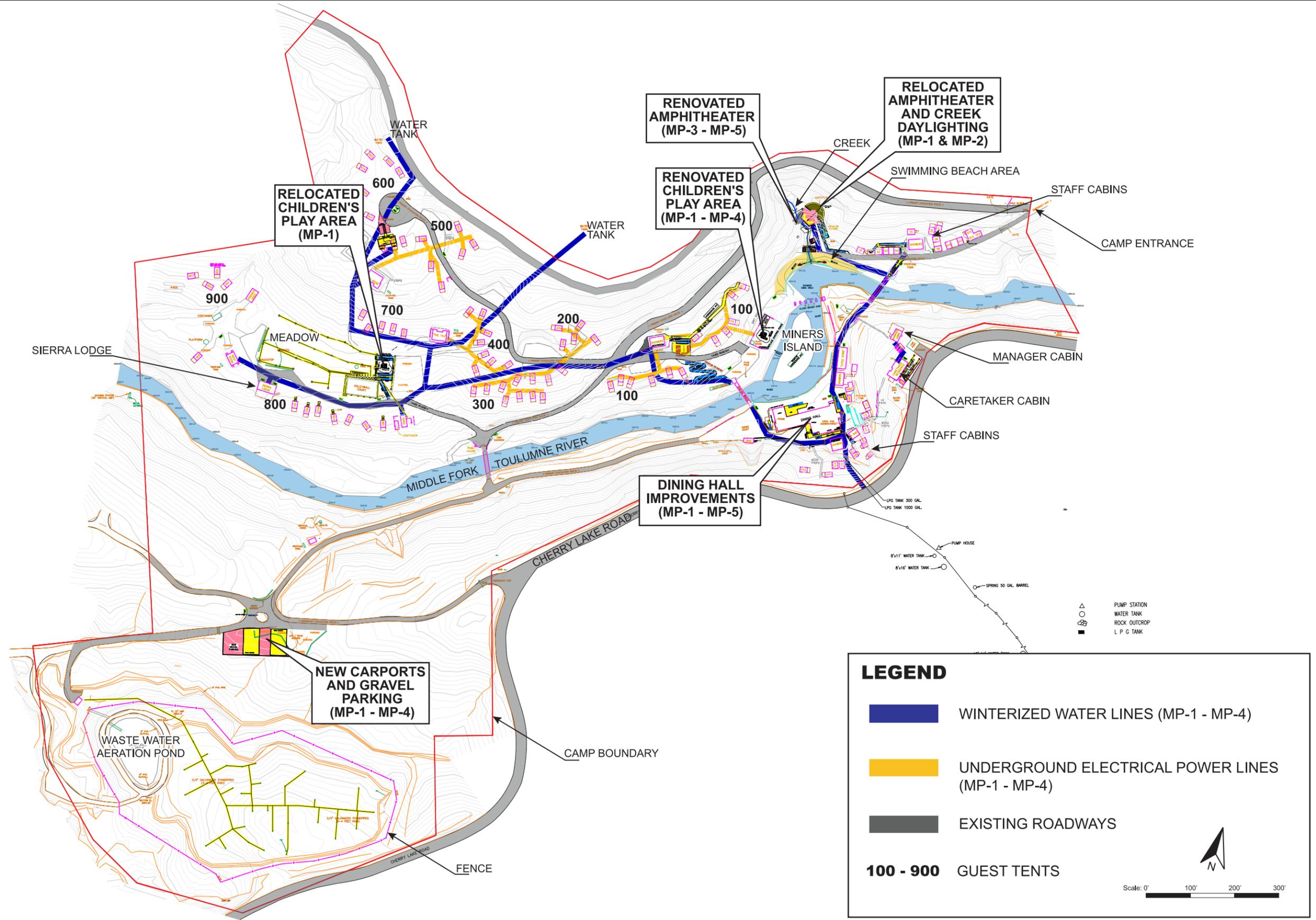
Master Plan Alternative 1 includes an enlarged dining hall/nature center, a relocated children’s play area, a relocated amphitheater, and the daylighting of the creek from the entrance road culvert to the river (see Figure 3.3-1). The following list describes the 11 major improvements that are priorities under Alternative 1, with details regarding the scope of each improvement.

1. Dining Hall Improvements

The dining hall is located within the Riparian Conservation Area zone, as defined by the Forest Plan. According to the Forest Plan, Family Camp should not increase impervious surfaces within 300 feet of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River, with the exception of ADA access improvements. Alternative 1 proposes to enlarge the footprint of the new dining hall/nature center by removing a staff restroom/laundry room and an adjacent recreational storage shed (both facilities are located behind the existing dining hall) which total 1,130 square feet (sf), and adding the square footage to the footprint of the new dining hall/nature center (see Figure 3.3-2). The footprint for the new dining hall/nature center would not exceed 7,630 sf. The combined interior square footage of the new two-story dining hall/nature center would not exceed 14,860 sf for the two floors.³ Features proposed for the new dining hall/nature center include:

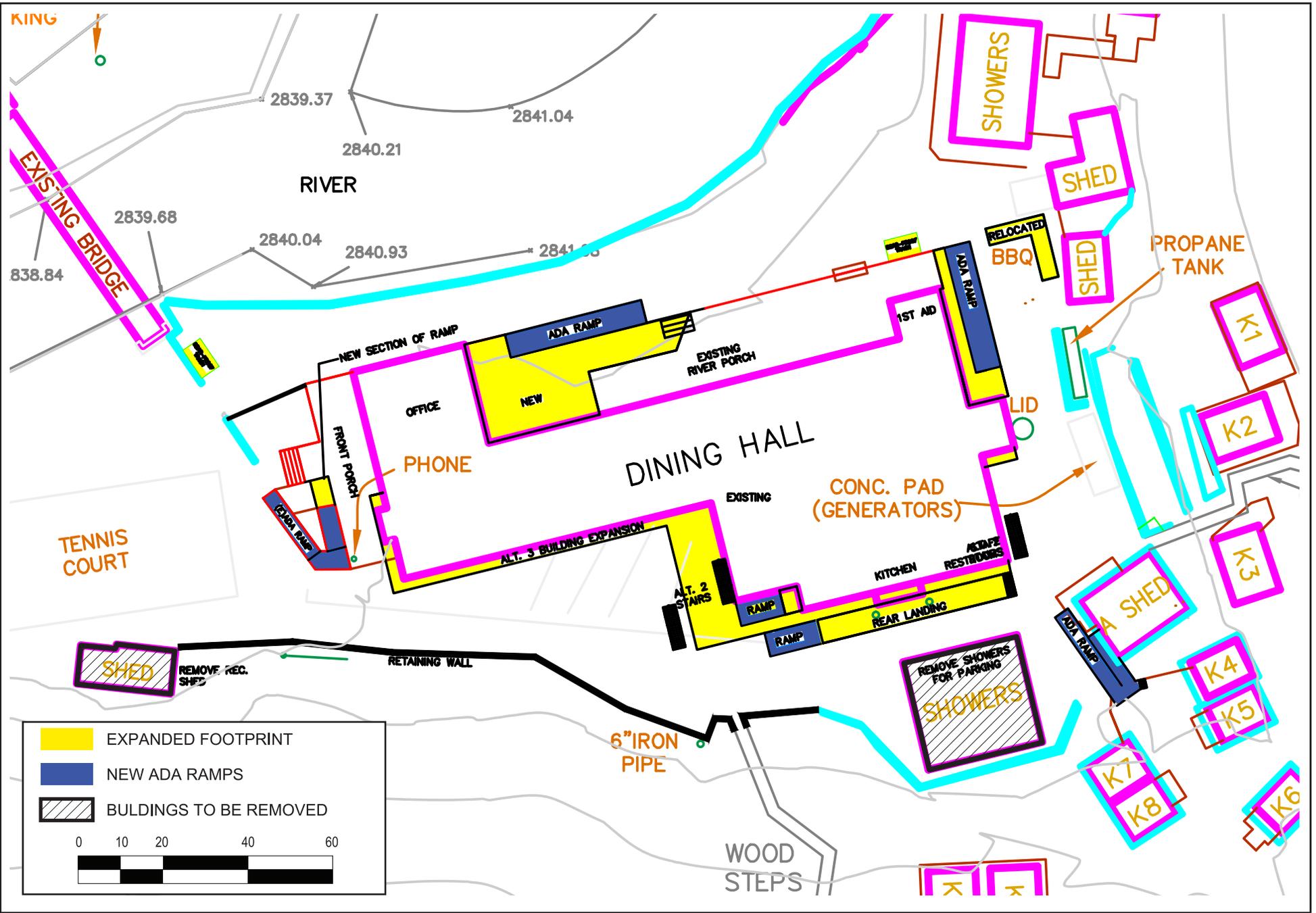
- Enlarged interior dining capacity (to 240 person maximum capacity)
- First aid station
- Reception office
- Redesigned kitchen, scullery, and food storage areas
- Increased elevation of the floor and porch to reduce the potential for flood damage
- Construction of stairs and two ADA compliant ramps from the river terrace and BBQ area to the revised dining hall/nature center porch (see Figure 3.3-2)
- Inclusion of a nature center with a multipurpose room, a lounge, and visitor restrooms on the second floor
- Installation of an elevator compliant with ADA standards to provide access to the second floor of the dining hall/nature center
- Installation of an interior stairway to access the second floor and two exterior stairway/fire escapes
- Installation of staff restroom/laundry room on the first floor
- Installation of a rear access deck to provide staff ingress and egress to the kitchen, staff restrooms, and laundry facilities
- Installation of additional office space for staff on the second floor
- Installation of an updated phone/data system and internet connection
- Installation of solar panels on the roof
- Insulation of the walls and roof to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification

³ Per City policy, buildings over 10,000 square feet will be designed to meet at least a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver certification. LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification. The new nature center proposed in this alternative would place solar panels on the south facing slopes of the roof on the new dining hall/nature center.



FAMILY CAMP MASTER PLAN FACILITY IMPROVEMENT MAP

FIGURE 3.3-1



ENLARGED DINING HALL

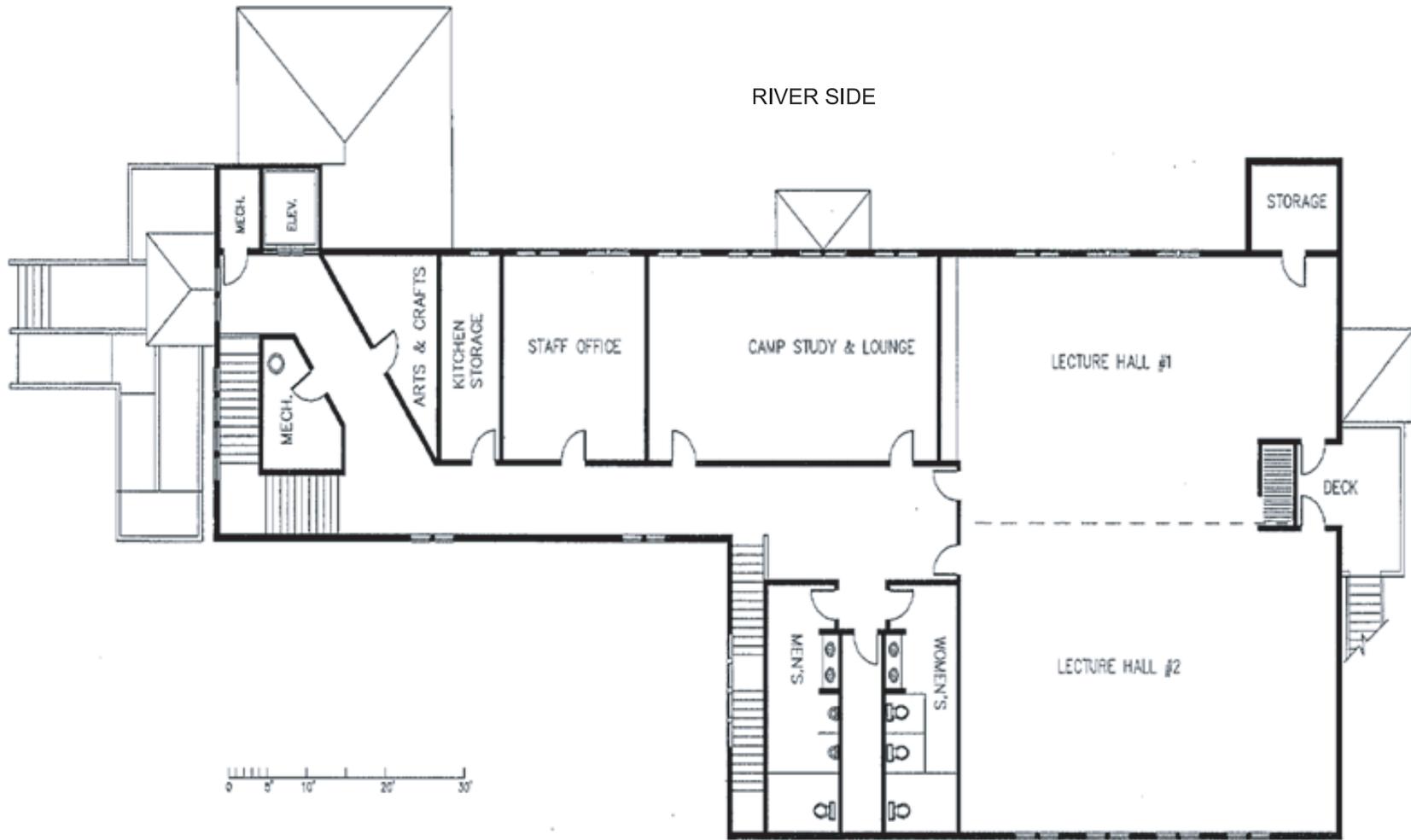
FIGURE 3.3-2

Design plans for the first and second floors of the proposed dining hall/nature center are shown in Figures 3.3-3 and 3.3-4.

2. Repair and/or enhance other major Family Camp buildings.

The Family Camp buildings described below are deteriorating and in need of improvements to also comply with ADA standards. The square footages of the buildings would not increase. The following description outlines the necessary repairs and/or enhancements:

- a) Guest Tents
 - Repair and replace guest tents as needed including new canvas and deck railings, and rebuild the two tents which were lost in the 1999 Pilot Fire
 - Provide electrical power to all tents via underground electrical lines. Trenching would be approximately two feet wide and total 1,850 feet
 - Provide ADA wooden ramp access to tents 110, 111, 112, 610, 611, 801, 802, 803, and 804, and 807.
 - Provide a five-foot wide paved pathway to tents 110, 111, and 112.
- b) Provide an ADA pathway from the 100's tents to the dining hall pedestrian bridge
- c) Staff Cabins
 - Repair and replace staff cabins as needed, including new deck railings and possible insulation of walls and ceilings, and weather tight doors and windows for year-round use. This would include unit 906 which was a tent that was converted into a prototype cabin.
 - Provide ADA wooden ramp access to staff cabins S2, S3, and S4, and that connect to the restroom and to the adjacent paved roadway located at ground level
- d) Utility/Support Buildings
 - Repair existing tool shed and equipment shed buildings as needed, including new sidings and roofs
- e) A-Shed
 - Complete the renovation of the existing 'A-Shed' as a staff recreational lounge room. Renovations would include insulation of the structure's walls and roof, replacement of the exiting ramp with an ADA accessible ramp, and improved electrical service. The ramp would be located on the southwestern side of the building.
- f) Manager's Cabin
 - Renovate and enhance existing structure as needed including new sidings, roof, fixtures, insulation, and deck railing
- g) Camp Store Building
 - Renovate and enhance existing structure including new sidings, roof, interior fixtures, and building insulation
 - City may upgrade structure to provide recreational activities in addition to the existing activities which consist of selling ice-cream, candy, and memorabilia
- h) Sierra Lodge and associated deck
 - Renovate and enhance the existing structure including new sidings, roof, fixtures, insulation, decking and deck railing
 - Upgrade northern interior of the building to include a kitchen facility
 - Install new water and sewer lines to support the new kitchen facility



ENLARGED DINING HALL / NATURE CENTER - SECOND FLOOR

FIGURE 3.3-4

- i) Caretaker's House and Carport
 - Renovate and enhance as needed, including installation of building insulation
 - Enclose the carport to create a garage
- j) Snack Shack
 - Renovate to sell food and drink items
 - Connect to sewage and water
- k) Camp Restrooms
 - Renovate and repair existing structures as needed including new sidings, roofs, fixtures, and building insulation
 - Replace structures that cannot be adequately repaired, as necessary
 - Construct ADA-compliant showers in the restroom by the 600's tents
 - Provide an access ramp to the 100's restroom and enlarge the surrounding pathway to comply with ADA requirements
 - Provide ADA parking spaces adjacent to access ramp to the restroom by the 100's tents

3. Relocate the children's play area.

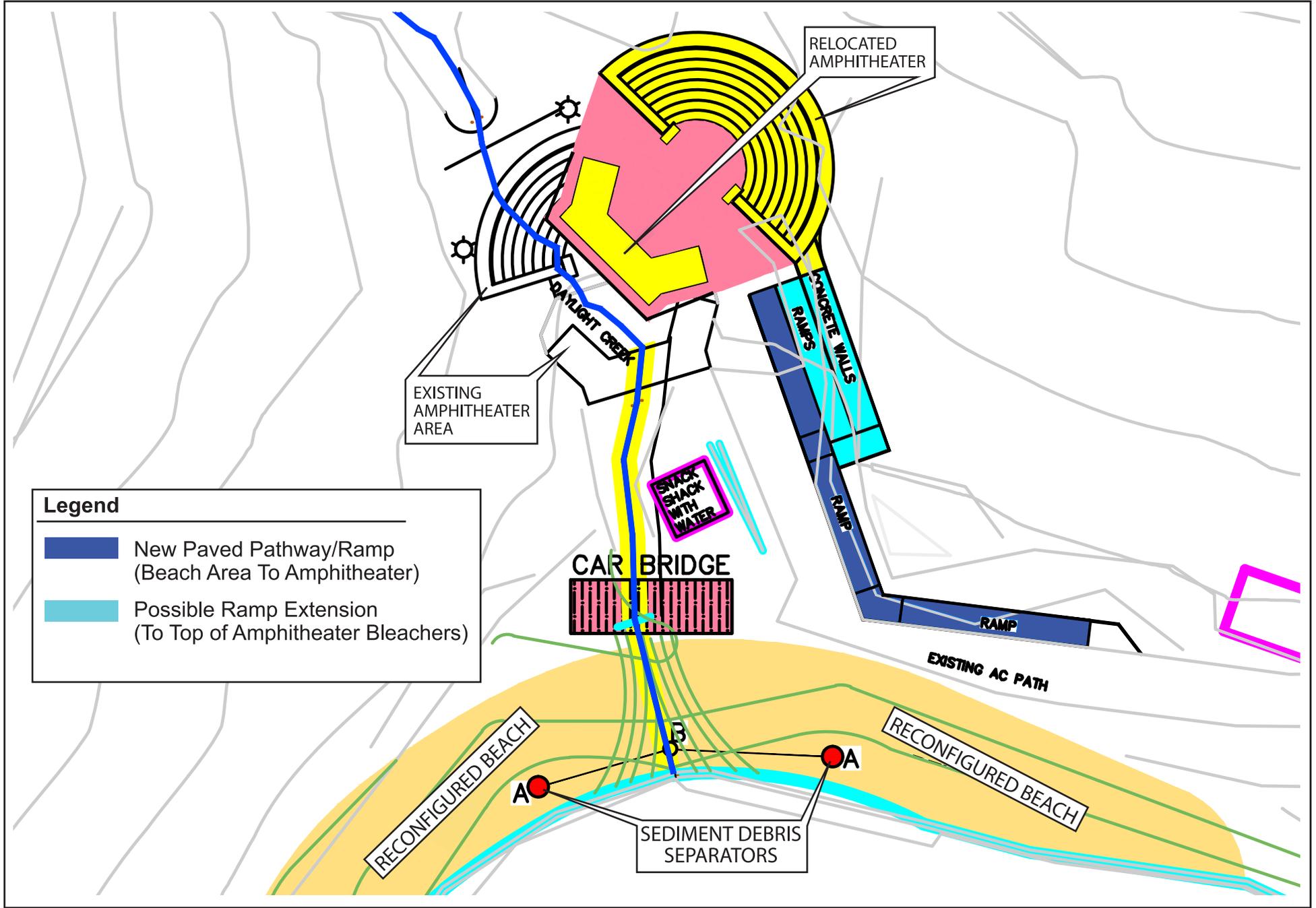
The Family Camp children's play area is not in compliance with current State standards and codes and there may be environmental concerns related to its present location near the Tuolumne River under the Forest Service's Riparian Conservation Area Policy. Alternative 1 would grade a flat area near the meadow and construct a new enclosed children's play area with ADA access (see Figure 3.3-1).

4. Relocate and replace the existing amphitheater facilities, including drainage and access work.

As previously described, the existing Family Camp amphitheater facilities have drainage, safety, and ADA access issues. Alternative 1 would relocate and replace the amphitheater bleachers and stage facilities (see Figure 3.3-5), as described below:

- Remove existing amphitheater stage and bleacher facilities and revegetate the area
- Build new amphitheater facilities including a stage and bleacher seating into the hillside just east of the existing facility
- Remove vegetation including up to seven trees

ADA work would include construction of a new paved pathway/ramp from the pavement adjacent to the beach area to the bottom row of the amphitheater/stage area. ADA access work could also include extension of the path to the top row of the bleachers for ADA seating. The ADA ramps would be five feet wide, with an 8 percent maximum grade, and would include handrails.



RELOCATED AMPHITHEATER AND DAYLIGHTED CREEK IMPROVEMENTS

FIGURE 3.3-5

5. Implement Creek and Beach Improvements.

Alternative 1 would remove the existing culvert under the beach at the swimming area and daylight⁴ the creek from the entrance road culvert to the river. A vehicle bridge would be constructed over the daylighted creek and the beach would be graded to direct stormwater runoff toward two sediment/debris separators (see Figure 3.3-5). Fencing would be installed alongside the daylighted creek.

6. Winterize Family Camp facilities.

The following improvements would winterize Family Camp facilities to allow year-round use of the camp:

- a) Winterize the camp waterlines (refer to Figure 3.3-1). This would involve deepening the main waterlines at Family Camp below the frost line by at least 18 inches. Trenching could be approximately two feet wide and total approximately 3,100 linear feet.
- b) Insulate the walls and ceilings of major Family Camp buildings along with weather-tight windows and doors
- c) Insulate the walls and ceilings of half of the staff cabins along with weather-tight windows and doors
- d) Convert the 600's and 800's tents (totaling 16 tents) to enclosed heated sleeping facilities with insulated walls and ceilings, and weather-tight windows and doors
- e) Replace tents 609 and 610 with an ADA duplex cabin structure that includes interior restrooms. Provide water and sewer connections. Provide ADA parking for two vehicles and an accessible pathway/decking from the parking area to the front doors of each unit.

7. Construct staff carports with solar panels.

The new staff carport would be located at the current staff parking area (see Figure 3.3-1) and will:

- Include installation of two 38 by 60 feet solar carports with eight concrete footings and underground electrical connections to the existing Camp electrical meters
- Provide covered parking for 24 cars
- Provide uncovered parking for 12 cars

8. Install bear-proof trash containers and food lockers.

Family Camp is not in compliance with Forest Service policies that require camping facilities to have bear-proof waste bins and food storage lockers. This alternative would:

- Provide up to 28 bear proof trash containers located on concrete pads installed throughout Family Camp. The pads would be approximately 5 by 8 feet in size, and 6 inches thick.
- Provide food lockers bolted to the floor of each platform tent

⁴ Creek daylighting refers to projects that uncover and expose previously buried creeks to restore them to a more natural state.

9. Prepare and implement work associated with noxious weed removals, hazardous tree removals and fuel reduction.

The following technical plans will be prepared:

- a) A Fuel Modification Plan to reduce fuel loads within the Family Camp boundaries
- b) A certified arborist will review the condition of existing trees and develop a Tree Hazard Management Plan, if needed
- c) A qualified biologist will check for noxious weeds and prepare a Noxious Weeds Removal Plan, if needed

Upon approval of such plans by the Forest Service, the City will implement the recommendations contained therein.

10. Improve the Camp water system.

Improvements to the Family Camp water system may include the following:

- Lower the existing well pump in the second off-site water well down to the water level and/or drill another well if the second off-site well cannot be made operable
- Connect the second well pumping system to the existing off-site potable water tanks
- Install an electrical control system to operate the second off-site water well
- Install additional wharf fire hydrants and hose boxes at the following locations:
 - Near the staff parking area
 - Parking Area by the 600's tents
 - Restroom by the 100's tents
 - Near staff cabin S11
 - Along pathway to the caretaker's house near existing water tank
 - Near Sewer Pond Chemical Shed

11. Complete Camp-Wide Improvements.

The following is a list of additional projects the City would like to undertake in the next 20 years to improve Family Camp:

Amenities

- a) Resurface the existing paving area known as the River Terrace during implementation of dining hall improvements
- b) Upgrade the phone and data systems including Wi-Fi access
- c) Enhance and repair restrooms as needed including washers and dryers
- d) Repair and/or replace seating and the fire pit associated with the campfire circle located in the grass meadow area
- e) Repair and/or replace the Camp barbeque facilities located near the dining hall/kitchen/office building. Relocate the BBQ area slightly to the east, away from the new dining hall building ramp.
- f) Replace softball backstop, basketball hoops, horseshoe pits, volleyball sand courts, turf field, and other recreational facilities as needed
- g) Repair, renovate, and upgrade the Fish Cleaning Station

Natural Resource Protection and Upkeep

- h) Relocate the horseshoe pit from Miner's Island and remove the asphalt concrete pathway to the island including the four metal culverts
- i) Add water bars⁵ on the pathway near the 600's tents to open meadow area to reduce erosion. Also, add waterbars from the assistant manager's cabin to the river seasonal dam area. Install a low retaining wall on the up-hill side of the restroom near the 600's tents; if water bars do not resolve the pathway erosion problem (see Family Camp Disturbance Areas Map).
- j) Modify the existing concrete river ford⁶ to allow water flow and fish passage over or through the ford by cleaning out six culverts and providing grating at input openings to culverts, and/or by cutting a notch in the top of the ford to provide a low-flow channel
- k) Remove and properly dispose of the old steel tank located adjacent to the existing Family Camp water well
- l) Reduce erosion sediment and prevent beach sand from entering the river by repaving existing paved surfaces with the inclusion of drainage improvements, and re-contour the existing beach area to direct runoff water to two sediment/debris separators. Additionally, install a berm/curb alongside the existing pathway that leads to the amphitheater to direct runoff water away from the creek, and into the sandy beach area where it will enter the sediment/debris separators. This would be done using best management practices (BMPs) (see Figure 3.3-5)
- m) Reduce erosion throughout camp by mulching, replanting, and/or providing access barriers at major erosion and/or bare ground areas

Cultural Resource Protection

- n) Protect on-site grinding rocks⁷ by discouraging the use of rocks at Family Camp, and by planting vegetation around known grinding rocks that are not currently fenced off

Ongoing Camp-wide Maintenance Projects

- o) Replace roofs on buildings as needed and install solar panels on new building roofs
- p) Repair and replace bridges as needed
- q) Repair and/or replace existing Camp signs, gates, and fencing as needed
- r) Repair swimming dam and river retaining walls as needed
- s) Replace potable water tank #3, and the three fire/non-potable water tanks, as needed.
- t) Replace water pumps as needed, using low volume intakes per Forest Service policy
- u) Repair, replace and/or enhance sewer system as needed to meet regulations including replacement of the existing chain-link fence around sewer farm with black vinyl fencing, replacement of the Lift Station back-up generator, and replacement of below-ground spray field lines, if needed
- v) Repair, renovate, and upgrade trails and patio lights as needed
- w) Overlay existing paved roads and pathways with pavement, fix potholes, and improve drainage runoff from paved surfaces. Pave the roadway between the Snack Shack and the staff pedestrian bridge, and re-contour to have a five percent grade. Pave the pathway

⁵ A water bar is a ditch or hump in a trail or unpaved road that diverts surface water off the trail/road surface to avoid or minimize soil erosion.

⁶ A river ford is a structure that is built in a river to create a shallow area that allows easy crossing.

⁷ Grinding rocks were used by Native Americans to grind acorns and other seeds into meal, often forming cup shaped depressions in the stone.

between the staff cabins and the Camp Store and re-contour to have a grade no greater than five percent on the pathway.

- x) Install a six foot tall wooden fence to screen the barn storage area from the Meadow
- y) Replace the existing back-up main generator at same location as the old unit
- z) Lengthen the retaining wall behind the dining hall to the recreational storage shed to reduce erosion
- aa) Improve the camp irrigation system, including renovation of the existing turf meadow irrigation system with a 40-foot grid system, installation of an underground irrigation system by the caretaker's house, and installation of an underground irrigation system adjacent to the entrance ramp that leads to the existing camp office and Tuolumne Room

New Infrastructure Improvements

- bb) Provide solar lighting fixtures to illuminate the meadow and campfire ring at night
- cc) Provide solar lighting fixtures to illuminate the two Family Camp entrance signs
- dd) Install a drainage connection for summer use from the existing catch-basin by the kitchen area near the propane tank to the existing grease separator
- ee) Install a potable trash compactor(s) adjacent to the kitchen

3.3.2 Master Plan Alternative 2

Master Plan Alternative 2 includes 11 priority improvements. The improvements proposed under Alternative 2 are the same as those proposed under Alternative 1 in Section 3.3.1, unless otherwise noted in the following list:

- 1. Dining Hall Improvements: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 1; refer to Figure 3.3-2.**
- 2. Repair and/or enhance other major Family Camp buildings: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 2.**
- 3. Renovate the children's play area.**

The children's play area is not in compliance with current State standards and codes and there may be environmental concerns related to its present location near the Tuolumne River under the Forest Service's Riparian Conservation Area Policy. Alternative 2 would renovate the children's play area within its existing footprint. The existing children's play area would be brought up to State standards including installation of resilient surface materials.

- 4. Relocate existing amphitheater facilities, including drainage and access work: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 4.**
- 5. Implement Creek and Beach Improvements**

Alternative 2 would partially daylight the creek by removing the culvert under the existing amphitheater facility to provide a free water flow down the hillside from the entrance road culvert. The water would enter an existing culvert under the beach at the swimming area prior to

entering the river. The beach would be graded to direct stormwater runoff toward two sediment/debris separators.

- 6. Winterize Family Camp facilities: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 6.**
- 7. Construct staff carports with solar panels: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 7.**
- 8. Install bear-proof trash containers and food lockers: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 8.**
- 9. Prepare and implement work associated with noxious weed removals, hazardous tree removals and fuel reduction: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 9.**
- 10. Improve the Camp water system: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 10.**
- 11. Complete Camp-Wide Improvements: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 11.**

3.3.3 Master Plan Alternative 3

Master Plan Alternative 3 includes 11 priority improvements. The improvements proposed under Alternative 3 are the same as those proposed under Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, unless otherwise noted in the following list:

- 1. Dining Hall Improvements: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 1; refer to Figure 3.3-2.**
- 2. Repair and/or enhance other major Family Camp buildings: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 2.**
- 3. Renovate the children's play area: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 2, Improvement # 3.**
- 4. Replace existing amphitheater facilities within existing footprint, including new drainage and access work.**

As previously described, the existing Family Camp amphitheater facilities have drainage, safety, and ADA access issues. Alternative 3 would rebuild and repair the existing amphitheater bleachers with either new bleachers of a similar style, or with concrete seating steps.

The new bleachers of a similar style would involve removal and replacement of the existing bleachers with new support frames, seat planks, decking, stair aisles with handrails, and guardrail

ends. Openings below the bleachers would be reduced to less than four inches in width to improve safety. Erosion control measures would be provided under the bleachers.

The concrete seating steps would involve removal and replacement of the existing bleachers with concrete seating steps. The concrete seating steps would include stair aisles with handrails. Drainage would be redirected around the facility.

Alternative 3 would renovate or replace the existing stage building, and would raise the stage and stage building to reduce water damage. Both amphitheater options would include construction of a rock-lined swale along the western edge of the amphitheater facility to improve drainage during overflow events.

ADA work would include construction of a new paved pathway/ramp from the pavement adjacent to the beach area to the bottom row of the amphitheater/stage area. ADA access work could also include extension of the path to the top row of the bleachers for ADA seating. The ADA ramps would be five feet wide, with an eight percent maximum grade, and would include handrails.

5. Creek and Beach Improvements.

Alternative 3 would not include creek daylighting and would leave the creek as-is, running through the two existing underground culverts. The beach would be graded to direct stormwater runoff toward two sediment/debris separators.

- 6. Winterize Family Camp facilities: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 6.**
- 7. Construct staff carports with solar panels: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 7.**
- 8. Install bear-proof trash containers and food lockers: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 8.**
- 9. Prepare and implement work associated with noxious weed removals, hazardous tree removals and fuel reduction: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 9.**
- 10. Improve the Camp water system: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.31, Alternative 1, Improvement # 10.**
- 11. Complete Camp-Wide Improvements: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Alternative 1, Improvement # 11.**

3.3.4 Master Plan Alternative 4

Master Development Plan Alternative 4 includes 11 priority improvements. These improvements are the same as those proposed under Section 3.3.1, Alternative 3, unless otherwise noted in the following list:

1. Dining Hall Improvements

Under Alternative 3, the existing dining hall at Family Camp would be replaced with a new 12,600 sf two-story building.⁸ The new dining hall would be constructed to match the same footprint as the existing dining hall (see Figure 3.3-6). The new dining hall building would be two-stories and would feature an enlarged interior dining capacity, a new first aid station, a reception office, and kitchen facilities on the first floor. The second story would be a nature center with a multipurpose room, a lounge for campers to interact, and restrooms. The multipurpose room could be divided in two and would be used for interpretive programs along with arts and crafts. The second floor would provide additional office space for staff and storage. The new building would also include an interior stairway and elevator to access the second floor and two exterior stairway/fire escapes.

This new dining hall building would increase the interior dining capacity from 200 to 220 campers. The new facility would have flood protection features incorporated into its design including higher floor and porch elevations. The new dining hall would be winterized with wall and roof insulation, weather-tight windows and doors, and may include solar roof panels.

- 2. Repair and/or enhance other major Family Camp buildings: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 2.**
- 3. Renovate the children's play area: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 2, Improvement # 3.**
- 4. Replace existing amphitheater facilities within existing footprint, including drainage and access work: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 3, Improvement # 4.**
- 5. Creek and Beach Improvements: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 3, Improvement # 5.**
- 6. Winterize Family Camp facilities: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 6.**
- 7. Construct staff carports with solar panels: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 7.**

⁸ Per City policy, buildings over 10,000 square feet will be designed to meet at least a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver certification. LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification. The new nature center proposed in this alternative would place solar panels on the south facing slopes of the roof on the new dining hall/nature center.

8. **Install bear-proof trash containers and food lockers: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 8.**
9. **Prepare and implement work associated with noxious weed removals, hazardous tree removals and fuel reduction: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 9.**
10. **Improve the Camp water system: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 10.**
11. **Complete Camp-Wide Improvements: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 11.**

3.3.5 Master Plan Alternative 5

Master Development Plan Alternative 5 would maintain the existing Family Camp facilities in order to continue providing the same services as those which are currently offered at camp. Under Alternative 5, existing facilities at Family Camp would be repaired, enhanced, and/or replaced in-kind (no change in size). This alternative would include all camp upkeep components that are proposed in Alternative 1 Improvement # 11 (a-ee). Alternative 3 does not include solar carports or year-round use of facilities, however, whenever a building is renovated the City may insulate the walls and ceiling, and provide storm windows and doors and other weatherproofing features along with solar roof panels. Alternative 5 includes 12 priority improvements as noted in the following list:

1. Dining Hall Improvements.

This Alternative would rebuild the dining hall on a new foundation within the parameters of its existing height (26 feet), and footprint (6,500 sf) (see Figure 3.3-6). The new dining hall would have river flood protection features incorporated into its design including higher floor and porch elevations. The new dining hall would be winterized with wall and roof insulation, weather-tight windows and doors, and other building features.

The current dining hall provides interior space for approximately 200 campers at one seating. Because the current eating area is undersized, Alternative 5 could relocate the recreational lounge room into the existing camp store to create space in the new dining hall for approximately 40 additional campers to eat, allowing a maximum seating capacity of 240 campers. Alternatively, Alternative 5 could relocate the camp office into the camp store, and move the recreational lounge room activities into the office area to create additional space for campers in the new dining hall. The replacement of the existing dining hall may require the City to provide ADA accessible restrooms in the new building. The existing building currently has no restrooms.

Alternative 5 would improve the deck that fronts the existing dining hall building on the river side by: 1) increasing the size of the existing dining hall deck to its original configuration by running it from what is currently the existing camp office to the eastern end of the dining hall building, and 2) incorporating stairs and two access ramps from the river terrace and BBQ area to the revised porch/deck area. Current wheelchair access to the deck is through the existing

dining hall. This work is the same as defined in Alternatives 1 through 4. Solar panels would be placed on the south facing roof slopes of the new dining hall to provide green power.

- 2. Repair and/or enhance the major Family Camp buildings: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 2.**
- 3. Renovate the children’s play area: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 2, Improvement # 3.**
- 4. Replace existing amphitheater facilities within existing footprint, including drainage and access work: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 3, Improvement # 4.**
- 5. Relocate the horseshoe pit: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 11(h).**
- 6. Make 10 additional platform guest tents ADA accessible (tents 110-112, 610, 611, 801-804, and 807) ⁹ and make access improvements to three staff cabins (cabins S1-S4) and the associated restroom located north of the river.**
- 7. Install up to 28 bear-proof trash containers and bear-proof food storage lockers: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 8.**
- 8. Periodically review the Family Camp property for noxious weeds, hazardous trees, and fuel reduction work related to wildfires: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 9.**
- 9. Patch/repair and repave existing paved pathways and roadways, as needed.**
- 10. Repair and/or upgrade the existing camp utility systems including the provision of electrical service to all tents.**
- 11. Improve the Camp water system: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, Alternative 1, Improvement # 10.**
- 12. Reduce sediment loading into the river: Proposed improvements are the same as those described in Section 3.3.1, as described in Alternative 1, Improvement # 11 (l and m).**

⁹ Currently, guest tents 301, 302, 607, and 608 are ADA.

3.3.6 Alternative 6 – Camp Closure

Under the Alternative 6 (Camp Closure), Family Camp would no longer be operated by the City. Prior to the abandonment of Family Camp, the City would be required to prepare an abandonment plan to remove all City-owned improvements from the site. The plan would need approval from the Forest Service and would include methods proposed for the removal of the retaining walls adjacent to the river edges, the swimming area dam, and the concrete river ford.

The abandonment plan would also provide restoration measures to make the site look like a natural part of the forest. This could include regrading of the site to remove the appearance of any roads and/or pathways, along with building pads and the sewer pond. Such work would require sediment control measures to protect the river. This work may also include the replanting of disturbed areas.

3.3.7 Alternative 7 – No Project

Alternative 7, the No Project Alternative, examines the future without project conditions, that is, the future if the Master Plan improvements are not implemented or constructed. In the context of this Initial Study, “no project” means that Family Camp would continue to operate in its current state. No new facilities would be constructed, no existing facilities would be improved, and no resource improvements would be implemented.

Under the No Project, all facilities at Family Camp would continue to be utilized and maintained in their existing locations. Existing environmental conditions would not be improved. Under this Alternative, Family Camp would continue to experience sedimentation and erosion issues that could degrade the water quality of the river. Structural safety concerns related to the dining hall would persist. The camp would continue to operate without conformance to current codes and regulations, and would continue to limit disabled visitors from activities that take place in one of the many areas of camp that are not ADA compliant.

3.4 MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENT TIMING

Improvements to Family Camp, as proposed by the San José Family Camp Master Plan, will be implemented over a period of twenty years. The improvements will occur in the near-term (1 to 5 years), mid-term (6 to 12 years), and long-term (13 plus years). Appendix A of this Initial Study indicates the approximate timeframe in which each project component (described above) may be implemented for each alternative.

3.5 PROJECT DESIGN ELEMENTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

CEQA requires identification of all relevant, reasonable mitigation measures that could reduce the impacts of the project. When the beneficial effects of mitigation measures are applied, the results are expected to limit the degree and magnitude of adverse effects associated with the Master Plan alternatives. They are also expected to rectify impacts through repair, rehabilitation, or restoration of the affected environment.

The following project-specific mitigation measures will be incorporated into the Master Plan alternatives. In all instances, it is the responsibility of the City to ensure all management

requirements specified in this document are carried out. The City will also be responsible for all costs involved with post-implementation monitoring. These measures will be implemented incrementally as structures and facilities are replaced or upgraded.

The City will approve all plans and designs for specific proposals prior to commencement of all projects beyond routine maintenance and repairs. These projects will be included in the Master Development Plan noted in the Special Use Permit to operate Family Camp on Forest Service lands.

In order to reduce, minimize, or alleviate possible adverse effects of the project, the following are incorporated into the project design.

3.5.1 Conservation Measures Common to All Action Alternatives

3.5.1.1 *Erosion Control/Dust Suppression*

In order to limit the sediment entering the Middle Fork Tuolumne River as a result of rain runoff and dust disturbance during normal Family Camp activities, the City shall implement the following measures:

- Erosion control devices, such as water bars, will be installed on roads and pathways where needed.
- Fencing will be installed around major erosion and/or disturbed areas to limit access.
- Disturbed areas will be planted with native plant materials to reduce erosion.
- Environmentally friendly “tackifier” or resin will be applied to pedestrian areas to reduce soil erosion.
- Installation of sediment/debris separator(s) at beach area.

Further, to reduce erosion during the implementation of Master Plan activities, the City shall incorporate the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality:

- No equipment will be operated in the live flow channel of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River, except for crossing of the concrete ford.
- Debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, cement, concrete, washings, petroleum products or other organic or earthen material shall not be placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into aquatic habitat.
- Standard erosion control and slope stabilization measures will be required for work completed in any area where erosion could lead to sedimentation of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River. For example, silt fencing will be installed just outside the limits of grading and construction in any areas where such activities will occur upslope from, and within 50 feet of, the river. This silt fencing will be inspected and maintained regularly throughout the duration of construction.
- Machinery will be refueled at least 50 feet from the river, and a spill prevention and response plan will be developed. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take, should a spill occur.

3.5.1.2 *Preservation of Riparian Vegetation*

Retain all riparian vegetation, such as alder and willow. Where feasible and where it occurs in a stand, retain less common shrub species such as redberry, coffeeberry, dogwood, chokecherry, bittercherry, and Sierra plum.

3.5.1.3 *Preservation of Elderberries*

Prior to the initiation of any ground disturbing activities within 100 feet of elderberry plants (*Sambucus* spp.) present on the project site (as identified during the focused survey of the study area on June 13, 2012 [see below]), the City will retain a qualified biologist to flag the plants and a 100-foot buffer around the plants that will be avoided. Vegetation adjacent to the elderberry plants may be removed using hand treatments but no mechanical activities or burning shall occur within 50 feet of flagged plants. If additional elderberry plants with stems over one inch in diameter are found prior to or during project implementation, they will be similarly flagged and avoided.

3.5.1.4 *Noxious Weed Management Program*

In cooperation with the US Forest Service, the City will consult with a qualified biologist to prepare a noxious weed plan for surveying, preventing, reporting, controlling, and monitoring noxious weed populations at Family Camp. Measures to control noxious weeds may include equipment inspection for soil, seeds, and vegetative matter, equipment cleaning, and use of weed-free materials (soil, gravel, straw, mulch) and seed mixes. A current list of noxious weeds of concern is available at the Forest Supervisor's Office. The City will inform the Forest Service prior to starting such work.

3.5.1.5 *Hazardous Tree Management Program*

The City will complete periodic reviews of the Family Camp property with a certified arborist to identify any hazardous trees or limbs. The City will review identified hazards and will inform the Forest Service prior to starting tree removal work.

3.5.1.6 *Fuel Reduction Program*

The main objectives of the Fuel Reduction Program are to reduce vegetation fuel load, reduce structure ignitability, and to create defensible spaces so that a fire can pass through Family Camp as a low-intensity fire that should not cause significant damage to structures or forest trees. Defensible space is established around structures by eliminating flammable vegetation in the ignition zone (minimum 30 feet in width) and reducing vegetation in the outer zone (minimum 70 feet in width) to create a 100-foot defensible zone.

The City will prepare a fuel load reduction plan for the Family Camp property for approval by the US Forest Service.

3.6 SUBSEQUENT DOCUMENTATION

In addition to building, grading, and construction plans required prior to implementation of proposed projects under this proposal, the City must prepare and submit, for Forest Service approval, the

following documents prior to commencing ground-disturbing activities associated with a specific project:

- Conceptual Soils/Re-vegetation Plan.
- Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan.
- Dust Abatement Plan.
- Spill Prevention, Containment, and Counter Measure Plan (if storage of large amounts of potentially hazardous material such as diesel is planned).
- Construction Grading Plan.¹⁰
- Post-Construction Re-vegetation Plans.¹¹
- Facility Design Plans.

Construction plans will include strategies for monitoring compliance with, and the effectiveness of, required mitigation measures.

¹⁰ The grading plan will indicate where topsoil will be placed on cut/fill slopes and other areas where topsoil has been temporarily removed/stored during construction activities. The grading plan will also require Forest Service-approved specifications for topsoil quality, thickness, and appropriate compaction of the finish graded topsoil layer on cut/fill slopes.

¹¹ The re-vegetation plan will account for physical (i.e., water quality and soils) as well as aesthetic resources.

SECTION 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

This section describes the existing environmental conditions on and near the project area, as well as environmental impacts associated with the Master Plan alternatives 1-5, Alternative 6 (Camp Closure), and Alternative 7 (No Project).

The environmental checklist, as recommended in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, identifies environmental impacts that could occur if Master Plan Alternative 1 is implemented. Master Plan Alternative 1 impacts are identified in the checklist because this alternative's improvements involve the greatest intensity of development compared to the other Master Plan alternatives.

The right-hand column in the checklist lists the source(s) for the answer to each question. The sources cited are identified at the end of this section. Mitigation measures are identified for all significant alternative impacts with the exception of the No Project Alternative (7).

Measures that are standard and required by the City or law are categorized as "Standard Measures." Measures that are proposed by Family Camp that will further reduce already less than significant impacts are categorized as "Avoidance Measures." Measures that are required to reduce significant impacts to a less than significant level are categorized as "Mitigation Measures." All measures shall be printed on all construction documents, contracts, and project plans.

4.1 AESTHETICS

4.1.1 Setting

4.1.1.2 *Existing Views of the Site*

The 46.9-acre Family Camp site is located on land leased from the Groveland Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest. The project site is bound by forested areas on all sides, with the Yosemite Riverside Inn located just east of the project site, and Cherry Lake Road running along the southern boundary of the project site. Human disturbance in the region is relatively high compared to other portions of the Stanislaus National Forest due to the proximity to the northern entrance of Yosemite National Park and the town of Groveland. State Route 120 and Cherry Lake Road are located in the project vicinity and receive heavy use by those seeking recreational activities in the summertime.

Family Camp is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range at an elevation of approximately 2,850 feet above sea level. The Family Camp site is irregularly shaped with natural land features including a river, a meadow bordered by trees, and steep slopes with grades ranging from five to 50 percent that slant toward the river. Manmade features such as walkways and graded areas which were built on the naturally steep terrain have led to noticeable erosion and drainage issues throughout Family Camp (see Photo 1). Vegetation in the vicinity of Family Camp mainly consists of oak trees, ponderosa pines and sugar pines, and riparian plants along the Middle Fork Tuolumne River. The



Photo 1 - View of sandbags being used to temporarily fix drainage issues along a sloped walkway in the western portion of Family Camp.



Photo 2 - View of green corrugated roofs on staff cabins located behind the dining hall, looking northwest from Cherry Lake Road.

PHOTOS 1 AND 2

river snakes through the project site in a westerly direction and roughly divides it in half. Development at Family Camp is located along the northern and southern sides of the river.

Structures at Family Camp were built in a rustic vernacular architectural style¹² which was popular in the forests and recreation areas of California in the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's. The main camp buildings are constructed from wooden trusses and studs with wide board and batten siding. The buildings at Family Camp have either brown roofs or green-corrugated roofs which blend in with the surrounding forest setting. The staff housing units and restrooms at Family Camp are faced with plywood siding which is painted in shades of browns and beiges to further allow the buildings to blend into the forest setting (see Photos 2 and 3).

The northwestern portion of the project site is developed with 70 wood-frame and canvas-covered tent cabins (see Photo 4). The tent cabins are built on elevated wooden platforms which minimizes disturbance to the natural environment. South of the tent cabin area is a dirt walkway that descends a steep slope. The camp meadow is located at the bottom of the walkway in the central western portion of the project site. The meadow is surrounded by trees and is developed with a softball diamond (see Photo 5). Debris being stored in an outdoor storage area is visible from the meadow when looking west. The Sierra Lodge, which is one of the older Oakland-era¹³ buildings at the camp, is located just south of the meadow (see Photo 6). Adjacent to the east of the meadow is a campfire pit surrounded by aged benches (see Photo 7). The southwestern portion of the site is developed with a wastewater aeration pond used to store wastewater, a lift station and a pump control house which was constructed in 2000, and an access road (see Photo 8).

The main building complex at Family Camp is located in the eastern portion of the project site, on the southern side of the river. The main building complex comprises the dining hall (see Photo 9), the camp store, a public restroom, and storage and mechanical buildings. Areas surrounding the main building complex are paved. Pavement extends to the back of the retaining wall which lines the southern side of the river in this area of the camp. Employee living quarters, including a restroom/laundry building and staff cabins, are located behind the dining hall and on an adjacent slope (see Photos 10 and 11).

The dining hall was constructed approximately 60 to 70 years ago and, like other main camp buildings, was constructed from wooden trusses and studs with wide board and batten siding. The dining hall is approximately 26 feet at its highest point and consists of a two story kitchen and storage area, a dining hall, a lounge and recreation room, an office, and a medical aid station. The dining hall is surrounded by several mature trees. A stone fireplace and chimney in the lounge adds to the rustic style of the building. The dining hall has structural sagging, deformed walls and a cracked roof rafter. A wood deck and ramp is located at the west end of the building to provide ADA access to the camp office and the lounge room. The building is partially faced on the river side with another wooden deck that is roughly 1,300 square feet in size.

¹² Vernacular architecture is generally used to categorize methods of construction which use locally available resources and traditional building techniques to address needs in a particular region. Rustic style architecture is designed to blend in with the natural environment and is characterized by its natural setting and its use of local wood, log and/or stone for building materials.

¹³ The project site was initially developed as a municipal camp in 1920 by the City of Oakland. San José bought the camp facilities and took over the FS Special Use Permit/Land Lease in 1967 (see Section 4.5, *Cultural Resources*).



Photo 3 - View of a restroom facility, looking east from a walkway in the western portion of Family Camp.



Photo 4 - View of a typical tent cabin on a raised platform in the northwestern portion of Family Camp.

PHOTOS 3 AND 4



Photo 5 - View of the meadow with the softball diamond, looking west from the east side of the meadow.



Photo 6 - View of the Sierra Lodge, looking south from the southern boundary of the meadow.

PHOTOS 5 AND 6



Photo 7 - View of the campfire pit and benches, looking southeast from the eastern boundary of the meadow.



Photo 8 - View of the aeration pond, looking north from the southern boundary of the pond.

PHOTOS 7 AND 8



Photo 9 - View of the dining hall, looking east from the western side of the dining hall.



Photo 10 - View of staff restroom/laundry room building located behind the dining hall. The dining hall is on the left and the restroom/laundry room can be seen on the right. View is looking east from the southwestern corner of the dining hall.

PHOTOS 9 AND 10



Photo 11 - View of staff cabins on a slope behind the dining hall. View is from the southern side of the dining hall looking south.



Photo 12 - View of the Family Camp playground. View is from an adjacent walkway.

PHOTOS 11 AND 12

Across the river to the north of the main building complex are the playground, amphitheater, and additional employee cabins. The older wooden portion of the playground is bordered up and blocked off from use (see Photo 12). The camp amphitheater building is made out of logs and has been preserved since the 1930's. The amphitheater (see Photo 13), was built in a drainage way and, at times, water has overtopped the bleacher area causing gullying under the seating and damage to the existing stage building.

Family Camp is developed with several recreational facilities including a volleyball court, basketball court, fish cleaning station, and plant identification trail. In the eastern portion of the project site, upstream from the dining hall, the Middle Fork Tuolumne River has a small temporary dam structure which is used to create a swimming hole during summer months (see Photo14). There is a sandy beach, as well as a lawn area for recreation or lounging near the swimming hole. Additional improvements in the immediate vicinity of the river within Family Camp include two pedestrian bridge crossings, one vehicular bridge crossing, a river ford, and a horse-shoe pit located on a river island.

The project site is not designated as a scenic resource, nor are there designated scenic vistas from the project site.¹⁴ State Route 120 in the vicinity of the project site has been designated as a scenic corridor by the US Forest Service.¹⁵

¹⁴ Department of Transportation. *California Scenic Highway Mapping System*. 2007.
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm> Accessed June 2, 2011.

¹⁵ FS. *Forest Plan Direction*. 2010.



Photo 13 - View of the amphitheatre from the top of the bleachers. View is looking southwest from the eastern boundary of the amphitheatre area.



Photo 14 - View of the temporary dam structure and swimming hole area. View is from the northeastern side of the swimming hole, looking southwest.

PHOTOS 13 AND 14

4.1.2 Environmental Checklist

AESTHETICS					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
2) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,3,4
3) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
4) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2

4.1.2.1 Aesthetic Impacts

The project site is not designated as a scenic resource nor are there designated scenic vistas at the project site. The project site is in the vicinity of State Route 120 which is a designated scenic corridor; however, Family Camp is not visible from State Route 120, and the proposed improvements would not affect views from the scenic corridor. None of the Master Plan alternatives (1-5), Alternative 6 (Camp Closure), or Alternative 7 (No Project) would have an adverse impact on a scenic vista. **(No Impact)**

Construction of a new dining hall under the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) may require the removal of up to ten trees in the vicinity including one oak, four pines, and five cedars. The trees proposed for removal are widely spaced and surrounded by pavement. Because the area around the trees is currently developed and no understory is present, the trees do not function as part of the surrounding forest and the loss of these trees will not visually affect the larger, surrounding forest environment. Under Alternatives 1 and 2, the relocation of the amphitheater would result in the removal of up to seven trees (six pines and one cedar). While these trees are located near the river, they are not riparian species and are located outside of the riparian corridor. Removal of the trees would not degrade the visual character or quality of the area, nor would removal of these trees damage a scenic resource.

Tree removal would also occur as part of the proposed fuel reduction activities associated with the Fuel Reduction Program to be implemented by the City as part of the Master Plan alternatives. Tree

removal would occur as a result of hand thinning activities throughout the forested areas in Family Camp. Hand thinning for fuel reduction generally results in the minor loss of a few widely spaced, small to medium sized trees that act as ladder fuels to the taller tree canopy. The selective loss of these small to medium sized trees would reduce the chances of a crown fire within the camp that could devastate the forest. The taller, continuous canopy of the forest would not be affected by the fuel reduction activities. The loss of a few small, widely spaced trees to reduce the fuel load would not have a visually significant effect on the larger forest environment, especially when considering that removal of these trees could avert a larger visual catastrophe in the event of a forest fire. Removal of the trees under the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) would not degrade the visual character or quality of the area, nor would removal of these trees damage a scenic resource. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

The new two-story dining hall under Master Plan Alternatives 1 - 4 would be approximately 40 feet at its highest point (refer to Figure 4.1-1). Although the new structure would be approximately 14 feet taller than the existing dining hall, the increased size would not degrade the visual character or quality of the area. The landscape in the vicinity of the dining hall includes large trees and tall steep slopes. The proposed building height would blend in with the existing large landscape features in the area. The two-story dining hall has been designed in accordance with the standards in the *Built Environment Image Guide for the National Forests and Grasslands* (United States Department of Agriculture). For Master Plan alternatives 1 - 3, the enlarged dining hall would be built within almost the same footprint as the existing dining hall with an incremental increase of 1,130 square feet. The enlarged dining hall would not substantially impact the visual quality or character of the area. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Under Master Plan Alternative 5, the new dining hall would be the same size and height as the existing dining hall, thus no visual change from the dining hall would occur. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) and Alternative 7 (No Project) do not propose any tree or vegetation removal. **(No Impact)**



FUTURE SOUTH ELEVATION



Highest Roof Point 40ft.

Second Floor Ceiling 25.5ft.

Second Floor 16.5ft.
First Floor Ceiling 13.5ft.

First Floor 3ft.
Ground 0ft.



Composite Shingle Roof

Wood Siding

Board and Batten Siding

Veneer Stone

FUTURE NORTH ELEVATION



All of the Master Plan alternatives would improve the visual character and quality of Family Camp by fixing and renovating the aged buildings, recreational facilities, and infrastructure to make the camp visually more maintained and appealing, while upholding its rustic character. Implementation of the Master Plan alternatives would include activities such as blocking views of the debris in the outdoor storage area on the west side of the meadow, replacing the aged benches around the campfire, renovating old buildings, and fixing water damage and drainage issues throughout the camp, (for a complete list of improvements see *Section 3.2, Master Plan Alternatives* of this document). **(No Impact)**

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), facilities at Family Camp would continue to be utilized and no improvements would be made to the existing camp. Alternative 7 would maintain the overall visual character and quality of the camp. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

The new dining hall under the Master Plan alternatives would be constructed using the rustic vernacular architectural style that is common throughout Family Camp and would include wooden board and batten siding, similar to the existing structure. The natural colors and materials used for the new dining hall would subtly blend in with the natural setting of the area and the new building would not result in a substantial new source of light or glare. **(No Impact)**

4.1.3 Conclusion

The Master Plan alternatives (1-5) would improve the visual character and quality of Family Camp by fixing and renovating the camp's aged buildings, recreational facilities, and infrastructure. Trees proposed for removal as part of the Master Plan alternatives are regionally abundant, are not unique species, and the loss of these trees would not substantially impact the quality of the larger forest environment in the Family Camp area. The new dining hall would be designed to blend in with existing camp buildings and in accordance with the standards of *The Built Environment Image Guide for the National Forests and Grasslands*. Much of the work proposed by the Master Plan is the result of deferred maintenance by the City. The Master Plan alternatives would result in ongoing maintenance to camp facilities which would create an overall improvement to the visual character and quality of the camp. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would change the visual character through removal of all physical improvements and restore the project site to a natural state. This alternative would not result in any adverse aesthetic impacts. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 7 (No Project) would maintain the existing overall visual character and quality of the camp. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.2 AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES

4.2.1 Setting

The project site is located within the Stanislaus National Forest which encompasses 898,099 acres of forest land on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada mountain range.¹⁶

The project site is not the subject of a Williamson Act contract and no land on or adjacent to the project site is used as farmland.

4.2.2 Environmental Checklist

AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
2) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
3) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
4) Result in a loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,5,6

¹⁶ FS website. <<http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal>>

AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project: 5) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2

4.2.2.1 *Agricultural and Forest Resources Impacts*

Under Alternatives 1 and 2, the relocation of the amphitheater would result in the removal of up to seven trees (six pines and one cedar). Up to ten trees would be removed for the dining hall reconstruction as part of the Master Plan alternatives (1–5). The trees are widely spaced and surrounded by pavement. Because the area around the trees is currently developed and no understory is present, the trees do not function as part of the surrounding forest and the loss of these trees will have only a minor effect on the larger, surrounding forest habitat.

Tree removal would also occur as part of the proposed fuel reduction activities associated with the Fuel Reduction Program to be implemented by the City as part of the Master Plan. Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would be subject to the Stanislaus National Forest’s Middle Fork Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Project and would have long-term beneficial effects of fuel load reduction activities, similar to those described for Master Plan alternatives 1 – 5. Although the fuel reduction would result in the removal of trees, the loss of a few small widely spaced trees would not substantially affect the functionality or value of the existing forest, and would not result in the conversion of the forested Family Camp area into a non-forest land use. The fuel reduction would reduce the vegetation fuel load, reduce structure ignitability, and create defensible spaces at Family Camp so that a fire could pass through the camp as a low-intensity fire that would not cause significant damage to larger forest trees. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 7 would not involve any tree removal; therefore, no conversion of forest resource would occur under this alternative. **(No Impact)**

The loss of riparian vegetation from hand thinning activities within and adjacent to the river channel would result in temporary disturbance of the riparian zone and permanent loss of some riparian vegetation including trees under Alternatives 1 - 6. The vegetation that would be lost from hand thinning activities would represent a very small fraction of the overall local riparian habitat. Removal of riparian vegetation would not substantially affect the overall functionality or value of the forest riparian corridor, and would not result in the conversion of the forest riparian corridor into a non-forest land use. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.2.3 Conclusion

The land on the project site and adjacent properties are not used for agriculture and the site is not the subject of a Williamson Act contract. Implementation of the Alternatives 1 -7 would not impact agricultural resources or result in the loss of designated agricultural land. Although the Master Plan alternatives would result in the loss of trees and vegetation within a designated forest area, the losses would be minor and would not impact the value or functionality of the overall forest habitat or convert the land to a non-forest use. Alternatives 1-7 would result in less than significant impacts to forest lands and agricultural resources. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.3 AIR QUALITY

4.3.1 Setting

Air quality and the amount of a given pollutant in the atmosphere are determined by the amount of a pollutant released and the atmosphere's ability to transport and dilute the pollutant. The major determinants of transport and dilution are wind, atmospheric stability, terrain, and for photochemical pollutants, sunshine.

The project site is located within Tuolumne County, east of the city of Modesto in the foothills of the central Sierra Nevada. Tuolumne County comprises 2,229 square miles with elevations ranging from 200 to 13,000 feet. A major portion of the Stanislaus National Forest (including the project site) and the northern half of Yosemite National Park are located within Tuolumne County. The County has cool to mild winters (except the higher elevations) and warm to hot summers. During the spring, summer and fall seasons, temperature inversions are a normal occurrence, which prohibits good dispersion of smoke and other air pollutants. Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control District (TCAPCD) is one of seven districts that make up the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB) which covers an area of roughly 11,000 square miles along the northern Sierra Nevada mountain range.¹⁷

In recognition of the adverse effects of degraded air quality, Congress and the California Legislature enacted the Federal and California Clean Air Acts, respectively. As a result of these laws, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) have established ambient air quality standards for what are commonly referred to as "criteria pollutants," because they set the criteria for attainment of good air quality. Criteria pollutants include carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter (PM).¹⁸

CARB maintains air monitoring equipment that measures ozone in downtown Sonora at the Sonora-Baretta Street Monitoring Station approximately 23 miles northwest of Family Camp. The camp is also located in proximity to the Turtleback Dome Monitoring Station in Mariposa County which is located approximately 18 miles southeast of the project site.

As shown in Table 4.3-1 below, violations of State and Federal standards for ozone were measured at the central Sonora-Baretta Street Monitoring Station and at the Turtleback Dome Monitoring Station during the 2007 to 2009 period. Ozone is considered to be a regional pollutant because its concentration is not determined by proximity to individual sources, but show a relative uniformity over a region. At both stations, there was insufficient data or no data available for other criteria pollutants (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide).¹⁹

¹⁷ Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control District. *Smoke Management Program*. 2001. <<http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/district/tc.pdf>> Accessed June 2, 2011.

¹⁸ Particulate matter is referred to by size (i.e., 10 or 2.5 microns) because the size of particles is directly linked to their potential for causing health problems.

¹⁹ California Air Resources Board. *iADAM Air Quality Data Statistics*. <<http://www.arb.ca.gov/html/ds.htm>> Accessed May 20, 2011.

Table 4.3-1: Summary of Ozone Air Quality Data Sonora-Baretta Street and Turtleback Dome Monitoring Stations				
Pollutant	Standard	Days Exceeding Standards in:		
		2007	2008	2009
Sonora-Baretta Street Monitoring Station				
Ozone	State 1-Hour	1	10	0
Ozone	Federal 8-Hour	19	23	5
Ozone	State 8-Hour	44	38	21
Turtleback Dome Monitoring Station				
Ozone	State 1-Hour	3	11	1
Ozone	Federal 8-Hour	25	33	8
Ozone	State 8-Hour	49	56	26

4.3.1.1 Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive receptors refer to those segments of the population most susceptible to poor air quality (i.e., children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing serious health problems affected by air quality). Land uses where sensitive individuals are most likely to spend time include schools and schoolyards, parks and playgrounds, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential communities (sensitive sites or sensitive land uses).²⁰ Sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project site could include guests at Family Camp, staff who live at Family Camp, or those staying in the motel located approximately 0.10 miles east of the project site.

4.3.2 Environmental Checklist

AIR QUALITY					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,7
2) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,7,8

²⁰ California Air Resources Board (CARB). *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*. April 2005. < <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf> > Accessed June 3, 2011.

AIR QUALITY					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
3) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is classified as non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,7,8
4) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
5) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2

The TCAPCD has determined that a project would have a significant impact on air quality if it would generate more than 1,000 pounds per day, or 100 tons per year, of Reactive Organic Gases (ROG), Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), PM₁₀, or Carbon Monoxide (CO).

4.3.2.1 Long-Term Air Quality Impacts

Master Plan alternative 5 would not include improvements to winterize camp facilities for allow year-round use and, therefore, would not increase camp capacity or operations. No long-term air quality impact would occur under this alternative. **(No Impact)**

Master Plan alternatives 1 - 4 would not increase capacity for spring, summer, or fall use of the camp, but it would increase the use of Family Camp over existing conditions by winterizing camp facilities to allow year-round use. As described in *Section 3.3*, of this document, winterization of Family Camp would require winterization of the camp waterlines, and insulation of walls and ceilings of major camp buildings and half of the staff cabins. Year-round use would also require that up to 16 of the platform-tents be converted to enclosed heated sleeping facilities such as small cabins or yurts. Winterization of tent cabins would require two tents to add bathrooms to the enclosed cabin units to meet ADA requirements. Family Camp would host approximately 60 guests each weekend night with up to 31 units in operation²¹ for a total of 26 weekends during the off-season. Year-round

²¹ 16 guest cabins + 13 staff cabins+ the caretaker's house + the assistant manager cabin= 31 total operating cabin/staff housing units.

operation of camp facilities would result in approximately 78 nights of camp use over existing conditions each year.²²

Operation of 31 units for an additional 78 days would not exceed the TCAPCD thresholds of 1,000 pounds per day, or 100 tons per year, of ROG, NO_x, or PM₁₀. To exceed the TCAPCD per day thresholds for criteria pollutants, the project would need to operate well over 500 units.²³ (**Less Than Significant Impact**)

CO is produced by the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing substances. It is emitted in large quantities in exhaust from gasoline-powered vehicles. Alternatives 1 - 4 would generate an additional 154²⁴ vehicle trips each week during the winter months over existing conditions. The increase in traffic from winterization of Family Camp would be incremental and would not result in CO emissions that exceed 1,000 pounds per day, or 100 tons per year of CO. (**Less Than Significant Impact**)

Year-round use of Family Camp under Master Plan alternatives 1 - 4 would not result in the generation of pollutants that exceed the thresholds adopted by the TCAPCD. The project would have a less than significant long-term air quality impact. (**Less Than Significant Impact**)

4.3.2.2 *Short-Term Air Quality Impacts*

Master Plan alternative 1 - 5 all include demolition of the existing dining hall and reconstruction of a new dining hall. Master Plan alternatives 1 - 4 would also expand the footprints of two winterized cabins to make them ADA accessible, construct a carport. Additionally, all of the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) include several maintenance and upkeep projects as listed in *Section 3.3*). Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) includes demolition of all structures at the Camp.

Demolition and construction activities would generate exhaust emissions from vehicles/equipment and particulate matter emissions that would affect local air quality. Demolition and construction activities are also a source of organic gas emissions. Solvents in adhesives, non-water based paints, thinners, and some insulating materials and caulking materials evaporate into the atmosphere and contribute to the photochemical reaction that creates urban ozone. In addition, asphalt used in paving is a source of organic gases for a short time after its application.

During construction activities various diesel-powered vehicles and equipment would be used on the Family Camp site. Health risks from toxic air contaminants (TACs) are a function of both

²² Assumes three night stays per information provided by the City of San José.

²³ The year round operation of the Camp was compared to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's guidance for a hotel land use because it was the closest available information that reflects the transient nature of a camp land use. Hotels typically include community facilities such as a lounge, pool, etc., similar to the shared camp facilities. TCAPCD does not have any applicable guidance for determining criteria pollutants by use, thus, information from another Air District was utilized.

²⁴ During the wintertime up to 16 visitor cabins and 13 staff units would be used for 26 weekends. Assuming one to two vehicles per guest tent stay, the camp would generate 16 to 32 guest trips on Friday as campers arrive, and 16 to 32 trips on Sunday as guest leave. Winter use of Family Camp would also generate two vehicle trips per day for staff units (one exiting and one entering) and would include up to two weekly delivery/service trucks (as occurs during the pre- and post- season). The Master Plan alternatives (1-4) would, therefore, result in the generation of approximately 46 to 62 vehicle trips on Friday, 30 vehicle trips on Saturday, and 46 to 62 vehicle trips on Sunday as people leave, for a maximum of 154 trips for the weekend.

concentration and duration of exposure.²⁵ Construction diesel emissions are temporary, affecting an area for a period of days or weeks which is a less than significant long-term impact. Construction activities would increase dustfall and cause locally elevated levels of particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) downwind of construction activity. This would be a significant temporary impact, particularly to camp staff who could be staying in tent cabins near the dining hall or guests at the off-site hotel.

The following dust control best management practices (BMPs) shall be implemented during all phases of demolition and/or construction on the project site to prevent visible dust emissions from leaving the site. These BMPs shall be printed on all project plans and specifications, and will reduce temporary construction impacts to a less than significant level:

- Water all active construction and maintenance areas at least twice daily to control dust emissions.
- Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials and/or ensure that all trucks hauling such materials maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- Pave, apply water twice daily, or apply non-toxic soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction and maintenance sites.
- Sweep daily with water sweepers all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites to control dust.
- Hydroseed or apply non-toxic soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas.
- Enclose, cover, water twice daily or apply non-toxic soil binders to exposed stockpiles (dirt, sand, etc.).
- Limit vehicle traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.
- Install sandbags and implement the proposed Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measure included in the project (see ‘Conservation Measures Common to All Master Plan Alternatives’ under *Section 3.5.1*, of this document). **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.3.3 **Conclusion**

None of the alternatives (1-7) would not result in any substantial long-term air quality impacts, nor would the alternatives conflict with any air quality plan. Implementation of BMPs would reduce temporary air quality impacts associated with demolition and construction to a less than significant level. **(Less than Significant Impact)**

²⁵Toxic air contaminants are a broad group of compounds known to cause death (usually because they cause cancer). TACs are found in ambient air, especially in urban areas, and are caused by industry, agriculture, fuel combustion, and commercial operations (e.g., dry cleaners).

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The following section is based upon a Biological Resources Report which was prepared to meet CEQA requirements. This report was prepared by H.T. Harvey & Associates in August 2012 and is provided in Appendix B of this document.

4.4.1 Setting

Family Camp is a 46.8-acre site located along the banks of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River in the Groveland District of the Stanislaus National Forest. The areas adjacent to Family Camp are primarily forest lands. The Yosemite Riverside Inn is located approximately 0.10 miles east of the project site. Human disturbance in the in the Family Camp area is relatively high compared to other portions of the Stanislaus National Forest, due to its proximity to the northern entrance of Yosemite National Park and the town of Groveland. In addition, the Middle Fork Tuolumne River, State Route 120, and Cherry Lake Road all occur in the immediate camp vicinity and receive heavy recreational use.

4.4.1.1 *Biological Habitats*

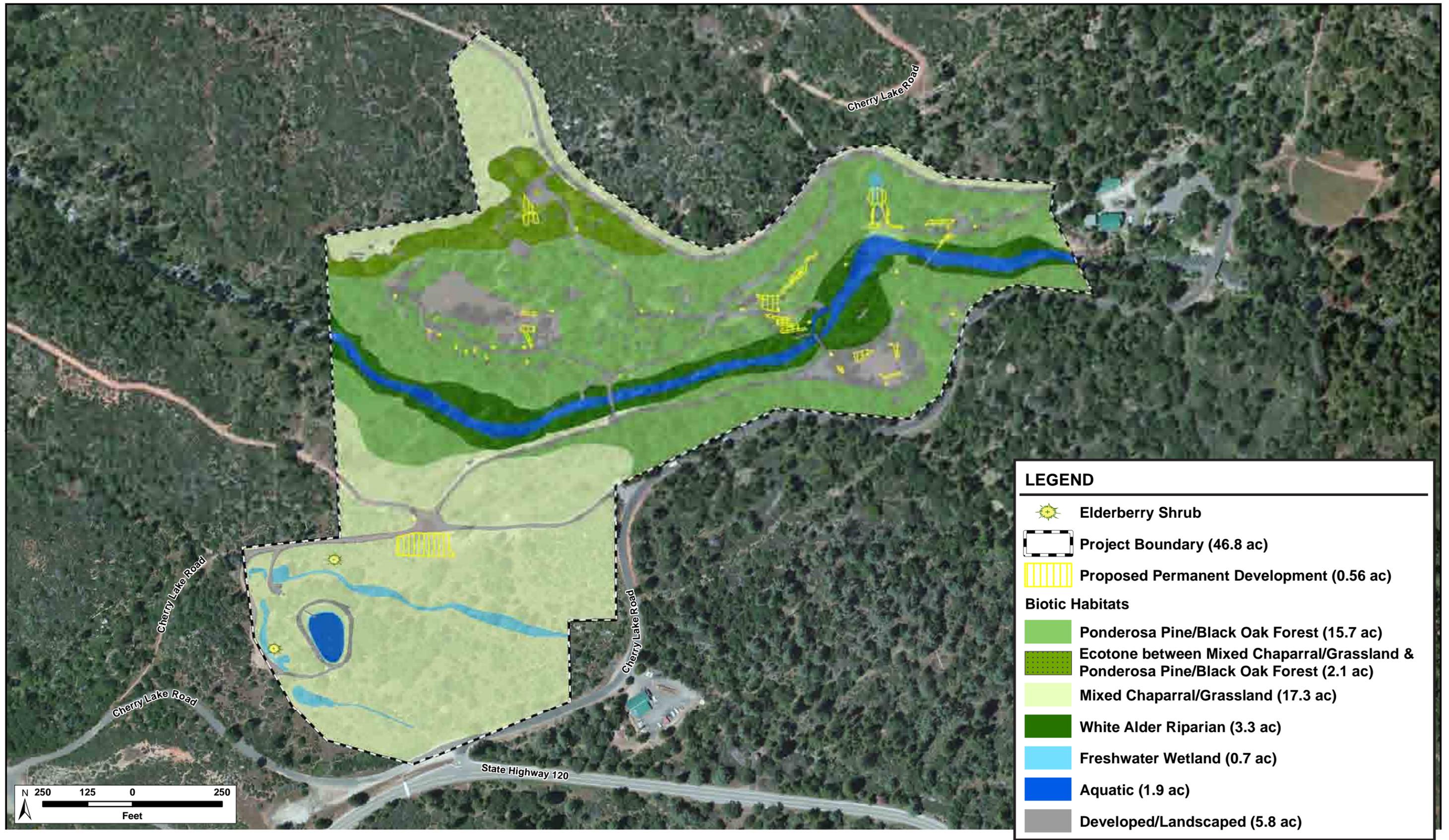
There are six biotic habitats at Family Camp including ponderosa pine/black oak forest and ecotone (17.8 acres), mixed chaparral/grassland (17.3 acres), white alder riparian (3.3 acres), freshwater wetland (0.7 acre), aquatic (1.9 acres), and developed/landscaped (5.8 acres), refer to Figure 4.4-1. These habitats support a wide variety of wildlife and plant species.

Ponderosa Pine/Black Oak Forest

The ponderosa pine/black oak forest habitat covers approximately 17.8 acres (15.7 acres mapped on Figure 4.4-1 as ponderosa pine/black oak forest, plus 2.1 acres mapped as an ecotone between mixed chaparral/grassland and ponderosa pine/black oak forest) of Family Camp and consists mostly of ponderosa pine and black oak. Other trees common in this forest are incense cedar and Douglas fir. These trees form a forest with a mixture of age classes, from short seedlings of black oak and incense cedar dispersed throughout the understory, to large mature ponderosa pine near the banks of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River.

Beneath the tree canopy, the forest understory is primarily composed of low stature vegetation such as shrubs and non-woody plants. Toward the northern edge of Family Camp, the forest intergrades with chaparral habitat (described below). In the immediate area of the Family Camp facilities, the soils are compacted and the forest canopy is more open. In these areas, populations of non-native vegetation are established.

A number of species are expected to make regular use of this habitat as year-round residents, seasonal residents, or migrants. Many of the amphibian species that are associated with the adjacent aquatic habitats in the Middle Fork Tuolumne River will forage or take refuge in this forest habitat, including the western toad, Sierran treefrog, bullfrog, slender salamander, and arboreal salamander. Reptiles that occur here include the western fence lizard and mountain kingsnake. Mammals such as the deer mouse, western gray squirrel, and raccoon are common in this disturbed habitat. Predatory mammals such as the black bear, bobcat, and gray fox may occur here occasionally.



BIOTIC HABITAT MAP

FIGURE 4.4-1

Cavities and hollows in trees, as well as exfoliating bark, provide roosting habitat for many species of bats. Common bird species that may nest in the ponderosa pine/black oak forest habitat of Family Camp include the common raven, Steller's jay, western scrub-jay, and hairy woodpecker. Raptors, such as red-shouldered hawks and great horned owls may nest in larger trees. In addition, species that breed in nearby larger, more contiguous blocks of ponderosa pine/black oak forest to the east, such as the great gray owl, may use the ponderosa pine/black oak forest habitat at Family Camp for foraging. For a complete list of wildlife species likely to utilize the ponderosa pine/black oak forest habitat, see pages 14 and 18 of the Biological Resources Report, attached as Appendix B at the back of this document.

Mixed Chaparral/Grassland

The mixed chaparral/grassland habitat at Family Camp covers approximately 17.3 acres of Family Camp and consists mostly of shrubs. This habitat is primarily found on the exposed upper slopes and in previously burned areas of the camp. The 1999 Pilot fire resulted in a chaparral community that is relatively open and diverse, with burnt remnants of trees extending above the younger shrubs. Native and non-native grasses are present in the openings between the shrubs and dominate the open spaces.

The mixed chaparral/grassland habitat within Family Camp is contiguous with large areas of similar habitat outside the camp area. The mixed chaparral/grassland habitat borders several other habitat types at the camp including ponderosa pine/black oak forest, white alder riparian, freshwater wetland, and aquatic. The diversity of vegetation, presence of open areas, friable soils, and proximity to open water provides excellent habitat for an abundance of wildlife species.

Amphibians such as the western toad, Sierran treefrog, and slender salamander that breed in adjacent riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats forage or hide under logs or in burrows in the mixed chaparral/grassland habitat. Reptiles that occur here include the western rattlesnake and common garter snake. Mammals such as the deer mouse and brush rabbit are prevalent in this habitat and attract predators such as the coyote, grey fox, and bobcat. The numerous available cavities and hollows in burned snags throughout the chaparral habitat at Family Camp provide roosting habitat for many species of bat, and nesting habitat for cavity-nesting birds, such as the acorn woodpecker and mountain chickadee. Species that nest and forage in this habitat include the fox sparrow and California quail. The diversity and abundance of insects in this habitat provides foraging opportunities for numerous species of insectivorous birds. The brown-headed cowbird, which is not native to the Sierra Nevada, also occurs in this habitat and parasitizes the nests of other songbird species. For a complete list of the wildlife species which are likely to utilize the mixed chaparral/grassland habitat, see pages 18 and 19 of the Biological Resources Report, attached as Appendix B at the back of this document.

White Alder Riparian

Narrow bands of riparian habitat run adjacent to the Middle Fork Tuolumne River and cover approximately 3.3 acres of Family Camp. The multilayer riparian canopy intergrades with the ponderosa pine/black oak forest habitat type (described above) in many locations. Riparian trees that are present in the overstory include white alder, big leaf maple, and Oregon ash. The riparian understory at Family Camp is sparse with a diverse assortment of four to five foot shrubs. These shrubs are discontinuously established on the banks of the river, and on sand/gravel bars along the

length of the river. These shrubs provide only marginal habitat for riparian-dependent wildlife species.

The white alder riparian habitat at Family Camp does not extend continuously along the Middle Fork Tuolumne River and does not provide the typical value to riparian wildlife species that an undisturbed, mature stand of riparian vegetation would provide. Wildlife species that occur in the Family Camp riparian zone are, therefore, more typical of the adjacent aquatic or ponderosa pine/black oak forest habitats.

The western pond turtle and amphibians such as the western toad and bullfrog, which may occur in the aquatic habitat of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River, may forage or take refuge in the limited adjacent riparian habitat at Family Camp. Reptiles that can be found in this habitat include the western terrestrial garter snake and ringneck snake. Riparian bird species such as the Pacific-slope flycatcher and black-headed grosbeak, nest or breed in this habitat and also make use of the adjacent ponderosa pine/black oak forest habitat. Mammal species that occur in this habitat are the same as those that occur in the adjacent ponderosa pine/black oak forest and aquatic habitats. For a complete list of the species which are likely to utilize the white alder riparian habitat, see page 20 of the Biological Resources Report, attached as Appendix B at the back of this document.

Freshwater Wetland

Freshwater wetland is a habitat where the soils are inundated by water at a duration which is able to support vegetation that is adapted to live in saturated soil conditions. Within Family Camp, this type of habitat covers approximately 0.7 acres, and is located along the streams which are tributaries to the Middle Fork Tuolumne River, the outer perimeter of the wastewater aeration pond, in relatively small, discrete areas along the river where sediment and rocks accumulate, and/or along banks that retain sufficient water to support wetland vegetation. Wetland vegetation along the streams is primarily composed of sedges, rushes, and various grasses. A narrow band of wetland vegetation also surrounds the immediate edge of the wastewater aeration pond and is primarily composed of cattails. Along the river, wetland vegetation such as sedges and rushes are frequently established where sediment has accumulated at the base of many of the bridge footings. Much of the river wetland vegetation is likely to be temporary, as high winter runoff washes away much of the soils that has accumulated from the previous season.

A freshwater wetland is located directly behind the Family Camp amphitheater seating. The amphitheater and a portion of the camp entrance road were built in a drainage way. The road behind the amphitheater acts as an earthen dam with a culvert to allow water to pass under it. The wetland is supplied by water from the culvert. A small stream exits the wetland and flows beneath the seating, emerging downslope of the amphitheater. This wetland is primarily composed of a dense, two to three foot tall stand of scouring rush.

The small areas of freshwater wetland at Family Camp are limited in extent and are not large enough to provide habitat for more than a few wetland specialist species. Reptiles such as the western pond turtle and ringneck snake take refuge in the wetland vegetation associated with the wastewater aeration pond and bask or forage in and around this pond. Amphibians that occur in habitats adjacent to wetland areas, such as the western toad and the non-native bullfrog, may be present in any of the wetland habitats within the camp. Red-winged blackbirds and song sparrows nest in the wetland

vegetation around the wastewater aeration pond, and mallards likely nest in the vegetation surrounding this pond and forage within the pond. Several species of birds that nest in the mixed chaparral/grassland habitat forage on insects over drainages and over the wastewater aeration pond and bats that roost in the vicinity forage over this wetland or visit it for drinking. For details on the species which are likely to utilize a freshwater wetland habitat, see pages 20 and 21 of the Biological Resources Report, attached as Appendix B at the back of this document.

Aquatic/Wastewater Aeration Pond

Aquatic habitat at Family Camp includes the active flow of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River and the non-vegetated portion of the wastewater aeration pond. Together these features cover approximately 2.0 acres.

During the spring the river moves rapidly through Family Camp. The water can be turbid, flowing high on the banks and over much of the wetland and riparian vegetation that grows there. During a spring time site visit to the camp no aquatic vegetation was observable although it is likely that algae and other hydrophytes become established as the water level drops and temperatures increase in the summer. The depth of the river ranges from approximately two to five feet deep in the shallow areas, to more than 15 feet deep where the swimming hole is created for campers during the summer months using a temporary dam structure. During the summer the flow and turbidity of the river decreases to create a shallow, clear, and cool flowing river.

The wastewater aeration pond is part of the Family Camp sewer system. Freshwater algae can be found in this pond.

The Middle Fork Tuolumne River is a tributary to the Tuolumne River, which flows west from the Sierra Nevada to Don Pedro Reservoir, through the Central Valley, to its mouth at the San Joaquin River near Modesto. A hydroelectric dam at Don Pedro Reservoir, in combination with many smaller dams between the reservoir and the Middle Fork tributary, prevents the upstream movement of fish from below the reservoir to Family Camp, and no Federally designated critical habitat for endangered fish species or designated essential fish habitat for species managed by fisheries management plans occurs along the Middle Fork Tuolumne River. The aquatic habitat within the Middle Fork Tuolumne River does, however, support several species of native fishes such as the California roach and rainbow trout as well as the non-native brown trout. Aquatic habitat at Family Camp also supports amphibians such as the western toad and pacific chorus frog, snakes such as the western terrestrial garter snake and ringneck snake, and turtles which forage in the pools and take refuge in adjacent habitats. Many bird species including the belted kingfisher and mallard, and bat species forage within the aquatic habitat and take refuge or nest in nearby habitats. American dippers may nest under bridges or other structures along the river. For a complete list of the species which are likely to utilize the aquatic/wastewater aeration pond habitat, see pages 21 and 22 of the Biological Resources Report, attached as Appendix B at the back of this document.

Developed/Landscaped

Developed/landscaped habitat at Family Camp includes areas such as the dining hall, cabins, tents, restrooms, roads, playgrounds, (including the grassy meadow), and parking areas. Many of these areas are paved or highly compacted so that little or no vegetation is present. Unpaved grounds

around the tents and cabins have compacted soils, but are still generally able to support some of the same vegetation of the surrounding forest, although at lower densities.

The wildlife most often associated with developed and landscaped areas are those that are most tolerant of periodic human disturbances, including several introduced species such as European starlings and house mice. Native species that are able to utilize these habitats include western fence lizards, American robins, and striped skunks. In addition, some bats that forage throughout the study area may make use of cavities in structures. For a complete list of the species which are likely to utilize the developed/landscaped habitat, see page 22 of the Biological Resources Report, attached as Appendix B at the back of this document.

4.4.1.2 Regulatory Overview (*Biological Communities*)

Waters

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has jurisdiction under Section 401 of the CWA for activities that could result in a discharge of dredged or fill material to a water body. The RWQCB has no formal technical manual or expanded regulations to help in identifying their jurisdiction. The only guidance can be found in Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Chapter 2 (Definitions), which states, ‘Waters of the State’ means any surface water or ground water, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state.’ RWQCB jurisdiction of waters, such as rivers, extends to all areas below the ordinary high water mark. State authority is exercised when a proposed project is not subject to Federal authority, in the form of a Notice of Coverage, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements.

Federal authority is exercised whenever a proposed project requires a CWA Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the form of a Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Areas subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE are those meeting the regulatory definition of “Waters of the US” and are under provisions of Section 404 of the 1972 Clean Water Act (Federal Water Pollution Control Act). These waters may include all waters used, or potentially used, for interstate commerce. Wetlands on non-agricultural lands are identified using the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual*. Construction activities within jurisdictional waters are regulated by the USACE. The placement of fill into such waters must comply with permit requirements of the USACE. No USACE permit will be effective in the absence of a RWQCB Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA.

The active channel of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River, up to ordinary high water and its associated wetlands, falls under the jurisdiction of the USACE. In addition, freshwater wetland habitat including that found at the southwestern end of the site and near the amphitheater, within Family Camp are generally considered Waters of the US and activities within them may be subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE and RWQCB. Any activities that affect Waters of the US and/or the State would require 401 certification and/or a Waste Discharge Requirement from the RWQCB. A wetland delineation to determine the precise locations and boundaries of USACE jurisdiction at

Family Camp has not been completed for the project, but may be needed as part of future permit applications.

Wetlands

Executive Order 11990 is an overall wetlands policy for all agencies managing Federal lands, sponsoring Federal projects, or providing Federal funds to State or local projects. It requires Federal agencies to follow avoidance, mitigation, and preservation procedures with public input before proposing new construction in wetlands. The Master Plan includes conservation measures to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands located at Family Camp.

California Department of Fish and Game Jurisdictional Habitats

The California Fish and Game Code includes regulations governing the use of, or impacts to, many of the State's fish, wildlife, and sensitive habitats. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has jurisdiction over the bed and banks of rivers, lakes, and streams according to provisions of §1601–1603 of the Fish and Game Code. The Fish and Game Code requires a Streambed Alteration Agreement for the fill or removal of material within the bed and banks of a watercourse or water body and for the removal of riparian vegetation.

Maintenance and renovation activities proposed within the bed and banks of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River would be within the jurisdiction of the CDFG and would require a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Forests

The National Forest Management Act requires the US Forest Service to “provide for a diversity of plant and animal communities” [16 USC. 1604(g)(3)(B)] as part of its multiple-use mandate. The US Forest Service must maintain “viable populations of existing native and desired non-native species in the planning area” (36 CFR 219.19). The Sensitive Species program is designed to meet this mandate and to demonstrate the US Forest Service commitment to maintaining biodiversity on National Forest Service lands.

Family Camp lies completely within lands owned by the US Forest Service and must comply with applicable standards and guidelines that protect biological communities as required by the Stanislaus National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The project must protect species listed as part of the Sensitive Species program.

4.4.1.3 *Regulatory Overview (Animal Species)*

Migratory Birds

The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits killing, possessing, or trading of migratory birds except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. The trustee agency that addresses issues related to the MBTA is the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Species of birds protected under the MBTA include all native birds and certain game birds. The MBTA protects whole birds, parts of birds, and bird eggs and nests and prohibits the possession of all nests of protected bird species whether they are active or inactive. An active nest is defined as having eggs or young.

The vast majority of bird species that occur at Family Camp, including but not limited to the willow flycatcher, long-eared owl, olive-sided flycatcher, yellow warbler, and Vaux's swift are protected under the MBTA.

California Department of Fish & Game Wildlife Protection

Certain sections of the Fish and Game Code describe regulations pertaining to certain wildlife species. For example, Fish and Game Code §§3503, 2513, and 3800 (and other sections and subsections) protect native birds, including their nests and eggs, from all forms of take. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort is considered "take" by the CDFG. Raptors such as eagles, falcons, hawks, and owls and their nests are specifically protected in California under Fish and Game Code section §3503.5. Section 3503.5 states that it is "unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the order Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto." Non-game mammals are protected by Fish and Game Code §4150, and other sections of the Code protect other wildlife.

All native bird, mammal, and other wildlife species that occur in Family Camp and in the immediate vicinity are protected by the California Fish and Game Code.

4.4.1.4 *Regulatory Overview (Special-Status Species)*

The CEQA requires assessment of the effects of a project on species that are protected by State, Federal, or local governments as "threatened, rare, or endangered"; such species are typically described as "special-status species". Special-status species include those plant and wildlife species that have been formally listed, are proposed as endangered or threatened, or are candidates for such listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA). These acts afford protection to both listed and proposed species. Although CDFG Species of Special Concern generally have no special legal status, they are given special consideration under CEQA. In addition to regulations for special-status species, most birds in the United States, including non-status species, are protected by the MBTA (described above). Plant species on the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Lists 1 and 2 are also considered special-status species and must be considered under CEQA.

Information concerning threatened, endangered, and other special-status species that may occur in the study area and surrounding vicinity was collected from several sources. The specific habitat requirements and the locations of known occurrences of each special-status species were the principal criteria used to determine which species may potentially occur at Family Camp.

Special-Status Plants

For purposes of this analysis, “special-status” plants are considered plant species that are:

- Listed under FESA as threatened, endangered, proposed threatened, proposed endangered, or a candidate species.
- Listed under CESA as threatened, endangered, rare, or a candidate species.
- Listed by the CNPS as rare or endangered on Lists 1A, 1B, 2, 3, or 4.
- Designated as sensitive by the US Forest Service.

The complete list of US Forest Service Sensitive Plants for the Stanislaus National Forest was reviewed for each species’ potential to occur at Family Camp. In addition, the CNPS identifies 53 special-status plant species as potentially occurring in at least one of the nine USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles containing or surrounding Family Camp within a five mile radius. Plants designated as CNPS list 3 (review list) or 4 (watch list) species were not considered in the following impacts analysis because most of these species are widely distributed, often occurring in surrounding counties or Statewide, and the level of potential impacts upon these plants resulting from Alternative 1 (which involves the most ground disturbance) at Family Camp would be extremely small given the disturbed nature of the site and the project’s minimal expansion into undisturbed natural habitats.

Many of the species on the CNPS lists 1A, 1B, and 2, and those on the US Forest Service complete list of Sensitive Plants for the Stanislaus National Forest were determined to be absent from Family Camp due to one or more of the following reasons: 1) lack of specific soil requirements such as serpentine or alkaline soils, 2) the elevation range of the species is outside of the elevation range within the Family Camp boundary, and/or 3) specific habitat requirements for the species are not present.

The CDFG Species of Special Concern are tracked in The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). A query of sensitive habitats in the CNDDDB (2012) did not identify any sensitive habitats as occurring within Family Camp, however, several special-status plant species were found within a five mile radius of Family Camp.

Through the process of elimination it was determined that 15 special-status plants could be present or are likely to be present at Family Camp. These species are shown in Table 4.4-1 below:

**Table 4.4-1:
Special-Status Plant Species which May Occur at Family Camp**

Name	Status*	Blooming Period	Elevation Range (feet)	Habitat	Potential For Occurrence On-site
<i>Federal or State Endangered, Threatened, or Rare</i>					
Yosemite Onion	SR FSS CNPS IB.3	April-July	1,760-2,200	In moist cracks or slopes of metamorphic rock, in chaparral, cismontane woodland, or lower montane coniferous forest.	May be present. There is a single CNDDDB occurrence approximately three miles southeast of Family Camp at 5,200 feet in elevation. Potential habitat for Yosemite onion would be in moist cracks of rocks within the rocky areas along the northern edge of Family Camp.
Tompkin's sedge	SR CNPS 4.3	May- July	300-3,920	Often on granitic substrate in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and upper and lower montane coniferous forests.	May be present. There are no CNDDDB occurrences near Family Camp. However, records for CNPS list 3 and 4 species are frequently incomplete. Potential suitable habitat may be present on rocky soils and openings in the mixed chaparral/grassland and ponderosa pine/black oak habitats on the northern border of Family Camp.
Congdon's woolly sunflower	SR FSS CNPS 1B.2	April-June	1,640-6,240	Cracks in outcroppings, rocky, and metamorphic soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and Valley and foothill grassland	May be present. There are two CNDDDB occurrences approximately three and four miles southeast of Family Camp. These occurrences are between 4,000 and 4,750 feet in elevation. Potential habitat for Congdon's woolly sunflower occurs on or near the rock outcroppings along the northern edge of Family Camp.
<i>Stanislaus National Forest, Forest Service Sensitive Species</i>					
Big-scale balsamroot	FSS CNPS 1B.2	March-June	300-5,100	Open (sometimes recently burned or serpentine) chaparral, cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland.	May be present. There are four CNDDDB occurrences of big scale balsamroot within the nine quadrangles surrounding Family Camp. One occurrence is within 0.5 miles of Family Camp, and documents over 100 plants. These occurrences are in open chaparral habitat similar to what occurs in the chaparral/grassland habitat located in the southwestern corner of Family Camp, as well as the recently burned chaparral habitat that borders the northern edge of Family Camp.

**Table 4.4-1:
Special-Status Plant Species which May Occur at Family Camp**

Name	Status*	Blooming Period	Elevation Range (feet)	Habitat	Potential For Occurrence On-site
Small's southern clarkia	FSS CNPS 1B.2	May– August	2,500– 6,000	Openings in ponderosa pine and mixed conifer stands. Often on disturbed sites with little or no competition from weeds.	May be present. There are 10 CNDDDB occurrences of Small's southern clarkia within the vicinity of Family Camp. These occurrences are in similar habitats with similar features as those at Family Camp such as a recent burn and granitic soils. Potential habitat for Small's southern clarkia exists in Family Camp in the chaparral/forest ecotonal openings toward the northern edge of the property boundary among mountain misery and manzanita stands, as well as the recently burned chaparral/ grassland area in the southwest corner of Family Camp.
Mariposa clarkia	FSS CNPS 1B.2	May–July	1,500– 4,600	Can occur in light shade to direct sunlight, often in ecotones between riparian and foothill woodland, as well as, chaparral and cismontane woodlands.	Present. There is one occurrence of Mariposa clarkia within Family Camp and there are 11 CNDDDB occurrences in the nine quadrangles surrounding Family Camp. Suitable habitat exists in the mixed chaparral/grassland community throughout Family Camp and the ponderosa pine/black oak forest north of the river.
Tuolumne fawn lily	FSS CNPS 1B.2	March– June	1,670– 4,480	Often on cliffs near drainages, in broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest.	May be present. There are six CNDDDB records of Tuolumne fawn lily in the nine quadrangles surrounding Family Camp. Potential habitat exists in the ponderosa pine/black oak forest and mixed chaparral/grassland communities south of the river, as well as the rocky cliffs surrounding the freshwater seep north of the amphitheater.

**Table 4.4-1:
Special-Status Plant Species which May Occur at Family Camp**

Name	Status*	Blooming Period	Elevation Range (feet)	Habitat	Potential For Occurrence On-site
Parry's horkelia	FSS CNPS 1B.2	April– September	260–3,400	Openings in chaparral or cismontane woodland sometimes associated with the lone formation.	May be present. There are five CNDDDB records within the surrounding nine USGS quadrangles. Potential suitable habitat exists in the mixed chaparral/grassland communities in Family Camp, as well as openings in the ecotonal areas in the north between the mixed chaparral/grassland and the ponderosa pine/black oak forest habitat.
Three ranked hump moss	FSS CNPS 4.2	May– August	1,310– 5,300	Found on soil substrate in bogs, fens, meadows, and seeps, as well as mesic environments in subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest.	May be present. There are no CNDDDB records in Tuolumne county; however, CNDDDB records for CNPS list 3 and 4 species are frequently incomplete. Potential suitable habitat exists in mesic soils around the seep north of the amphitheater, as well as around the freshwater wetlands in the southeast corner of Family Camp.
Elongate copper moss	FSS CNPS 2.2	NA	1,640– 4,265	Vernally mesic, metamorphic rock substrates in cismontane woodland	May be present. There are no CNDDDB records near Family Camp. However, CNDDDB documented occurrences are widely dispersed and represent a variety of substrates. Therefore, potential habitat may be present in mesic areas on the granite outcrops that are dispersed around the northern boundary of Family Camp in the ponderosa pine/black oak forest and chaparral.
Slender stemmed Monkey-flower	FSS CNPS 1B.2	April–July	2,400– 5,500	Moist soils near seeps, springs, meadows and drainages, in cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, and upper montane coniferous forest	May be present. There are nine CNDDDB occurrences within the vicinity of Family Camp. Many of these occurrences are in habitats similar to the areas mapped as mixed chaparral/grassland and freshwater wetland in the southwestern corner of Family Camp as well as openings in the mixed chaparral/grassland and ponderosa/black oak forest ecotone, where soils remain moist in the spring, along the northern end of Family Camp.

**Table 4.4-1:
Special-Status Plant Species which May Occur at Family Camp**

Name	Status*	Blooming Period	Elevation Range (feet)	Habitat	Potential For Occurrence On-site
Slender-stalked monkey-flower	FSS CNPS 1B.2	April–June	1,640–4,265	Disturbed soils such as burns and thin granitic soils in large granite outcrops in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest	May be present. There are no CNDDDB records near Family Camp, however, there may be suitable habitat in Family Camp due to the recent fire and the presence of granite outcrops. This habitat would be located in the rock outcrops and surrounding chaparral habitat that borders the northern area of Family Camp.
Yellow-lip pansy Monkey-flower	FSS CNPS 1B.2	April–July	3,000–5,000	Often occurs in disturbed meadows and seeps, as well as vernal moist to wet areas in lower montane coniferous forest. Sites are typically flat or only slightly sloped.	May be present. There are six CNDDDB occurrences within the vicinity of Family Camp. Potential habitat exists in the relatively flat, vernal moist to wet areas in the mixed chaparral/grassland and freshwater wetlands in the southwestern corner of Family Camp.
CNPS List 1 and 2 Species					
Brownish beaked-rush	CNPS 2.2	July–August	1,490–6,560	Meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, and mesic sites in upper and lower montane coniferous forests	May be present. There is one CNDDDB occurrence within 2 miles of Family Camp near Highway 120. Potential suitable habitat is present in mesic areas in the mixed chaparral/grassland and wetland habitats located in the southwestern corner of Family Camp.
Shevock's copper moss	CNPS 1B.2	NA	2,460–4,590	In mesic sites with metamorphic rock substrates in cismontane woodland.	May be present. There are no CNDDDB records near Family Camp, however, CNDDDB documented occurrences are widely dispersed and represent a variety of substrates. Therefore, potential habitat may be present in mesic areas on the granite outcrops that are spaced throughout the northern boundary of Family Camp in the ponderosa pine/black oak forest and chaparral.
<p>SR: State Rare; FSS: US Forest Service listed as Sensitive for the Stanislaus National Forest; CNPS List 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; CNPS List 2: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere; CNPS List 4: Plants of limited distribution-a watch list-- .1: seriously endangered in California .2: fairly endangered in California .3: not very endangered in California.</p>					

Special-Status Animals

For purposes of this analysis, “special-status” animals are considered animal species that are:

- Listed under FESA as threatened, endangered, proposed threatened, proposed endangered, or a candidate species.
- Listed under CESA as threatened, endangered or a candidate threatened or endangered species.
- Designated by the CDFG as a California species of special concern.
- Listed in the California Fish and Game Code as fully protected species (fully protected birds are provided in Section 3511, mammals in Section 4700, reptiles and amphibians in Section 5050, and fish in Section 5515).
- Designated as sensitive by the US Forest Service.

There are 12 special-status species in the project site region not likely to occur at Family Camp, because the site lacks suitable habitat or is outside the known distribution of the species area. These species include the hardhead, delta smelt, Central Valley, limestone salamander, California redlegged frog, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Yosemite toad, Swainson’s hawk, Sierra Nevada red fox, California wolverine, Pacific fisher, and the American (pine) marten.

Special-status birds known or expected to breed or roost regularly in the broader Family Camp vicinity include the bald eagle, great gray owl, northern goshawk, California spotted owl, American peregrine falcon, and the golden eagle. These six avian species may nest in small numbers within the vicinity of Family Camp in the larger, more contiguous blocks of ponderosa pine/black oak forest to the east of the site. A few individuals may occasionally forage in Family Camp throughout the year, but they are not expected to nest within Family Camp itself.

In addition, the American badger, spotted bat, and western mastiff bat may be present in Family Camp as occasional foragers, but they do not breed or roost within Family Camp. The western red bat may roost or forage in small numbers in Family Camp throughout the year but does not breed in the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

Ten special-status wildlife species are known or expected to occur regularly on or near Family Camp and could potentially breed there. These species include the willow flycatcher, foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, long-eared owl, Vaux’s swift, olive-sided flycatcher, purple martin, yellow warbler, pallid bat, and Townsend’s big-eared bat.

The Valley elderberry longhorn beetle is a special-status species that may be present at Family Camp if elderberry shrubs are present.

Table 4.4-2 below lists special-status wildlife species that use Family Camp for breeding, roosting, migrating, and foraging.

**Table 4.4-2:
Special-Status Animal Species Likely to Occur at Family Camp**

Name	Status*	Habitat	Presence at Family Camp
<i>Federal or State Endangered or Threatened Species</i>			
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	FT	Live elderberry typically within riparian and associated upland habitats.	May be Present. The study area is within the species' range (USFWS 1996), and two elderberry shrubs with basal diameters greater than 1 inch were observed during a focused survey of the study area on June 13, 2012. Thus, the valley elderberry longhorn beetle may be present.
Bald eagle	SE SP FS	Occurs mainly along seacoasts, rivers, and lakes; nests in tall trees or in cliffs, occasionally on electrical towers. Feeds mostly on fish.	Absent as Breeder. Occurs in Tuolumne County during the breeding season. No existing eagle nests were observed on the site or in the vicinity during the site visit. Trees on the site are marginal for nesting and the site is disturbed by humans for much of the year. Thus, bald eagles are determined to be absent as breeders, though they may occur on the site as migrants or foragers throughout the year.
Great gray owl	SE* (*nesting) FSS	Pine and fir forests with adjacent meadows for foraging, between 2500 ft and 8000 feet in elevation. Nests can be located in snags, old raptor nests, mistletoe brooms, or human-made platforms.	Absent as Breeder. Occurs within the Project vicinity throughout the year, and there are four records of the species within five miles of Family Camp. The canopy cover within Family Camp is, however, too thin to provide adequate cover for nesting, and disturbance from the campground during the breeding season likely precludes nesting. Nevertheless, individuals from nearby territories may occur year-round on the site as occasional foragers in open habitats.
Willow flycatcher	SE*, (*nesting) FSS	Breeds in willow thickets in riparian habitats or in montane meadows with willows that occur near perennial streams.	May be Present. Known to nest east of Family Camp in Yosemite National Park. Within Family Camp, chaparral meadows with willow and alder trees provide marginal habitat for nesting, though no suitable dense willow riparian habitat is present to provide ideal nesting habitat. May nest in low numbers during the breeding season but likely occurs only as an occasional migrant.
Foothill yellow-legged frog	CSSC FSS	Partially shaded shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate. Occurs in a variety of habitats in the Sierra Nevada.	May be Present. The foothill yellow-legged frog has been recorded in streams within five miles of Family Camp, and suitable breeding and foraging habitat for the species is present within Family Camp. Foothill yellow-legged frogs could potentially breed on the site, and may occur year round.

**Table 4.4-2:
Special-Status Animal Species Likely to Occur at Family Camp**

Name	Status*	Habitat	Presence at Family Camp
Western pond turtle	CSSC, FSS	Ponds, slow-moving streams and rivers, irrigation ditches, and reservoirs with abundant emergent and/or riparian vegetation	May be Present. Western pond turtles are known to occur in streams in the Sierra Nevada where Family Camp is located. The species is unlikely to occur in the aquatic habitat in Family Camp during the winter and early spring, when high flows would prevent them from utilizing the aquatic habitat, but it may occur in adjacent upland areas. In late spring and summer, suitable breeding and foraging habitat for western pond turtles is present in Family Camp in the Middle Fork Tuolumne River and surrounding terrestrial habitats.
Northern goshawk	CSSC, FSS (nesting)	Nests in mature, high-elevation, old-growth forests with high canopy closure, or in younger forests with sparse mature old-growth trees if canopy cover is high.	Absent as Breeder. Family Camp is located on the western edge of the species' range. Though goshawks have been sighted in the Project vicinity year-round, suitable old-growth forest with high canopy cover is not present on the area to support nesting. Disturbance from the active campground during the nesting season also precludes the presence of a nesting pair. Goshawks likely occur in Family Camp as occasional migrants, foragers, or transients.
California spotted owl	CSSC, FSS	This subspecies is closely associated with dense multi-layered late successional, mixed conifer, and hardwood forests. It breeds in mature coniferous forest with high canopy closure and high structural diversity but forages in more variable habitats including both intermediate and old-growth forest.	Absent as Breeder. Mature forest suitable density to support nesting is not present in Family Camp. In addition, the understory habitat in Family Camp has limited structural diversity due to the presence of existing building and tent cabins. Spotted owls may be more tolerant of disturbance during the nesting season compared to other owl species; however, due to a lack of suitable habitat, this species is determined to be absent as a breeder. Spotted owls occur in the vicinity of Family Camp year-round and are likely present in Family Camp as occasional foragers.

**Table 4.4-2:
Special-Status Animal Species Likely to Occur at Family Camp**

Name	Status*	Habitat	Presence at Family Camp
Long-eared owl	CSSC (nesting)	Nests in riparian and oak-conifer woodlands in the Sierra Nevada adjacent to grasslands, meadows, or shrublands that are used for foraging.	May be Present. The forested habitat in Family Camp provides suitable nesting habitat for long-eared owls, though there are no records of long-eared owls in Family Camp or vicinity. The chaparral meadows in Family Camp provide suitable foraging habitat and old avian stick nests provide suitable nesting sites for this species. Long-eared owls are unlikely to occur in Family Camp as they are not known to be in the region previously, but suitable nesting and foraging habitat for this species is present.
Vaux's swift	CSSC (nesting)	Nests in the cavities of trees and occasionally in chimneys; forages aerially.	May be Present. Vaux's swifts occur in the Family Camp vicinity during the breeding season and numerous snags and trees with cavities or hollows provide suitable nesting habitat for this species within Family Camp. This species may be present in Family Camp as a breeder, forager, or migrant.
Olive-sided flycatcher	CSSC (nesting)	Breeds in mature forests with open canopies, along forest edges in more densely vegetated areas, in recently burned forest habitats, and in selectively harvested landscapes.	May be Present. Olive-sided flycatchers occur in the Project vicinity regularly during the nesting season and within Family Camp the abundance of forest-edge habitat adjacent to open chaparral meadows provides suitable nesting and foraging habitat. This species may be present in Family Camp as a breeder, forager, or migrant.
Purple martin	CSSC (nesting)	Tall, large snags in conifer forests, especially in snags and open habitats in burned stands. Often nests in abandoned woodpecker holes or other tree cavities surrounded by low canopy cover, with populations of available insect prey.	May be Present. The chaparral meadows in Family Camp provide potential habitat for purple martins, with numerous available large snags and woodpecker holes adjacent to water bodies that provide available insect prey. This species, however, is patchily distributed within its range and is not known to occur in the vicinity. Thus, although purple martins may breed and/or forage in Family Camp, there is a low probability of occurrence.

**Table 4.4-2:
Special-Status Animal Species Likely to Occur at Family Camp**

Name	Status*	Habitat	Presence at Family Camp
Yellow warbler	CSSC (nesting)	In the western Sierra Nevada, breeds in xeric montane shrub meadows and occasionally in the understory of conifer forest.	May be Present. This species occurs in the Project vicinity regularly during the nesting season, and the chaparral meadows and limited areas of shrubby understory in the oak-coniferous forest within Family Camp provide suitable nesting habitat. Yellow warblers likely occur in Family Camp as migrants and foragers, and may nest in Family Camp in small numbers (one to two pairs).
American badger	CSSC	Burrows in dry, open shrub areas in shrub and forest habitats where friable soils are present; forages in many habitats.	Absent as Breeder. The chaparral meadows in Family Camp provide suitable foraging habitat for American badgers, with small fossorial rodents available as prey. However, the high level of disturbance in Family Camp likely precludes denning and there are no records of this species in the vicinity. Thus, badgers are not expected to breed in Family Camp but may occur occasionally as foragers.
Pallid bat	CSSC FSS	Forages over many habitats; roosts in buildings, large oaks or redwoods, rocky outcrops, and rocky crevices in mines and caves.	May be Present. Pallid bats have been recorded in the vicinity of Family Camp, and they likely occur as foragers. Pallid bats may also roost and breed in snags present in Family Camp or in the attics of buildings.
Townsend's big-eared bat	CSSC FSS	Roosts in caves and mine tunnels, and occasionally in deep crevices in trees such as redwoods or in abandoned buildings, in a variety of habitats.	May be Present. Townsend's big-eared bats have been recorded in the vicinity, and they likely occur in Family Camp as foragers. The species may also roost and breed in the attics of buildings within Family Camp.
Spotted bat	CSSC	Roosts in rock crevices in cliffs; forages over water.	Absent as Breeder. Spotted bats have been recorded in the vicinity, though no suitable roosting habitat is present in Family Camp. Spotted bats from roosts in nearby cliff areas likely occur on the site as foragers.
Western red bat	CSSC, FSS	Roosts in foliage in forest or woodlands, especially in or near riparian habitat.	Absent as Breeder. Western red bats are known to occur in the vicinity. Although this species does not breed within Family Camp, non-breeding individuals may roost and forage here year-round.

**Table 4.4-2:
Special-Status Animal Species Likely to Occur at Family Camp**

Name	Status*	Habitat	Presence at Family Camp
Western mastiff bat	CSSC	Roosts in crevices, often under granite, sandstone, large boulders, or cliff faces and typically high above the ground.	Absent as Breeder. Western mastiff bats occur in the Family Camp vicinity. No suitable cliffs or crevices for roosting are present in Family Camp; however, western mastiff bats that roost in nearby cliff areas likely occur on the site as foragers.
<i>State Protected Species, CEQA Rare Species, and CNPS Species</i>			
American peregrine falcon	SP	Nests on cliffs, and occasionally on buildings or bridges; forages for birds over many habitats.	Absent as Breeder. Suitable nesting habitat is not present within Family Camp. Peregrine falcons, however, are known to occur in the vicinity throughout the year. Thus, this species may occur on the site as an occasional migrant or forager
Golden eagle	SP	Breeds on cliffs or in large trees (rarely on electrical towers), forages in open areas.	Absent as Breeder. Known to occur in the vicinity of Family Camp year-round and Family Camp provides marginal habitat for nesting golden eagles. No existing golden eagle nests were observed during the site visit, and disturbance from the active campground precludes nesting by this species. Golden eagles likely occur in Family Camp year-round as occasional migrants or foragers.
<p>FT: Federally listed Threatened; FC: Federal Candidate- sufficient biological information to support a proposal to list the species as Endangered or Threatened; SE: State listed Endangered; ST: State listed Threatened; SC: State Candidate-- sufficient biological information to support a proposal to list the species as Endangered or Threatened; CSSC: California Species of Special Concern; SP: State Protected Species; FSS: Forest Service Sensitive for the Stanislaus National Forest</p>			

4.4.1.6 Invasive Species

Two non-native species listed by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) were observed at Family Camp during a reconnaissance site visit including the Himalayan blackberry, and a species of broom that is either French broom or Scotch broom. The Himalayan blackberry is located on the north side of the bridge that is east of the amphitheater, and the broom is located on the north side of the river in the understory of the ponderosa pine black oak forest habitat. Two other invasive plant species known to occur at Family camp include the Tocalalote and yellow star-thistle.

Measures to avoid and minimize the introduction and spread of invasive species are included as conservation measures within the Master Plan alternatives (1-5).

4.4.2

Environmental Checklist

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,6
2) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,6
3) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,6
4) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,6
5) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,6
6) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,6

Proposed activities under Master Plan alternatives 1 - 5 are essentially the same in regards to biological impacts. The main differences between these four alternatives are (1) Alternatives 1 - 3 include the enlargement of the dining hall, (2) Alternatives 1 and 2 include the relocation of the

amphitheater and at least partial daylighting of the associated creek, (3) Alternative 1 includes the relocation of the children's play area, (4) Alternative 5 includes the least amount of improvements of the Master Plan alternatives. Because the biological impacts from implementing Alternatives 1 through 5 are very similar, they discussed together below. Any important differences in effects between these alternatives are identified where the activities are discussed. Biological impacts from implementation of Alternatives 6, and 7 are discussed separately at the end of the each biological subsection. Figure 4.4-1 identifies the proposed permanent development under Alternative 1 because this alternative involves the greatest amount of permanent disturbance compared to the other alternatives.

4.4.2.1 *Impacts to Non-Regulated Habitats and Plant Communities*

Most of proposed Master Plan improvement activities are within or adjacent to existing developed habitat and heavy foot traffic from high densities of visitors to the camp results in a high level of disturbance to the forest and riparian understory during the summer months. Further, soils around the tents and facilities are highly compacted, reducing the quality of the habitat and the potential for the presence of sensitive species and their habitat.

Ponderosa Pine/Black Oak Forest, Mixed Chaparral/Grassland, and Developed/Landscaped

Proposed maintenance and renovation activities under Master Plan alternatives 1 - 4 will result in both the temporary and permanent disturbance of the ponderosa pine/black oak forest, mixed chaparral/grassland, and developed/landscaped habitats in the project area. Under Alternatives 1 - 4, approximately 0.073 acres of ponderosa pine/black oak forest and 0.20 acres of mixed chaparral/grassland habitats will be converted to developed/landscaped habitat as a result of the construction of the new staff carport, construction of up to 28 concrete pads for bear proof trash containers, and construction of new ADA access ramps and paths. Alternatives 1 and 2 will convert an additional 0.041 acres of ponderosa pine/black oak forest to developed/landscape habitat as part of the relocation of the amphitheater. Under Alternative 1, approximately 0.007 acres of ponderosa pine/black oak forest habitat will be converted to developed/landscaped habitat as a result of construction of a vehicle bridge over the daylighted creek near the amphitheater. Alternative 2 will convert 0.004 acres of mixed chaparral/grassland habitat as a result of the partial daylighting of the creek at the amphitheater. Impacts may also occur as a result of the movement of maintenance workers through these habitats, renovation of trails, installation of new water, sewer, and electrical lines, winterization of waterlines, recontouring of the beach at the swimming area, and installation of underground irrigation. Alternative 5 may impact these habitats through recontouring of the beach at the swimming area and construction of new ADA access ramps and paths.

Under Alternatives 1 through 5, construction of the proposed dining hall would require the removal of at least ten adjacent trees (one oak, four pines, and five cedars) that are widely spaced and surrounded by pavement. Under Alternatives 1 and 2, the relocation of the amphitheater would result in the removal of up to seven trees (six pines and one cedar). While these trees are located near the river, they are not riparian species and are located outside of the riparian corridor. The trees are not, therefore, part of any CDFG regulated or sensitive habitats. Because the area around the trees is currently developed and no understory is present, the trees do not function as part of the surrounding forest and the loss of these trees would have only a minor effect on the larger, surrounding forest

habitat. In addition, the black oak, ponderosa pines, and cedars that would be removed are regionally abundant species and are not floristically unique, nor are they ecologically significant in terms of nesting or foraging habitat for wildlife. Removal of these trees would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites, or substantially alter the habitat to an extent that the alteration would impact a special-status plant or wildlife species. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Tree removal, as a part of Master Plan alternatives 1 through 5, would occur at Family Camp during hand thinning activities associated with the Fuel Reduction Program in forested areas of the site. Hand thinning for fuel reduction generally results in the loss of a few widely spaced, small to medium sized trees that act as ladder fuels to the taller tree canopy. The selective loss of small to medium sized trees would reduce the chances of a crown fire within the camp that could devastate the forest. The taller, continuous canopy of the forest would not be affected by hand thinning activities. In addition, the tree species in the ponderosa pine/black oak forest are regionally abundant species and are not floristically unique, nor are they ecologically significant in terms of nesting or foraging habitat for wildlife. Removal of trees associated with fuel reduction activities would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites, or substantially alter the habitat to an extent that the alteration would impact special-status plant or wildlife species. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Implementation of the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) would not significantly increase the general level of disturbance to the ponderosa pine/black oak forest and mixed chaparral/grasslands habitats at Family Camp. Trees which may be removed as part of the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) are regionally abundant and not floristically unique, and the trees that may be removed are not ecologically significant in terms of nesting or foraging habitat for wildlife. The Master Plan alternatives (1-5) would not result in significant impacts to the ponderosa pine/black oak forest, or mixed chaparral/grassland habitats at Family Camp. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Implementation of Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would result in similar temporary impacts described for Master Plan alternatives 1 – 5, although the magnitude of the impacts would be increased due to the greater amount of ground-disturbing activities that would be required to remove all Family Camp facilities and structures as compared to the renovation and maintenance of facilities proposed under Master Plan alternatives 1 – 5. Nevertheless, implementation of Alternative 6 would result in a long-term benefit due to the replacement of currently developed/landscaped areas by more natural vegetation communities, increasing the quality of ponderosa pine/black oak forest and mixed chaparral/grassland habitats. **(No Impact)**

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), impacts to ponderosa pine/black oak forest and mixed chaparral/grassland habitat would result from the continued spread of noxious weed populations in the absence of the implementation of a Noxious Weed Management Program. In addition, impacts would result due to the continued encroachment by dense tree regeneration and brush, and the increasing threat of stand-replacing wildfires in the absence of the implementation of a Fuel Reduction Program. Given that Family Camp is a heavily used recreational facility, Alternative 7 would not significantly increase the long-term levels of disturbance within the camp. The lack of ongoing maintenance and renovation activities at Family Camp would not result in substantial habitat impacts beyond existing conditions. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.4.2.2 *Impacts to Regulated Habitats and Plant Communities*

White Alder Riparian Habitat

Construction of ADA access ramps under the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) would result in a permanent impact on approximately 0.02 acres of white alder riparian habitat and lengthening of the existing retaining wall could result in the permanent loss of a small amount of riparian vegetation. In addition, project-related activities, especially those requiring in-channel work or work on channel banks (e.g., repair of retaining wall, repair of swimming dam, and fuel reduction activities), could result in the temporary disturbance of riparian vegetation and loss of riparian trees that occur along the river banks above the ordinary high water mark. However, revegetation of the horseshoe pit area on Miner's Island (under Alternatives 1-5) and the children's play area following its relocation (under Alternative 1) to the grassy meadow would result in the long-term conversion of approximately 0.02 acres of currently developed/landscaped habitat to riparian.

From a biological perspective, potential permanent and temporary effects on riparian habitat in the project area are relatively small and are not expected to substantially affect the functions or values of the riparian corridor. Relative to potential effects to wildlife species, not only is the disturbance of riparian habitat relatively small, but the affected area represents a very small fraction of this habitat locally and there is no substantial loss of habitat available for wildlife species that would arise from this minor effect. Further, implementation of the conservation measures will minimize impacts on riparian vegetation and implementation of the Noxious Weed Management Program will enhance the quality of existing riparian habitat. Thus, this impact is considered less than significant. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

The Master Plan includes activities that require work in the river channel and on channel banks. These activities, including repairs to the retaining wall and swimming dam, and completion of fuel reduction activities could result in the temporary disturbance of riparian vegetation and the loss of riparian trees which are located above the ordinary high water mark. Further, lengthening of the existing retaining wall could result in the permanent loss of a small amount of riparian vegetation. Although the white alder riparian habitat at Family Camp could be considered sensitive by the CDFG, implementation of the riparian conservation measures incorporated into the Master Plan would minimize impacts to this sensitive habitat. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would result in temporary impacts to white alder riparian habitat through the removal of the existing facilities near the Middle Fork Tuolumne River including the retaining wall, swimming dam, bridges, concrete river ford, amphitheater, and horseshoe pit area. In the long-term, Alternative 6 would benefit white alder riparian habitat occurring in the project area due to the replacement of currently developed/landscaped areas with more natural vegetation communities. **(No Impact)**

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), impacts to white alder riparian habitat would be minimal as no improvements from existing conditions would occur under this alternative. The continued spread of noxious weed populations could occur in the absence of the implementation of a Noxious Weed Management Program. Given that Family Camp is a heavily used recreational facility, Alternative 7 would not significantly increase the long-term levels of disturbance within the camp. The lack of

ongoing maintenance and renovation activities at Family Camp would not result in substantial habitat impacts beyond existing conditions. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Aquatic, Freshwater Wetland, and Riparian Water Quality

The aquatic, freshwater wetland and riparian habitats at Family Camp are regulated by the CDFG. The Master Plan alternatives (1-5) include construction, demolition and ongoing renovation and maintenance activities. Implementation of the Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measure would reduce *most* impacts from construction, renovation, and maintenance activities to the CDFG regulated habitats at Family Camp to a less than significant level. Activities that would take place within and adjacent to aquatic, freshwater wetland, and riparian habitats at Family Camp could, however, result in impacts to the CDFG regulated habitats. These activities include repair and lengthening the river retaining wall, repair and/or replacement of bridges, repair of the swimming dam, renovation of the concrete ford, relocation of the horseshoe pit from the island, removal of the concrete path to the island, and amphitheater renovation and/or relocation, and redirection of the drainage associated with the amphitheater.

Impact BIO-1 Activities under the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) that would occur within and adjacent to aquatic, freshwater wetland, and riparian habitats could result in impacts to these sensitive habitats. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce impacts to aquatic, freshwater wetland, and riparian habitats at Family Camp to a less than significant level.

MM BIO-1.1 Prior to any ground-disturbing activities that could potentially have direct impacts to aquatic, freshwater wetland or riparian habitats, a focused survey will be completed by a qualified wetland biologist to determine the precise limits of these habitats within Family Camp. The lateral limits of these regulated habitats within 100 feet of any proposed construction activities shall be delineated on the ground using wooden stakes, pin-flags or orange construction fencing.

MM BIO-1.2 Future project improvement activities will be designed to avoid and minimize impacts to these sensitive habitats to the extent practicable through a combination of site improvement redesign and modification of construction methodology while still accomplishing project objectives. Possible improvement redesign and construction methodology options could include the following:

- Locate new horseshoe pit in an area outside of riparian or wetland habitat;
- Locate staging areas for construction activities outside of riparian and aquatic habitat;
- When repairing or replacing bridges use designs that span the riparian and wetland habitats;
- When repairing or lengthening the retaining wall, use a method that will minimize the chances of concrete or other noxious materials coming into contact with the active flow channel of the river.

MM BIO-1.3 Aquatic, freshwater wetland, or riparian habitats that are temporarily impacted during construction from specific maintenance or renovation projects shall be restored to pre-existing contours and levels of soil compaction following project completion. The means by which such temporarily impacted areas will be restored shall be detailed in a mitigation plan (see MM BIO-1.4, below).

MM BIO-1.4 Unavoidable permanent fill of aquatic, freshwater wetland, or riparian habitats will be mitigated at a minimum ratio of 1:1 (mitigation area: impact area) by creation or restoration of similar habitat in Family Camp. Mitigation may be achieved through on-site restoration or creation of aquatic, wetland, or riparian habitats including removal of onsite fill or structures that results in a gain of wetland or aquatic habitats. For areas to be restored as mitigation for temporary or permanent impacts, the City of San José shall prepare and implement a regulated habitat mitigation plan. The City shall retain a qualified restoration ecologist or wetland biologist to develop the mitigation plan, which shall contain the following components (or as otherwise modified by regulatory agency permitting conditions):

- Summary of habitat impacts and proposed mitigation ratios, along with a description of any other mitigation strategies used to achieve the overall mitigation ratios, such as funding of off-site improvements and/or purchase of mitigation bank credits.
- Goal of the restoration to achieve no net loss of habitat functions and values.
- Location of mitigation site(s) and description of existing site conditions.
- Mitigation design shall include 1) existing and proposed site hydrology; 2) grading plan if appropriate, including bank stabilization or other site stabilization features; 3) soil amendments and other site preparation elements as appropriate; 4) planting plan (including an irrigation and maintenance plan and proposed remedial measures/adaptive management, etc.); 5) monitoring plan (including final and performance criteria, monitoring methods, data analysis, reporting requirements, monitoring schedule, etc.) and; 6) contingency plan for mitigation elements that do not meet performance or final success criteria.

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would result in temporary impacts to aquatic, freshwater wetland, and riparian habitat through the removal of the existing facilities near the Middle Fork Tuolumne River including the retaining wall, swimming dam, bridges, concrete river ford, amphitheater, and horseshoe pit area. In the long-term, Alternative 6 would benefit aquatic, freshwater wetland, and riparian habitat occurring in the project area due to the replacement of currently developed/landscaped areas. **(No Impact)**

Under Alternative 7, no improvements would occur to within or adjacent to aquatic, freshwater wetland, and riparian habitats at Family Camp. As a result, ongoing drainage and erosion issues and

sediment loading in the river would continue to persist and adversely impact water quality.
(Significant Impact)

4.4.2.3 *Impacts to Special-Status Plants*

As described previously, there are 15 special-status plant species that could occur on the project site. Of these 15 special-status plant species only eight species may occur within the disturbance areas at Family Camp. These species include Tompkin's sedge, bigscale balsamroot, Small's southern clarkia, Mariposa clarkia, Tuolumne fawn lily, Parry's horkelia, slender-stemmed monkeyflower and yellow-lipped pansy monkeyflower. Master Plan alternatives (1-5) that will involve activities such as renovation and/or relocation of the amphitheater, redirection of drainage around the amphitheater, relocation of the horseshoe pit, renovation of trails, and upgrading of utility systems could adversely affect these eight plant species and their associated habitats.

Impact BIO-2 The Master Plan alternatives (1-5) could adversely affect up to eight special-status plant species that are likely to occur at Family Camp, and their associated habitats. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to special-status plant species at Family Camp to a less than significant level:

MM BIO-2.1 Prior to approving construction (and preferably the year before actual construction is to occur, as the majority of these plants flower in the spring and summer) the City of San José shall hire a qualified plant ecologist to complete focused surveys during the published blooming period for Tompkin's sedge, big-scale balsamroot, Small's southern clarkia, Mariposa clarkia, Tuolumne fawn lily, Parry's horkelia, slender-stemmed monkeyflower and yellow-lipped pansy monkeyflower. The locations, blooming period, and specific habitat requirements of each of these eight species are outlined in the Initial Study Table 4.4-1 (IS, page 67, Section 4.4.1.4).

MM BIO-2.2 For each of the CNPS-listed plant species that could occur within the Master Plan improvement areas, a species-specific determination of potential significance will be completed after focused surveys are completed. Significance determinations will be completed by a qualified plant ecologist, using the results of the study area survey and existing special-status plant databases. If it is found that project impacts will permanently disturb or remove a regionally large or important population (containing five percent or more of the known individuals for the species within 50 miles of Family Camp, or if loss of said population would substantially reduce the range for the species), implementation of mitigation measures MM BIO-2.4 and MM BIO-2.5 (below) would reduce these impacts to a less than significant level.

MM BIO-2.3 The proposed improvements will avoid impacts to known special-status plant populations on-site through a combination of site redesign and modification of construction methodologies (for example, the proposed location of the

horseshoe pit or other proposed structure could be adjusted to avoid impacting the population; fencing could be erected around sensitive plant populations in the vicinity of construction activities to avoid impacts; or depending on the type of activity and species of plant involved, adjusting the timing of the activity (e.g., to disturbing the plants prior to seed set)). All populations of California State rare, and CNPS-listed plants (for which a determination of significance has been made under mitigation measure MM BIO-2.2) that are to be avoided shall be protected by a permanent buffer zone established prior to site grading. The buffer for any special-status plants on site shall be established at 50 feet from the perimeter of the population or the individual plants unless otherwise agreed upon by a qualified plant ecologist.

MM BIO-2.4

If avoidance of the California State rare and CNPS-listed plants (for which a determination of significance has been made under mitigation measure MM BIO- 2.2) is not possible, mitigation will be required in the form of funding future survey efforts and/or managing off-site populations of the species identified within the Stanislaus National Forest. Such surveys have the benefit of adding to the existing body of knowledge regarding the distribution of special-status species in the Stanislaus National Forest. Alternatively, funds and/or labor and materials shall be provided to preserve and manage existing documented populations of special-status plants on the Stanislaus National Forest. The money, labor, or materials shall be used to protect existing populations that are currently threatened. The funds may also be used to provide educational opportunities for these areas in the form of signage, exhibits or other printed materials documenting and describing the importance of preserving important natural resources such as special-status plant populations.

Implementation of Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would result in many of the same temporary adverse effects described for Master Plan alternatives 1 – 5, although the magnitude of the impacts would be increased due to the greater amount of ground-disturbing activities that would be required to remove all Family Camp facilities and structures as compared to the renovation and maintenance of facilities proposed under Master Plan alternatives 1 – 5. Nevertheless, implementation of Alternative 6 would result in a long-term benefit on sensitive plants potentially occurring in the project area due to the replacement of currently developed/landscaped areas by more natural vegetation communities, increasing the availability of suitable habitat for sensitive species. In addition, because the project area falls within the Stanislaus National Forest’s Middle Fork Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Project boundaries, it would be subject to the long-term beneficial effects of fuel load reduction activities, similar to those described for Master Plan alternatives 1 – 5. **(No Impact)**

Under Alternative 7, indirect impacts to special-status plants would result from the continued spread of noxious weed populations in the absence of the implementation of a Noxious Weed Management Program. In addition, indirect effects would result due to the continued encroachment by dense tree regeneration and brush, and the increasing threat of stand-replacing wildfires in the absence of the implementation of a Fuel Reduction Program. It is expected that any indirect effects resulting from the continued crowding out of sensitive plants in the absence of the implementation of a Fuel

Reduction Program would not last indefinitely. Seed from several sensitive plants accumulate in the soil to form a “seed bank” and would probably be able to persist in small isolated pockets until the next round of disturbance (e.g., wildfire). However, failure to implement a Noxious Weed Management Program would contribute to the introduction and continued spread of noxious weeds (e.g., weed seed might be vectored by Family Camp users on their clothing and gear, especially their boots, depending on where they had been prior to this site) and, subsequently, adverse effects on sensitive plants as a result of increased competition. **(Significant Impact)**

4.4.2.4 *Impacts to Special-Status Wildlife Species that Breed or Roost On or Adjacent to Family Camp*

Impacts to Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetles

The valley elderberry longhorn beetle is found exclusively on elderberry shrubs and protection of this species is based on protection of the elderberry shrub. The USFWS has adopted conservation guidelines for avoidance of impacts to the valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Complete avoidance (i.e., no adverse effects) may be assumed when a 100-foot (or wider) buffer is established and maintained around elderberry plants containing stems measuring 1.0 inch or greater in diameter at ground level. Avoidance of direct effects is assumed when a 20-foot (or wider) buffer (core avoidance area) is established and maintained.

Suitable habitat for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle is limited to two elderberry shrubs within the southeastern portion of the Family Camp site, in the vicinity of the wastewater storage/treatment pond, during the focused survey conducted on June 13, 2012 (Figure 4.4-1); however, no activities are proposed at these locations under the Master Plan alternatives (1-5). Further, implementation of the Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measures which are incorporated into the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) would further minimize direct and indirect impacts on the valley elderberry longhorn beetle by requiring the use of dust control measures. Although implementation of the Fuel Reduction Program is expected to reduce wildfire risk, it is not expected to substantially affect the areas where elderberries are likely to occur. Further, thinning of adjacent shrubs may slightly benefit elderberries by reducing competition for space. Thus, the Master Plan would have a less-than-significant impact on the valley elderberry longhorn beetle. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Impacts to Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs and Western Pond Turtles

Within Family Camp, the Middle Fork Tuolumne River provides suitable habitat for the western pond turtle and foothill yellow-legged frog, and the wastewater aeration pond provides suitable habitat for the pond turtle. Implementation of the Master Plan alternatives (1-5), especially activities requiring in-channel work or work on channel banks such as repair of the retaining wall, lengthening of the retaining wall, repair of the swimming dam, and renovation of the concrete ford could result in adverse effects on the pond turtle and foothill yellow-legged frog. Construction, maintenance, and renovation activities could result in:

- the injury or mortality of individual frogs as a result of foot traffic, equipment use, or the disturbance of emergent vegetation, boulders, or cobbles that support egg masses;
- the injury or mortality of turtles or their eggs as a result of crushing by construction personnel or equipment or as a result of burying;

- disturbance of daily and seasonal movements of western pond turtles and foothill yellow-legged frogs because of substrate vibrations which could cause individuals to move out from their refuge areas, exposing them to a greater risk of predation or dehydration.
- temporary degradation of riparian and upland areas that provide nesting habitat, dispersal habitat, and refuge for western pond turtles.

Although the potential for direct take of these species is temporary, occurring only during construction, maintenance and renovation activities, any opportunity for a take of a special-status species is considered a potentially significant impact.

Impact BIO-3 Implementation of the Master Plan could result in a take of the western pond turtle and/or the foothill yellow-legged frog during construction, renovation, and maintenance activities. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to the western pond turtle and the foothill yellow-legged frog to a less than significant level:

MM BIO-3.1 All project activities that take place in river or riparian habitat will be preceded by a pre-construction survey completed by a qualified biologist. If a western pond turtle or foothill yellow-legged frog is found it will be moved to appropriate habitat either up or downstream from the project site.

MM BIO-3.2 If a pond turtle or foothill yellow-legged frog is encountered during construction, activities in the vicinity shall cease until appropriate corrective measures have been implemented and it has been determined by a qualified biologist that the individual will not be harmed. Any western pond turtles or foothill yellow-legged frogs encountered during construction shall be allowed to move away from the area on their own prior to recommencement of construction activities.

Master Plan alternatives (1-5) that result in excessive sedimentation into the river such as reconfiguration of the beach area and renovation of the amphitheater and associated drainage, have the potential to reduce habitat quality for western pond turtles and foothill yellow-legged frogs by decreasing the availability of potential food items including aquatic invertebrates. Implementation of the Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measure incorporated into the Master Plan would ensure that disturbed areas are stabilized and that appropriate erosion control measures are implemented during maintenance and renovation activities. In addition, implementation of the Master Plan and associated conservation measures would reduce the levels of sedimentation currently entering the river as a result of rain runoff, dust disturbance, and camper activities in the beach area. This would be a long-term benefit to the western pond turtle and yellow-legged frog. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Construction activities typically include the refueling of construction equipment on location. As a result, minor fuel and oil spills may occur, with a risk of larger releases. Further, repair/lengthening of retaining walls may require the use of concrete or other potentially noxious materials. Without rapid containment and clean up, these materials could be potentially toxic to the pond turtle and foothill yellow-legged frog depending on the location of the spill in proximity to the Middle Fork

Tuolumne River. The Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measure, which includes a requirement for the development of a spill prevention and response plan, will reduce impacts from construction to a less than significant level. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Impacts to Golden Eagles

Although golden eagles are not expected to nest at Family Camp, they are known to occur in the vicinity during the breeding season and there is a possibility that they could nest nearby. If golden eagles nest within 0.5 miles of Family Camp, construction, maintenance or renovation activities resulting in a substantial increase in noise could result in nest abandonment, and possibly the loss of eggs or young as a result. Given the rarity of this species in the region, any impact on individuals of this species would be significant.

Impact BIO-4 Implementation of construction, maintenance or renovation activities under Master Plan alternatives (1 – 5) which result in a substantial increase in noise could result in golden eagle nest abandonment, and possibly the loss of eggs or young as a result. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to the golden eagle to a less than significant level:

MM BIO-4.1 Construction, maintenance, and renovation activities shall be scheduled to avoid the nesting season. If construction activities are scheduled to take place outside the nesting season, all impacts to nesting golden eagles will be avoided. The nesting season for golden eagles near Family Camp extends from March 1st through August 31st.

MM BIO-4.2 If it is not possible to schedule activities between September 1st and February 30th, then pre-activity surveys for nesting golden eagles shall be completed by a qualified ornithologist to ensure that no nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan. The surveys shall be completed no more than seven (7) days prior to the initiation of activities. The ornithologist will inspect all trees and other potential nesting habitats at Family Camp and within 0.5 miles (where public access is available) of the activity area for nests. If an active nest is found, MM BIO-4.3 or MM BIO-4.4 shall be implemented.

MM BIO-4.3 A qualified biologist shall determine the appropriate buffer to be established around the active nest in order to prevent its disturbance by project activities. The buffer shall be maintained until the young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist. Alternatively, the City may implement MM BIO-4.4.

MM BIO-4.4 The City shall retain a qualified biologist to monitor the golden eagle nest throughout implementation of any Master Plan activities within 0.5 miles of an active nest. If at any point the monitor determines that activities are adversely affecting the golden eagles, activities shall cease and MM BIO-4.3 shall be implemented.

Impacts to Willow Flycatchers

The riparian and chaparral habitats at Family Camp provide only marginally suitable habitat for nesting willow flycatchers, and it is highly unlikely that this species will nest here. If, however, the willow flycatchers do nest within Family Camp, the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) may have adverse effects on individual willow flycatchers. Eggs or young in nests can be killed or injured during fuel load reduction activities which involve tree removal or as a result of destruction of nests by workers or equipment (e.g., knocking nests out of vegetation or removing vegetation containing a nest).

Construction, maintenance, or renovation activities resulting in a substantial increase in noise, movement of equipment, or human presence near active nests may result in nest abandonment, and possibly the loss of eggs or young. Human disturbance leading to reduced attendance of nests could potentially increase the risk of brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds. Given the rarity of this species in the region, any impact on individuals of this species would be significant.

Impact BIO-5 Construction, maintenance, or renovation activities at Family Camp under Master Plan alternatives (1 – 5) would result in noise and disturbance to the camp riparian and chaparral habitats. This could lead to the loss of willow flycatcher eggs or young, and/or nest abandonment. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to willow flycatchers to a less than significant level:

MM BIO-5.1 Maintenance and renovation activities shall be scheduled to avoid the willow flycatcher nesting season. If activities are scheduled to take place outside the nesting season, all impacts to nesting willow flycatchers will be avoided. The nesting season for willow flycatchers within Family Camp extends from April 1st through August 31st.

MM BIO-5.2 If it is not possible to schedule the Master Plan activities between September 1st and March 31st, then pre-activity surveys for nesting willow flycatchers shall be completed by a qualified ornithologist to ensure that no nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan. These surveys shall be completed no more than seven days prior to the initiation of project activities. During the surveys, the ornithologist will inspect all potential nesting habitats, including trees and shrubs, in and immediately adjacent to the activity area for nests. If an active nest is found sufficiently close to work areas to be disturbed, the ornithologist will determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest (typically 50 to 100 feet), to ensure that no willow flycatcher nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan.

Implementation of the Fuel Reduction Program may degrade foraging habitat available to the willow flycatcher by reducing the available nesting habitat. This impact is most likely to occur if fuel load reduction activities take place in the habitats along the southern bank of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River where understory vegetation is relatively dense. In much of Family Camp, however, little understory is present. Given the abundance of suitable foraging habitat in the broader Family Camp

regional vicinity and the temporary nature of the program (vegetation would re-grow between fuel load reduction events), affects on habitat of the willow flycatcher as a result of fuel load reduction activities would be less than significant. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Impacts to Purple Martins

The numerous snags²⁶ in Family Camp provide suitable breeding habitat for the purple martin and implementation of the Master Plan may result in impacts to this species. Purple martin eggs or young in nests can be killed or injured during fuel load reduction activities involving tree removal or from destruction of nests by workers or equipment (e.g., knocking nests out of snags or removing snags containing a nest). Maintenance or renovation activities resulting in a substantial increase in noise, movement of equipment, or human presence near active nests may also result in nest abandonment, and possibly the loss of eggs or young. Given the rarity of this species in the region, any impact on individuals of this species would be significant.

Impact BIO-6 Construction, maintenance, or renovation activities at Family Camp under Master Plan alternatives (1 – 5) would result in noise and disturbance to snags at the camp. This could lead to the loss of purple martin eggs or young, and/or nest abandonment. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to purple martins to a less than significant level:

MM BIO-6.1 Maintenance and renovation activities shall be scheduled to avoid the purple martin nesting season. If activities are scheduled to take place outside the nesting season, all impacts to nesting purple martins will be avoided. The nesting season for purple martins within Family Camp extends from April 1st through August 31st.

MM BIO-6.2 If it is not possible to schedule the Master Plan activities between September 1st and March 31st, then pre-activity surveys for nesting purple martins shall be completed by a qualified ornithologist to ensure that no nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan. These surveys shall be completed no more than seven (7) days prior to the initiation of project activities. During the surveys, the ornithologist will inspect all potential nesting habitats, including trees and shrubs, in and immediately adjacent to the activity area for nests. If an active nest is found sufficiently close to work areas to be disturbed, the ornithologist will determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest (typically 50 to 100 feet), to ensure that no purple martin nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan.

Implementation of the Fuel Reduction Program and Hazard Tree Reduction Program may degrade the breeding habitat available to the purple martin by removing nesting opportunities (snags). Given

²⁶ A snag is a dead tree that is still standing.

the abundance of suitable breeding habitat in the broader regional Family Camp area, this impact would be less than significant. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Impacts to Long-eared Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, and Vaux's Swift

Some special-status bird species could potentially nest in or adjacent to Family Camp but are not expected to be significantly impacted by the Master Plan. These species include the long-eared owl, olive-sided flycatcher, yellow warbler, and Vaux's swift. Due to the limited availability of suitable habitat for these species within Family Camp, not more than one pair of long-eared owls, up to two pairs each of olive-sided flycatchers and yellow warblers, and a few pairs to a small colony of Vaux's swifts would nest in or adjacent to Family Camp. If any of these species do nest in Family Camp, implementation of the Fuel Reduction Program could result in the loss of nesting habitat or the removal of an active nest. In addition, increased disturbance during the nesting season could result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings or otherwise lead to nest abandonment.

Because the amount and quality of habitat for these species being impacted is low, and the number of nesting pairs that could be disturbed is very small, the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) would not substantially reduce regional populations of these species. As a result, the project impacts do not meet CEQA standards of having a substantial adverse effect on the species' population. Although the loss of any active nests of protected birds would be in violation of Federal and State laws, impacts to these species and their habitats would not be considered a significant impact under the CEQA (see Section 4.4.2.6 *Impacts to Nesting Birds*, below). **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Impacts to Western Red Bats

Western red bats may occur in low numbers at Family Camp year-round. They are expected to roost, but not to breed, in trees along the Middle Fork Tuolumne River. The Master Plan alternatives (1 - 5) may result in the loss of suitable habitat for the western red bat due to the removal of trees (i.e., to facilitate the expansion of the dining hall or as part of the Fuel Reduction Program or Hazard Tree Management Program). Any western red bat that is roosting in a tree that is to be removed or pruned is expected to flush from the tree before injury or mortality can occur. Bats, however, flushed during the day could potentially suffer increased predation rates. The Master Plan alternatives (1-5) could, therefore, result in the loss of small numbers of western red bat individuals.

Implementation of the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) would have a less than significant impact on the western red bat for the following reasons:

- the western red bat is only present at Family Camp as a non-breeder;
- the number of western red bat individuals that could be killed due to increased predation after being flushed during project activities represents a very small proportion of the regional populations of this species;
- the regional proportion of habitat for this species that could be affected by project-related activities is very low; and
- the Master Plan would not substantially reduce the availability of foraging habitat or the density of prey in the area. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

The Fuel Reduction Program proposed as part of the project would have a beneficial effect on western red bats by reducing the risk of a stand-replacing fire, and the subsequent loss of potential roosting trees, prey habitat, and foraging habitat. **(No Impact)**

Impacts to Other Bats

For the purpose of the following discussion, large roosts of bats are defined as follows:

- Long-eared myotis and long-legged myotis – ten or more breeding females;
- Brazilian free-tailed bat – 500 or more breeding females;
- All other species – 80 or more breeding females.

Several species of bats, other than the western red bat discussed above, forage within Family Camp and may roost in trees or the attics of buildings. The Master Plan alternatives (1-5) may result in the loss of suitable habitat for bats due to the removal of trees and snags used as breeding or roosting sites. In addition, when trees that contain roosting colonies or individual bats are removed or modified, individual bats can be physically injured or killed; subjected to physiological stress as a result being disturbed during inactivity; or be subjected to increased predation due to exposure during daylight hours. Further, project-related disturbance in close proximity to a maternity roost could potentially cause females to abandon their young.

The extension of the Family Camp operating season under Alternatives MP-1 through MP-4, which currently runs from April through mid-October, to include year-round use has the potential to impact hibernating bats if Family Camp buildings are used as refuge. Sporadic use of camp facilities during the winter hibernation period may result in the repeated warming and cooling of structures where bats are hibernating, resulting in the repeated waking of the bats. Bats survive the winter on stored fat reserves that become depleted if they are awakened too many times, resulting in the death of the individual.

Due to the abundance of potential roost sites in the broader regional vicinity of Family Camp, the physical loss of a roost site itself is considered less than significant. Due to their rarity, the loss of a pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, or fringed myotis individual in a roost (maternity roost or refuge) of any size would be considered a significant impact. In addition, the loss of large roosts of other bat species would be considered significant due to the effect on the species' local and regional populations.

Impact BIO-7 Implementation of the Master Plan alternatives 1-4 could result in the loss of a pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and/or fringed myotis individual. Master Plan alternatives 1-4 could also result in the loss of large roosts of other bat species which would affect the species' local and regional populations. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to bats to a less than significant level:

MM BIO-7.1 A pre-activity survey for roosting bats shall be completed prior to any removal or renovation of buildings, particularly those with closed areas such as an attic space, or removal of trees greater than 12 inches in diameter at 4.5

feet above grade. The survey shall be completed by a qualified bat biologist holding a CDFG collection permit and a Memorandum of Understanding with CDFG allowing the biologist to handle and collect bats. No activities that would result in disturbance to active roosts shall proceed prior to the completed surveys. If no active roosts are found, then no further action is warranted. If a roost is present, a qualified bat biologist shall determine the species and number of individuals present. If pallid bats, Townsend's big-eared bats, fringed myotis, or large roosts of other species (as defined above) are present, mitigation measure MM BIO-7.3 or MM BIO-7.4 shall be implemented.

MM BIO-7.2 If the Family Camp operating season is to be extended to include year-round use, a survey for suitable bat hibernacula shall be completed by a qualified bat biologist prior to the onset of the species' hibernation period. The bat hibernation period extends from approximately October 15 to February 15. The survey shall include all Family Camp structures. If no potential hibernacula are found, no further action is warranted. If a potential hibernaculum is located, mitigation measure MM BIO-7.3 or MM BIO-7.4 shall be implemented.

MM BIO-7.3 If an occupied roost is found in a tree or structure that would be disturbed or removed as part of the Master Plan, the project may be redesigned to avoid the disturbance of the building or tree. If the roost is unoccupied at the time of the survey, the City of San José may choose to install bat exclusion devices to prevent bats from taking up occupancy of the structure prior to the onset of the proposed activity. If avoidance is not feasible, mitigation measure MM BIO-7.4 shall be implemented.

MM BIO-7.4 If an active nursery roost is located and the project activity cannot be redesigned to avoid removal or disturbance of the occupied tree or structure, disturbance shall not take place during the maternity roost season (March 15th to July 31st), and a disturbance-free buffer zone (determined by a qualified bat biologist) shall be observed during this period.

If disturbance of an active non-breeding bat roost cannot be avoided, the bat individuals shall be safely evicted between August 1st and October 15th or between February 15th and March 15th (as determined by a Memorandum of Understanding with CDFG). Bats may be evicted through exclusion after notifying CDFG. Appropriate one-way doors should be constructed and left in place for a minimum of two weeks with a minimum of three fair weather nights where temperatures are no colder than 50° F. The one-way doors should be installed the day prior to a night with no precipitation and forecast temperatures no colder than 50° F. Trees with roosts that need to be removed should first be disturbed at dusk, just prior to removal that same evening, to allow bats to escape during the darker hours.

Impacts to Special-Status Wildlife Species under Alternative 6 and Alternative 7

Implementation of Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would result in many of the same temporary adverse effects described for Master Plan alternatives, although the magnitude of the impacts would be increased due to the greater level of ground-disturbing activities that would be required to remove all Family Camp facilities and structures as compared to the renovation and maintenance of facilities proposed under the Master Plan alternatives. Nevertheless, implementation of Alternative 6 would result in a long-term benefit to all threatened, endangered, or sensitive species potentially occurring in the project area for the following reasons (1) post-closure, levels of human disturbance in the project area would be substantially decreased and (2) currently developed/landscaped areas would be replaced by more natural vegetation communities, increasing the availability of suitable habitat for sensitive species. In addition, because the project area falls within the Stanislaus National Forest's Middle Fork Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Project boundaries, it would be subject to long-term beneficial effects of fuel load reduction activities similar to those described for the Master Plan alternatives. **(No Impact)**

There would be no impacts on any threatened, endangered, or sensitive wildlife species if the Alternative 7 (No Project) was implemented. However, failure to implement a fuel reduction program would lead to an increased risk for a fire due to an increasing vegetation fuel load. A high intensity fire would reduce the project area's habitat values for mature conifer dependent species such as the spotted owl, great gray owl, and northern goshawk by reducing important habitat components such as snags, logs, and canopy cover. A high fire risk would also increase the risk to the surrounding landscape, particularly the spotted owl, northern goshawk, and great gray owl habitats located to the east of the project area. **(Significant Impact)**

4.4.2.5 *Impacts to Transient, Migrant, and Foraging Special-Status Wildlife Species at Family Camp*

Several special-status species may use Family Camp as transients, migrants, or foragers, but are not expected to breed on or immediately adjacent to Family Camp or to be present in large numbers. Species that forage at Family Camp include the bald eagle, northern goshawk, California spotted owl, peregrine falcon, great gray owl, American badger, spotted bat, and western mastiff bat. Proposed maintenance and renovation activities would not result in injury or mortality of any individuals of these species, which are mobile enough to avoid construction equipment. Implementation of activities would create noise and disturbance above existing levels, and may alter the behavior of special-status species foraging in the area, causing them to avoid Family Camp during periods of active construction and reducing available foraging habitat. Family Camp, however, represents only a very small proportion of the foraging habitat available regionally to these species and provides only marginal foraging habitat compared to surrounding areas where active human disturbance is absent or less intense. Special-status species that forage at Family Camp (and do not breed or roost) would not be significantly impacted by the proposed construction, maintenance and renovation activities. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Individuals that breed outside the boundaries of Family Camp would not be likely to use the camp for foraging during the breeding season. Actively breeding species are more likely to forage in areas closer to their nests. Foraging habitat at Family Camp represents only a small proportion of available regional foraging habitat. The loss of a small portion of habitat during the breeding season will not

result in reduced breeding success for special-status species that breed off-site. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Implementation of the Hazardous Tree Management Program and the Fuel Reduction Program may degrade the foraging habitat at Family Camp which is available to special-status species by reducing available cover for prey, and potentially reducing available cover and perches for foraging special-status raptors. This impact is most likely to occur if fuel load reduction activities take place in the habitats along the southern bank of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River where understory vegetation is relatively dense. In much of Family Camp, little understory is present. Given the abundance of suitable foraging habitat in the broader regional vicinity of Family Camp and the temporary nature of fuel load reduction events (vegetation would regrow between events), effects on habitat for foraging special-status species as a result of hazardous tree removal and fuel load reduction activities would have little impact on the overall foraging habitat for special-status species in the Family camp area. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Construction of the proposed dining hall under Master Plan alternatives 1-5 may require the removal of at least ten adjacent trees (one oak, four pines, and five cedars). The removal of these trees would result in a permanent reduction in available perches for the special-status raptors who forage at Family Camp and would open up the canopy, removing habitat and cover for these species and their prey. Although the area around the existing dining hall is currently surrounded by trees, it is paved with concrete (including pavement surrounding the trees) and this area of Family Camp provides extremely marginal foraging habitat for special-status raptors. The number of trees removed from this area of Family Camp would be minimal and, due to the existing development and the level of disturbance in the immediate area, removal of the ten trees would not substantially impact the potential for raptors to forage within Family Camp. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Project-related activities that could potentially result in excessive sedimentation into the river include reconfiguration of the beach area, renovation or replacement of the amphitheater and associated drainage, and renovation and lengthening of retaining walls. These activities have the potential to reduce habitat quality for foraging bald eagles, and to decrease the availability of prey species (i.e., fish). Increases in turbidity and sediment in the river may cause stress to fish due to feeding difficulties or displacement. Contact by uncured concrete with water could release chemicals that could impair the health of fish. Implementation of the Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measure which is incorporated into the Master Plan would ensure that disturbed areas are stabilized, appropriate erosion control measures are implemented during construction, maintenance and renovation activities, and a spill prevention and response plan is prepared. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Implementation of the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) would include drainage system upgrades throughout the camp and conservation measures which would reduce the levels of sedimentation currently entering the river as a result of rain runoff, dust disturbance, and camper activities in the beach area. The project would result in a long-term overall reduction of sediment loading into the river which would improve the quality of foraging habitat at Family Camp. **(No Impact)**

Family Camp currently runs from April through mid-October. The proposed extension of the Family Camp operating season, under Master Plan alternatives 1-4, to include year-round use has the potential to impact individual special-status species that forage or migrate through Family Camp

during the winter. The presence of campers during the late fall and winter months may alter the behavior of these species, causing them to avoid the camp area. Because Family Camp represents a very small proportion of the overall regional foraging habitat available to these species, and provides only marginal foraging habitat compared to surrounding areas where active human disturbance is absent or less intense, the loss of Family Camp foraging habitat would be less than significant. In addition, winter use of the camp would occur during the non-breeding season, when effects to foraging behavior and habitat are less essential to the survival of individuals and their young. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.4.2.6 *Impacts to Nesting Birds*

Construction disturbance during the breeding season could result in the incidental loss of eggs or nestlings, either directly through the destruction or disturbance of active nests or indirectly by causing the abandonment of nests. Many species that could potentially nest at Family Camp are abundant both locally and regionally, and the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) would only impact one or two pairs of these species. Although the Master Plan alternatives would have a less than significant impact on bird populations, measures shall be implemented to protect eggs and nestlings from construction disturbances and to make the project compliant the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. Implementation of Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would result in many of the same temporary adverse effects described for Master Plan alternatives 1 – 5, during demolition activities required to remove all Family Camp facilities and structures.

Impact BIO-8 Demolition and construction disturbance, under Alternatives 1 – 6, during the breeding season could result in the incidental loss of eggs or nestlings, either directly through the destruction or disturbance of active nests or indirectly by causing the abandonment of nests. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of the following measures would protect eggs and nestlings from construction disturbances and would make the Master Plan and Alternative 6 compliant with the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code:

MM BIO-8.1 To the extent feasible, construction activities should be scheduled to avoid the nesting season. If construction activities are scheduled to take place outside the nesting season, all impacts to nesting birds protected under the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code will be avoided. The nesting season for most birds in the mid-elevation Sierra Nevada extends from April 1st through August 31st.

MM BIO-8.2 If it is not possible to schedule construction activities between September 1st and March 31st then pre-construction surveys for nesting birds should be completed by a qualified ornithologist to ensure that no nests will be disturbed during implementation of the Master Plan. The surveys shall be completed no more than seven days prior to initiation of construction activities. The ornithologist will inspect all trees and other potential nesting habitats (e.g., trees, shrubs, ruderal grasslands, buildings) in and immediately adjacent to the impact areas for nests. If an active nest is found sufficiently close to work areas to be disturbed by construction, renovation or

maintenance activities, the ornithologist will determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest (typically 250 feet for raptors and 50 to 100 feet for other species), to ensure that no nests of species protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code will be disturbed during project implementation.

MM BIO-8.3

If construction activities will not be initiated until after the start of the nesting season, all potential nesting substrates (e.g., bushes, trees, grasses, and other vegetation) that are scheduled to be removed, shall be removed prior to the start of the nesting season (prior to April 1st). This will preclude the initiation of nests in this vegetation, and prevent the potential delay of the project due to the presence of active nests in these substrates.

4.4.3 Conclusion

The Master Plan and Alternative 6, with implementation of the above mitigation measures, would not result in any significant impacts to biological resources that cannot be reduced to a less than significant level. **(Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation)**

Alternative 7 (No Project) could result in significant biological impacts to special-status species and their habitat. **(Significant Impact)**

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The following is based upon a Section 106 Historical Evaluation prepared by *LSA Associates, Inc.* in November 2001 and Section 106/NEPA Archaeological Overview prepared by *Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.* in August 2012. A copy of the Historical Evaluation is included in Appendix C of this IS. A copy of the Archaeological Overview is on file at the City of San Jose, Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Department. It contains the locations of archaeological sites and can be reviewed during normal business hours by qualified cultural resources staff.

4.5.1 Setting

4.5.1.1 *Site History*

Archaeological records indicate that people have lived in California, including the Family Camp area since 9000 B.C. The ethnographic group most closely identified with the project area are the Central Sierra Me-Wuk (or Miwok). The Me-Wuk people belong to six separate linguistic sub-groups whose homelands spanned Central California from the Pacific coast of Marin County to the high elevations of the Sierra Nevada. The population of the Central and Southern Sierra Me-Wuk, prior to European contact, is estimated to have been approximately 2,300 individuals each.

With the advent of California's Gold Rush and Statehood, there was an influx of Euro-American settlers, miners and ranchers in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the vicinity of the project site. The discovery of gold was the driving force behind much of the early Euro-American development of the area in and around the Town of Groveland. By the 1870's the easy pickings for gold ceased and the area catered to cattle ranching. The Groveland area experienced a second gold rush with the advent of deep shaft mines and milling operations. The second gold rush was over by 1914, after which began the third gold rush that involved hydraulic mining.

In 1913, the City of San Francisco had received congressional approval to build the Hetch-Hetchy Valley O'Shaughnessy Dam Project in Yosemite National Park. A 68-mile railroad line from the Central Valley to the dam site was constructed to convey concrete and other building materials, machinery, and laborers for the dam construction project. The railroad line was also used by tourists visiting Yosemite Valley. The project site is located just upstream from what was once a work camp used for the dam project. The project site is also located near what was once a stopover site along the railroad line which served both tourist and commercial purposes from 1917 until 1938. The train continued service to the area until 1924, when it no longer operated on schedule beyond Groveland after the work was completed at the upper end of the line. All of the tracks were finally removed in 1949.

The City of Oakland leased the project site along the Middle Fork Tuolumne River from the Stanislaus National Forest in 1920 and constructed a municipal camp that opened in 1921. Camp activities included nature studies, hiking, and swimming in a pool of water created by damming the river. Meals were provided in a central dining hall, as is the case today.

Oakland made many improvements to the camp throughout the years. In the 1930's, two foot bridges and additional shower/washrooms were installed, and the amphitheater was constructed.

New platform tent cabins were provided camp wide. During the 1940's, the existing dining hall, shower/washroom facilities, and a laundry building were constructed. Improvements were made to staff cabins, the tent platforms, and the amphitheater. In the 1950's a car and truck port was built.

The Oakland Camp facilities and US Forest Service Special Use Permit/Land Lease were purchased by San José in 1967. San José Family Camp opened its first camping season in 1968. San José has made many improvements to the camp throughout the years mostly involving infrastructure improvements. In 1975, the City completed major renovation to the Camp's sewage system including work on sewer lateral pipe lines and the restructuring of the wastewater aeration pond area and spray-field. Improvements were also made to the lift station, and pump control house by the sewer pond. In the late 1970s, electrical upgrades in many of the buildings were completed, in addition to improvements to the Camp's auxiliary power generator. From the 1980s through the present day, minor plumbing, electrical and structural improvements have been made throughout Camp. In 1999/2000, after the 1999 Pilot fire, the sewer lift station and control buildings were rebuilt. The City upgraded the staff housing units north of the river and replaced most of the restroom buildings. Exterior lighting was added to restrooms and the main patio/deck area near the dining hall. An access ramp was constructed to provide public entry to the Camp Office and the Tuolumne recreational room.

The Camp's water supply system has also been upgraded over the years. Working from combined draft and well sources, water storage tanks have been relocated and rebuilt. During the 2010 closed season, the City replaced two wooden potable tanks with new 10,000 gallon green polyethylene water tanks.

4.5.1.2 *Historic Structures*

CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 define significant historic resources, as the following:

- (1) A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources.
- (2) A resource included in a local register of historical resources.
- (3) Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.
- (4) The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, not included in a local register of historical resources, or identified in an historical resources survey does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be an historical resource.

In addition to the above, a historic resource listed on the National Register of Historic Places is, by default, a significant historic resource under CEQA, because it is automatically eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Places. The criteria for the California Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places are provided below.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places has established standards for evaluating the significance of resources that are important in the heritage of the nation. Historic resources may be considered important at the local level, state level or national level. To apply the standards the resource must be considered within significant historical contexts. The standards, age and integrity statements follow;

1. A property must be fifty years old
2. The resource must retain architectural and historical integrity.
3. The resources must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - A. are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
 - B. are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
 - C. embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method that possess high artistic values, that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
 - D. have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

California Register of Historic Resources

The criteria for listing historical resources in the California Register are consistent with those developed by the National Park Service for listing resources in the National Register of Historic Places, but have been modified for state use in order to include a range of historical resources which better reflect the history of California. An historical resource must be significant at the local, state or national level under one or more of the following four criteria;

- A. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.
- B. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history;
- C. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values; or
- D. It has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nations.

In addition, the resource must retain enough of its historic character or appearance to be recognizable as a historic property, and to convey the reason for its significance.

Criterion A: Associated or Linked to Events

Although Family Camp is associated with the early development of recreation camps in the Stanislaus National Forest, the camp has been significantly altered over the years and there are no physical remains at the camp that directly represent that period of history. Family Camp is not eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources under Criterion A.

Criterion B: Associated with Persons Important to the Past

Family Camp is not associated with any persons important in history and is not, therefore, eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources under Criterion B.

Criterion C: Representative of the Fabricated Expression of Culture or Technology

Although built in the Rustic Vernacular architectural style popular in the forests and recreation areas of California in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, the buildings at the camp are not the work of a master nor do they possess high artistic values. The buildings have been altered over the years and they no longer retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Family Camp is not eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources under Criterion C.

Criterion D: Yields Important Information about Prehistory or History

Some of the buildings at the project site date back to the 1930's when Oakland initially used the site as a municipal camp. While the camp retains integrity of location and setting, the buildings at Family Camp have had major alterations and additions over the years and they do not retain the historic integrity of features which convey their period of significance or geographic scope. The camp is not likely to yield information important to history and is not eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources under Criterion D.

The Family Camp buildings do not achieve significance in any of the above California Register criteria. Thus it is concluded that the buildings are not eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources. Buildings that are not eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources are not considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

4.5.1.3 *Subsurface and Prehistoric Resources*

Typically archaeological resources are discovered near local waterways. The Middle Fork Tuolumne River bisects the project site. The presence of known prehistoric resources, including rocks with grinding holes, provides evidence of past occupation by Native Americans at the project site. The project site has been in operation as a municipal camp since the early 1920's when it was opened by the City of Oakland. The project site is likely to contain unknown buried prehistoric and historic resources associated with past Native American occupation of the site and the early developments of Family Camp, and also due to the camp location adjacent to the river.

A thorough search of records was completed at both the Central California Information Center and at the US Forest Service, Groveland Ranger District office. The Information Center identified 22 prehistoric and historic-period resources within one-quarter-mile of the project site, only two of which are within the camp grounds: TUO-1981/H (FS# 05-16-54-37) and TUO-2007H (FS# 05-16-54-490).

Site TUO-1981/H has been monitored, examined, and recorded many times. The site was originally recorded in 1975. It is described as a large prehistoric and historic-period archaeological site that occupies almost the entire project site. Sixteen bedrock milling outcrops are scattered across the site, containing more than 60 mortars, with obsidian flakes observed throughout the site area.

Site TUO-2007H represents the entire route of the Hetch Hetchy Railroad (1916-1924) from Hetch Hetchy Junction south of Chinese Camp to the dam. One approximately 2,020-foot-long segment of this resource, FS 05-16-4129/01, passes along the northern boundary of the project area. Recorded in 2000, the segment was noted as being bordered on the east end by Forest Service Road 1N07, partially paved, and maintained as an access road to San Jose Camp. Although railroad ties were missing, it was assessed as being substantially intact.

Native American Consultation

As part of the archaeological evaluation completed for the project, a Sacred Lands File check at the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was completed. The California Native American Heritage Commission retains a Sacred Lands File as well as maintaining a list of Native American tribe representatives for consultation. The NAHC's January 12, 2012 response stated that their files showed no recorded resources within the project area, but cautioned that the absence of specific site information did not indicate the absence of resources. On January 17, 2012, letters were sent to the Native American individuals and organizations identified by the NAHC as possibly having knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. Responses indicate that local groups are aware of cultural resources located at the project location and provide some input about management of the resources as the project proceeds.

4.5.2 Environmental Checklist

CULTURAL RESOURCES					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,9
2) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
3) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
4) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2

4.5.2.1 *Historic Resources*

All Master Plan alternatives (1 – 5) would demolish the dining hall, Master Plan alternatives 1 – 3 would demolish two additional camp structures including a recreational shed and the staff restroom/laundry room facility located behind the dining hall, and Master Plan alternatives 1 and 2 would demolish the amphitheater. In addition, the Master Plan alternatives would complete improvements to the existing camp infrastructure. Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would remove all Family Camp buildings and infrastructure facilities. Alternative 7 (No Project) would not involve any physical changes or improvements to existing Family Camp buildings and infrastructure facilities.

Because Family Camp and all of the structures within the camp have been significantly altered over the years neither the camp as a whole, nor the individual camp buildings, are eligible for listing under the National Register of Historical Places, or the California Register of Historical Places.

Implementation of the Master Plan alternatives, Alternative 6 and Alternative 7 would not result in a substantial adverse change to a significant historical resource. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.5.2.2 *Subsurface and Prehistoric Resources*

Given the project site's high archaeological sensitivity and the known boundaries of TUO-1981/H (FS# 05-16-54-37) and TUO-2007H (FS# 05-16-54-490), the implementation of the Master Plan alternatives and Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) could impact buried cultural resources. Alternative 7 (No Project) would not involve any improvements or changes to Family Camp that would disturb any subsurface and prehistoric resources.

The Master Plan improvements and removal of Family Camp buildings and infrastructure could result in the exposure or destruction of unknown archaeological resources discovered during implementation of the project.

Impact CR-1 Implementation of Alternatives 1 - 6 could result in the destruction of unknown archaeological resources. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measures: The following project-specific mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce impacts to archaeological resources:

MM CR-1.1 A U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Permit for Archaeological Investigations on US Forest Service lands shall be obtained prior to any archaeological test investigations. A Native American monitor shall be on-site during all on-site excavations.

MM CR-1.2 A qualified professional archaeologist shall complete archaeological explorations for the entire project site and fieldwork shall entail coring to appropriate depths where such ground disturbance is planned.

MM CR-1.3 A letter report shall be prepared by a qualified professional archaeologist at the end of field work to document the findings and the report shall be provided to the City of San Jose Environmental Principal Planner and US Forest Service for review and approval. The report shall assess what site areas do or do not contribute to site eligibility, and the proposed Master Plan improvements shall be modified to avoid all impacts to cultural resources, if required.

MM CR-1.4 In the event human remains are discovered during test excavations or future soil-disturbing activities as part of the Master Plan, there will be no further excavation or disturbance of the work site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains as determined by the professional archaeologist. The Tuolumne County Coroner will be notified and will make a determination as to whether the remains are of Native American origin or

whether an investigation into the cause of death is required. If the Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) immediately. Once NAHC identifies the most likely descendants, the descendants will make recommendations regarding proper burial, which will be implemented in accordance with Section 15064.5(e) of the CEQA Guidelines.

MM CR-1.5

During any future soil-disturbing activities as part of the Master Plan, the monitoring archaeologist will submit a report to the City of San José Environmental Principal Planner and the US Forest Service. If no resources are discovered during soil disturbing activities, the report will verify that the required monitoring occurred and that no items were discovered. If cultural resources were discovered, the report will contain a description of any resources found, a description of the monitoring and testing procedures used, resources analysis methodology and conclusions, and a description of the disposition/curatorship of the resources.

MM CR-1.6

During any subsequent phase of the Master Plan that may involve ground disturbance/excavation, a qualified archaeologist and a Native American monitor shall be present (pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and 7051, and Public Resources Code Sections 5097.98 and 5097.99).

4.5.3 **Conclusion**

With implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, the Master Plan would have a less than significant impact on cultural resources. **(Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation)**

4.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The following discussion is based on a Geotechnical Feasibility Investigation Report prepared by *Kleinfelder West, Inc.* in August, 2010. The study can be found in Appendix D of this document.

4.6.1 Setting

Family Camp is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range at an elevation of approximately 2,850 feet above sea level. The natural earth material at the project site is mapped as Mesozoic Granitic Rocks (gr) which were formed during the early to late Cretaceous Age.²⁷ The Cretaceous Age was the third and last period of the Mesozoic Era which included the development of flowering plants and ended with the sudden extinction of the dinosaurs. Groundwater at Family Camp was encountered in the vicinity of the dining hall at approximately six feet below the ground surface. Groundwater levels change seasonally and likely vary throughout the 46.9-acre camp.

4.6.1.1 *Soils*

The soils at Family Camp are composed of three general types: (1) Holland family; (2) Pinole-Holland; and (3) Ultic Haploxeralfs-Red Bluff family complex. Most of Family Camp is underlain by Holland family which is a well-drained soil derived from weathered granite. The upper profile (three to five inches) is composed of loam, turning to sandy loam in the mid-profile (up to 60 inches), to weathered bedrock in the lower profile (60+ inches).²⁸

Two soil samples were taken in the vicinity of the existing dining hall to determine the properties of subsurface soils in this area of the project site. The sample taken from the northwestern corner of the dining hall indicated the presence of silty sand with gravel to approximately 2.5 feet below the ground surface. The boring would not go below 2.5 feet at this location, nor at a repeated boring attempt three feet away. The sample taken from the south central side of the dining hall indicated the presence of silty sand to a depth of 17 feet below ground surface. The boring would not go below 17 feet at this location. It is likely that the borings were refused at 2.5 and 17 feet below ground surface due to the presence of cobble, boulder sized materials, and/or bedrock. The surface soils generally had a medium density.

Expansive soils shrink and swell as a result of moisture changes. These changes can cause heaving and cracking of slabs-on-grade, pavements, and structures built on shallow foundations. The sandy silt soil in the vicinity of the dining hall is not expansive. There are no unique geologic features on or adjacent to the existing dining hall site.

A landslide is the downward and outward movement of slope-forming soil, rock, and vegetation, which is driven by gravity. Areas that are generally prone to landslide hazards include previous landslide areas, the bases of steep slopes, and the bases of drainage channels. Areas that are typically considered safe from landslides include areas that have not moved in the past, relatively flat-lying areas away from sudden changes in slope, and areas at the top or along ridges which are set back from the tops of slopes. In general, the greater the grade of an existing slope, the greater the overall

²⁷ United States Geological Survey (USGS). *Mineral Resources Online Spatial Data*. <<http://tin.er.usgs.gov/geology/state/sgmc-unit.php?unit=CAgrMZ1%3B0>> Accessed June 13, 2011.

²⁸ H.T. Harvey & Associates. *Biological Resources Report*. 2012.

threat of landslide. It is recommended that geological surveys and mapping be completed for development on any slope with an excess of 30 percent grade.²⁹ A major portion of the camp property slants toward the river with slopes ranging from five to 50 percent. The existing dining hall sits on a site that slopes slightly north toward the river. There is one known landslide area at Family Camp located just west of the dining hall, behind the recreational shed proposed for removal under Master Plan alternatives 1 - 3.

Groundwater at the site was encountered at six feet below ground surface. The depth to groundwater is expected to vary seasonally.

4.6.1.2 *Seismicity and Seismic Hazards*

The project site is located in an area with relatively low historic seismic activity. The site is not located within a defined Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, and the risk of fault rupture at the site is low. In the event of a seismic event, shaking at the site would most likely come from fault rupture of the Foothills Fault System located northwest of the project site, or from segments of the Great Valley Fault located southwest of the project site.

Liquefaction and Differential Settlement

Liquefaction is the result of seismic activity and is characterized as the transformation of loose water saturated soils from a solid state to a liquid state during ground shaking. Soils most susceptible to liquefaction are loose to moderately dense, saturated, non-cohesive soils with poor drainage.

Based on the limited ground shaking that would be expected to occur at the project site in the event of a seismic event, the medium-density character of the soil, and the geologic age of the soil sediments, the likelihood for liquefaction or seismically induced differential settlement at the site is low.

²⁹ Tuolumne County. *Hazard Identification & Analysis*. <http://portal.co.tuolumne.ca.us/ps/psft/V-1234835115/II_HazardIdentificationAndAnalysis.pdf> Accessed June 6, 2011.

4.6.2

Environmental Checklist

GEOLOGY AND SOILS					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:					
a) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as described on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,9
b) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,9
c) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,9
d) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,9
2) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,6,9
3) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that will become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,9
4) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Section 1802.3.2 of the California Building Code (2007), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,9

GEOLOGY AND SOILS					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project: 5) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,9

4.6.2.1 *Geology and Soils Impacts*

The existing dining hall had structural safety issues and as a result the City installed braces for the exterior walls of the dining hall to provide a short-term solution for the major structural problems of the building. The Family Camp amphitheater seating structure does not meet State standards and was built in a drainage way and, at times, water has overtopped the bleacher area causing gulying under the seating and damaging the existing stage building. Additionally, it has been determined that the soil retaining system at the top of the existing amphitheater may be unstable and the slope behind the seating area may be prone to failure. Manmade features such as trails and graded areas that were built on the naturally steep terrain of Family Camp have led to noticeable erosion and drainage issues, which have resulted in damage to structures at the camp and sediment loading in the river.

Implementation of the Master Plan would complete improvements to existing infrastructure throughout Family Camp. New development under the Master Plan alternatives would include removal of the existing dining hall (Alternatives 1-5), recreational shed (Alternatives 1-3), and staff restroom/laundry room unit (Alternatives 1-3), and construction of a new dining hall building (Alternatives 1-5), construction of staff carports (Alternatives 1-4), and reconstruction of two tent cabins that were burnt down in the 1999 Pilot fire (Alternatives 1-5). Winterization of the visitor tent cabins would require that up to 16 tent cabins be modified into enclosed cabins or yurts, including two with larger footprints for ADA accessibility (Alternatives 1-4).

The dining hall would be located on a graded flat surface. Based upon the two soil samples taken adjacent to the existing dining hall, the soil in the vicinity of the dining hall has a low potential for liquefaction. The Middle Fork Tuolumne River in the vicinity of the dining hall is lined with a retaining wall which reduces erosion. The silty sand in the vicinity of the dining hall is not expansive. The geotechnical report found that while mostly composed of silty sand, the composition of surface soils adjacent to the dining hall varied. Additionally, there was either bedrock or boulders beneath the surface soils which, depending on what underlies the surface soils, would affect grading techniques. There is a general absence of information regarding subsurface conditions beneath the existing dining hall, where the new dining hall would be built. Prior to construction of the new dining hall a design-specific geotechnical report will be prepared to further investigate subsurface conditions.

Soil types vary throughout Family Camp. Development proposed under Master Plan alternatives will be designed, and constructed in accordance with standard engineering safety techniques, with the 2010 California Building Code, and in accordance with design-specific geotechnical reports to reduce soils impacts to a less than significant level. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Family Camp is located in an area with slopes with grades that range from five to 50 percent. Proposed camp improvements under the Master Plan alternatives may be affected by the presence of steep grades. For example, it has been determined that the soil retaining system at the top of the existing amphitheater may be unstable and the slope behind the seating area may be prone to failure.

Impact GEO-1 Master Plan improvements (Alternatives 1-5) to the Family Camp structures could be subject to slopes that range from five to 50 percent in grade and the slope beneath the amphitheater seating area may be prone to failure which could result in adverse geologic risks. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measures: The following measures have been included to reduce potential impacts from slope failure at Family Camp:

MM GEO 1-1 Prior to any amphitheater improvements as part of the Master Plan, a qualified geotechnical engineer shall be retained to assess the stability of soil at the top of the amphitheater seating area. The engineer will provide recommendations to prevent slope failure, and the report of findings shall be submitted to the City of San José Geologist for review and approval. All future design and construction must be completed following the recommendations of the reports.

MM GEO 1-2 Prior to any development at Family Camp a qualified geologist will survey and map all improvement areas to determine the potential for landslides on or adjacent to slopes with grades that exceed 30 percent. If unstable slopes are identified by the geologist, a qualified geotechnical engineer will be retained to provide recommendations on how to prevent slope failure prior to development. The report of findings shall be submitted to the City of San José Geologist for review and approval. All future design and construction must be completed following the recommendations of the reports.

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would remove all Family Camp buildings and infrastructure and does not propose construction or modifications any new or existing structures and infrastructure at Family Camp and, therefore, would not result in any significant geology and soils impacts. **(No Impact)**

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), the structural safety concerns related to the dining hall and the amphitheater would continue to persist. In the long-term, people or structures could be exposed to potential substantial adverse risks related to structural instability of Family Camp facilities. **(Significant Impact)**

4.6.2.2 *Demolition and Construction Impacts*

The dining hall would be located less than 15 feet from the southern bank of the Tuolumne River. Removal of the existing dining hall and grading of the site as part of the Master Plan alternatives (1 – 5) and Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would expose soils and increase the potential for erosion and sedimentation at the site until demolition and construction is complete. Erosion and sedimentation would also occur during amphitheater improvements or removal and during other proposed maintenance and renovation activities at Family Camp.

Impact GEO-2 Implementation of the Master Plan (Alternatives 1 – 5) or Alternative 6 would result in temporary increased erosion and loss of top soil during dining hall demolition and/or construction, and during other camp maintenance and renovation projects, until proper drainage is established. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measure: The following measure has been included in the project to reduce potential demolition, construction, maintenance, and renovation related erosion impacts:

MM GEO 2-1 The Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measures shall be implemented during all demolition, construction, maintenance, and renovation activities to ensure that disturbed areas are stabilized, appropriate erosion control measures are implemented during maintenance and renovation activities, and a spill prevention and response plan is prepared.

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), facilities at Family Camp would continue to be utilized and maintained in their existing locations. Existing environmental conditions would not improve. Family Camp would continue to experience sedimentation and erosion issues that could degrade the water quality of the river and Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measures would not be implemented as part of this alternative. **(Significant Impact)**

4.6.3 Conclusion

Implementation of the Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measure during all demolition, construction, maintenance, and renovation activities will reduce erosion impacts to a less than significant level for Master Plan alternatives and Alternative 6 (Camp Closure). With implementation of recommendations in design-specific geotechnical reports, conformance to the 2010 Building Code, and implementation of the mitigation measures for landslides, the Master Plan will not expose people or property to significant impacts associated with geologic or seismic conditions. **(Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation)**

Alternative 7 would continue to experience sedimentation and erosion issues that could degrade the water quality of the river and the structural safety concerns related to the dining hall and the amphitheater would continue to persist. **(Significant Impact)**

4.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The following discussion is based in part on greenhouse gas modeling completed using the URBEMIS and BGM programs.³⁰ The results are attached to this document as Appendix E.

4.7.1 Setting

This section provides a general discussion of global climate change and focuses on emissions from human activities that alter the chemical composition of the atmosphere. The discussion on global climate change and greenhouse gas emissions is based upon the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill [AB] 32), the 2006 and 2009 Climate Action Team (CAT) reports to former Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature, and research, information, and analysis completed by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the CAT.

Global climate change refers to changes in weather including temperatures, precipitation, and wind patterns. Global temperatures are modulated by naturally occurring and anthropogenic (generated by mankind) atmospheric gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O).³¹ These gases allow sunlight into the Earth's atmosphere but prevent heat from radiating back out into outer space and escaping from the earth's atmosphere, thus altering the Earth's energy balance. This phenomenon is known as the greenhouse effect.

California produced 474 million gross metric tons (MMT) of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) averaged over the period from 2002-2004. CO₂e is a measurement used to account for the fact that different GHGs have different potential to retain infrared radiation in the atmosphere and contribute to the greenhouse effect. This potential, known as the global warming potential (GWP) of a GHG, is dependent on the lifetime, or persistence, of the gas molecule in the atmosphere. For example, one ton of methane has the same contribution to the greenhouse effect as approximately 23 tons of CO₂. Therefore, methane is a much more potent GHG than CO₂. Expressing emissions in CO₂e takes the contributions of all GHG emissions to the greenhouse effect and converts them to a single unit equivalent to the effect that would occur if only CO₂ were being emitted.

Naturally occurring greenhouse gases include but are not limited to: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride.³² Several classes of halogenated substances that contain fluorine, chlorine, or bromine are also greenhouse gases, but are for the most part solely a product of industrial activities.

Impacts to California from climate change include shifting precipitation patterns, increasing temperatures, increasing severity and duration of wildfires, earlier melting of snow pack and effects

³⁰ URBEMIS allows users to select default files with data pertaining to specific air basins. The project site is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). The MCAB default file was selected as part of URBEMIS modeling to provide project-specific data based upon the project location in the MCAB.

³¹ IPCC, 2007, *Summary for Policymakers*, In "Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Bases. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change" [Solomon, S., D. Qin, M. Manning, Z. Chen, M. Marquis, K.B. Averyt, M. Tignor, and H.L. Miller (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA. Available at: <http://ipcc.ch/>

³² Greenhouse gases as defined by the adopted 2010 CEQA Guidelines.

on habitats and biodiversity. Sea levels along the California coast have risen up to seven inches over the last century, and average annual temperatures have been increasing. These and other effects will likely intensify in the coming decades and significantly impact the State's public health, natural and manmade infrastructure, and ecosystems.³³

Agencies at the international, national, state, and local levels are considering strategies to control emissions of gases that contribute to global warming. There is no comprehensive strategy that is being implemented on a global scale that addresses climate change; however, in California a multi-agency “Climate Action Team,” has identified a range of strategies and the Air Resources Board, under AB 32, has approved the *Climate Change Scoping Plan* (Scoping Plan). AB 32 requires achievement by 2020 of a Statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit equivalent to 1990 emission levels, and the adoption of rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The CARB and other State agencies are currently working on regulations and other initiatives to implement the Scoping Plan. By 2050, the State plans to reduce emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels.

4.7.1.2 Existing Conditions

Currently, Family Camp operates 70 tent cabins, 26 staff cabins, a caretaker’s house, and an assistant manager’s cabin for a total of 88 days during the spring, summer and fall. Family Camp generates greenhouse gas emissions associated with the operation of Family Camp facilities, and with the fuel burned by vehicle trips made by campers and workers at the site.

4.7.2 Environmental Checklist and Discussion of Impacts

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,8,11, 12
2) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2

³³ State of California Energy Commission. 2009 *California Climate Adaptation Strategy Discussion Draft. Frequently Asked Questions*. August 3, 2009. <www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/documents/2009-07-31_Discussion_Draft-Adaptation_FAQs.pdf>

4.7.2.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts

For conservative purposes, this greenhouse gas emissions evaluation is based on Master Plan Alternative 1 because it includes the greatest level of construction and improvements compared to the other Master Plan alternatives and, therefore, would have the greatest amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

Alternative 1 would demolish the existing dining hall, a recreation shed, and a staff bathroom/laundry room to construct a new dining hall. Alternative 1 would also construct a new carport and two tent cabins to replace the ones that were burnt down in the 1999 Pilot fire.

Implementation of the Alternative 1 would increase the use of Family Camp over existing conditions by adding a winter season to allow year-round use of the facility.³⁴ Winter use of Family Camp would require the winterization of the camp waterlines, and insulation of walls and ceilings of major camp buildings and 13 of the staff cabins. Year-round use would convert up to 16 visitor tent cabins to enclosed heated sleeping facilities such as small cabins or yurts. Winterization of tent cabins may also require the addition of bathrooms to the enclosed cabin units.

During winter months, Family Camp would operate up to 31 units including 16 visitor cabins, 13 staff cabins, the caretaker house, and the assistant manager's cabin. Winter use of the camp would be at about 30 percent of summertime capacity, for 78 additional days each year.

Greenhouse gas emissions from implementation of the Master Plan would include:

- Emissions associated with construction/renovation/maintenance activities;
- Emissions from the manufacture and transport of building/maintenance materials;
- Increased mobile emissions (e.g., emissions from combustion of fossil fuels for vehicle trips to and from the site during the winter season camp use)
- Emissions from the generation of electricity to operate lighting, appliances, and HVAC on the site during the winter season camp use.

Construction and Operational Emissions

Temporary emissions of greenhouse gases would occur during demolition of the existing dining hall, recreational shed and staff restroom/laundry room, and during construction of the new dining hall/nature center, two tents, and the carport. Minor emissions could also occur during infrastructure improvement activities depending on the improvement and what type of equipment is required.

Long-term greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrogen dioxide) above existing conditions from implementation of the Master Plan would come from operation of Family Camp during the winter months. Wintertime campers and staff would require the use of electricity and natural gas, and would use fuel for transportation to and from the site. Indirect emissions would include utility usage by cabin occupants for water conveyance.

³⁴ The project would maintain the same level of use as existing conditions during pre-season, summertime, and post-season use of the site. Operational greenhouse gas emissions would not, therefore, increase during these seasons. Master Plan Alternatives 1 – 4 would only increase operational emissions from winter use of the site.

Long-term CO₂ emissions from the Master Plan would also include the burning of fuel by campers as they drive approximately 108 miles from San José to arrive at Family Camp, and then return home. The EPA estimates that burning one gallon of gasoline emits 19.4 pounds of CO₂ into the atmosphere³⁵, and that the average vehicle gets 22.4 miles per gallon.³⁶ Assuming three two-way vehicle trips per occupied cabin,³⁷ the addition of a winter season to camp operations would emit approximately 4,303 pounds, or 2.0 metric tons, per year of CO₂ into the atmosphere over existing conditions.

It is estimated that there would be up to 15 staff at the camp during the winter season, each with a car. Conservatively assuming that each staff member makes one local trip per day³⁸, emissions from winter season staff vehicles would total approximately 283 pounds or 0.13 metric tons of CO₂ per year over existing conditions.

4.7.2.2 *Significance of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts*

The Master Plan would result in short-term emissions of greenhouse gases during maintenance, renovation, and construction activities. Given that these activities are temporary, would not occur all at once, and are relatively small, the proposed Master Plan projects would not result in significant greenhouse gas emission impacts. **(Less than Significant Impact)**

Increased emissions from winter time vehicles associated with Family Camp would result in an additional 2.1 metric tons of CO₂ per year over existing conditions. The use of utilities at the camp during the wintertime would result in the emission of approximately 42 metric tons per year of CO₂e over existing conditions.³⁹ Overall greenhouse gas emissions from operation of Family Camp during the winter season would total approximately 44 metric tons of CO₂e per year. The increase of CO₂e emissions from year-round use of Family Camp would be incremental and would not result in significant impacts to the environment.⁴⁰ Based on the nature of the Master Plan, consisting primarily of improvements to existing camp facilities, and the project location within an established camp with existing infrastructure, the Master Plan would result in a less than significant long-term greenhouse gas emissions impact. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

The Master Plan would improve the sustainability of building structures at Family Camp (including the new dining hall/nature center) through the use of solar panels, wall and ceiling insulation,

³⁵ Environmental Protection Agency. *Emission Facts: Greenhouse Gas Emissions from a Typical Passenger Vehicle*. <www.epa.gov> Accessed June 7, 2011.

³⁶ Environmental Protection Agency. *Light Duty Automotive Technology, Carbon Dioxide Emissions, and Fuel Economy Trends: 1975- 2010*. www.epa.gov Accessed June 7, 2011.

³⁷ There is an average of 1.5 vehicles associated with each cabin stay based upon an estimate provided by the City of San José. Greenhouse gas estimate is based upon 16 occupied cabins. Approximately 23 visitor vehicles would enter the site on Thursday, and 23 visitor vehicles would exit the site on Sunday as visitors return home. Estimate assumes vehicles will stay on-site after arrival at the self-contained camp facility.

³⁸ Local trip length is assumed to be approximately 10.9 miles each way, based upon URBEMIS defaults for local trips.

³⁹ Based upon URBEMIS and BGM modeling for a 31-unit hotel land use.

⁴⁰ As a reference point, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) has established a significance threshold of 1,100 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents per year. A hotel land use is similar to a camp land use and is defined as “a place of lodging providing sleeping accommodations, restaurants, and meetings or convention facilities.” According to BAAQMD screening tables, a hotel facility that operates 83 rooms or less would not exceed the 1,100 metric ton threshold of CO₂ equivalents per year.

building wrap, dual pane glass windows, passive ventilation, and light sensors. These and other improvements would result in the achievement of LEED silver certification and exceedance of Title 24 requirements. The Master Plan would lower greenhouse gas emissions emitted from operation of the camp by reducing the amount of energy needed to operate the camp facilities. **(No Impact)**

Because of the nature of the Family Camp and its location within an established camp served by existing infrastructure, the Master Plan would not impede the State's ability to reach the emission reduction limits/standards set forth by the State of California by Executive Order S-3-05 and AB 32. The project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would result in short-term emissions of greenhouse gases during demolition and removal of all Family Camp facilities and infrastructure. Given that these activities are temporary, would be removed over a short time period (less than six months), Alternative 6 would not result in significant greenhouse gas emission impacts. **(Less than Significant Impact)**

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), facilities at Family Camp would continue to be utilized and maintained in their existing locations. Alternative 7 would not result in new greenhouse gas emissions compared to existing conditions. **(No Impact)**

4.7.3 **Conclusion**

The Master Plan and Alternatives 6 and 7 would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHGs. The Master Plan would not result in a significant impact from greenhouse gas emissions. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

4.8.1 Existing Setting

In 1920, the City of Oakland leased the project site from the US Forest Service and constructed a municipal camp which opened in 1921. Several improvements were made to the camp over the years after initial camp construction. In the 1930s, two foot bridges were installed and additional shower/washrooms and an amphitheater were constructed. New tent cabins were provided camp wide. During the 1940s, the existing dining hall and a laundry building were constructed. Further improvements included additional shower and toilet facilities, staff cabins, upgraded tent platforms, kitchen storage, and the amphitheater. In the 1950s a car and truck port was built. The City of San José took over the US Forest Service lease for the campsite in 1967 and San José Family Camp opened its first camping season in 1968.

4.8.1.1 *On-Site Hazards*

Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos

In 1978 lead was banned as an additive in paint, and since the 1970's, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has progressively banned certain asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) and has begun to regulate others. Some of the camp buildings date back to the first half of the twentieth century, including the existing dining hall which was constructed in the 1940's. Existing buildings at the project site may, therefore, contain lead and/or ACMs.

Volatile Organic Compounds

The project site is not located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (Cortese List). An odor, however, which was encountered at approximately eight feet below ground surface during soil testing activities at the south-central side of the existing dining hall, indicates that petroleum is present in the subsurface of the project site. The odor is assumed to be from a former car and truck port located in the general area of the staff restroom/laundry facility behind the dining hall.⁴¹

4.8.1.2 *Off-Site Hazards*

There are no sites in the vicinity of the project site listed on the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) *EnviroStor* database, a listing of hazardous substance release sites selected for, and subject to, a response action.⁴² Additionally, the State Water Resources Control Board has a *Geotracker* database that keeps track of cleanup sites. There are no sites in the vicinity of the project site listed on the GeoTracker database.⁴³

⁴¹ The petroleum odor was noted during soil testing for a Geotechnical Investigation which did not include testing for hazardous materials.

⁴² Department of Toxic Substances Control. *Hazardous Waste and Site Substances Site List EnviroStor Database*. <<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/CorteseList/default.htm>> Accessed May 24, 2011.

⁴³ State Water Resources Control Board. *GeoTracker Database*. 2011. <<http://geotracker.swrcb.ca.gov/>> Accessed May 24, 2011.

4.8.1.3 Other Hazards

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or in the vicinity of a private airstrip. The project will not interfere with any adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project site is not located in the vicinity of any schools. The project site is located in the Stanislaus National Forest and is subject to wildland fires.

4.8.2 Environmental Checklist

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,6
2) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,13, 14
3) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
4) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, will it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,13, 14

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
5) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, will the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
6) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, will the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
7) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
8) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,6

4.8.2.1 *On-Site Hazards*

Asbestos and Lead-Based Paint

Buildings and structures at Family Camp proposed for demolition or renovation under Alternatives 1 - 6, including the existing dining hall, could contain ACMs and/or lead based paint. Demolition of the existing Family Camp facilities, and future renovation/maintenance activities throughout Family Camp could result in the exposure of construction and maintenance workers to lead based paint and/or ACMs if materials are not handled and disposed of properly.

In conformance with existing safety regulations, the following measures will be included as a standard permit condition, and implemented by the project to reduce impacts related to ACMs and lead-based paint.

- In conformance with State and local laws, a visual inspection/pre-demolition survey, and possible sampling, shall be completed prior to the demolition of the dining hall to determine the presence of asbestos-containing materials and/or lead-based paint.
- All potentially friable asbestos-containing materials shall be removed in accordance with the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) guidelines prior to dining hall demolition or future renovation and maintenance that may disturb the materials. A written demolition/renovation notification to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is required for compliance with the Asbestos NESHAP. The notification must be received no later than ten working days prior to the beginning of the asbestos removal activity and/or demolition. This notification is required for all demolition activities even if there is no asbestos present.
- All demolition activities shall be undertaken in accordance with Cal/OSHA standards, contained in Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 1529, to protect workers from exposure to asbestos.
- During demolition and/or future renovation and maintenance activities, all building materials containing lead-based paint shall be removed in accordance with Cal/OSHA Lead in Construction Standard, Title 8, CCR 1532.1, including employee training, employee air monitoring and dust control.
- Any debris or soil containing lead-based paint or coatings shall be disposed of at landfills that meet acceptance criteria for the waste being disposed. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Impacts Associated with Construction

Demolition and construction activities typically include the refueling of construction equipment on location. As a result, minor fuel and oil spills may occur, with a risk of larger releases. Further, repair/lengthening of retaining walls under Master Plan alternatives 1 – 5 and removal of the retaining walls and other river infrastructure as part of Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) may require the use of motor fuel or other potentially noxious materials. Without rapid containment and clean up, these materials could be potentially toxic to species who utilize water habitats depending on the location of the spill in proximity to the Middle Fork Tuolumne River. Implementation of the Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measure which is incorporated into the Master Plan alternatives (1-5) and which includes a requirement for the development of a spill prevention and response plan, will reduce this Master Plan impact to a less than significant level (for further discussion, see Section 4.4, *Biological Resources*). **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) includes an abandonment plan, subject to US Forest Service approval, which would incorporate erosion and sediment control measures to protect the river during demolition. These control measures will reduce this temporary impact to a less than significant level. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Although there are no documented chemical releases on or in the vicinity of Family Camp, a petroleum odor was encountered at the south-central side of the existing dining hall likely related to the former car and truck port. Contaminated soil and/or groundwater could, therefore, be encountered during construction activities associated with the dining hall/nature center.

Impact HAZ-1 Demolition or construction activities associated with the dining hall under Alternatives 1 – 6 could expose construction workers to contaminated soils or groundwater. **(Significant Impact)**

Mitigation Measure: The following mitigation measure would reduce impacts to construction workers from contaminated soils or groundwater:

MM HAZ-1.1 Prior to demolition or construction activities for the dining hall, soil samples will be collected in the vicinity of the petroleum-odor, and analyzed by a qualified environmental professional to determine the type and extent of release and potential health effects to construction workers. The analytical results will be compared against applicable hazardous waste criteria, and if necessary, the investigation will provide recommendations regarding management and disposal of affected soil and groundwater. In addition, a Soil Management Plan will be prepared to address handling of contaminated materials during construction. Any contaminated soil and/or groundwater found in concentrations above developed thresholds shall be removed and disposed of according to California Hazardous Waste Regulations. Special health and safety measures and/or soil management procedures may also be required during project construction. All soil and groundwater sampling results and any remediation and removal of contaminated soils and groundwater from the site, shall be provided to the Director of Planning prior to the start of any ground disturbance and/or issuance of grading permits, as applicable.

4.8.2.2 Other Hazards

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or in the vicinity of a private airstrip. In the event of a wildfire or other emergency situation, an evacuation plan has been established by the City for Family Camp to ensure the safety of campers, visitors, and staff during the types of emergency situations that warrant such action. A copy of the evacuation plan is on file at the Family Camp Office at 11401 Cherry Lake Road, Groveland, California, and at the City offices located at the Leininger Center in Kelley Park at 1300 Senter Road in San José, California. The project will not interfere with any adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. **(No Impact)**

The project site is located in the Stanislaus National Forest which is subject to wildland fires. The City will prepare a fuel load reduction plan for the Family Camp property which will be approved by the US Forest Service as part of the Master Plan. The fuel load reduction plan will reduce the vegetation fuel load, reduce structure ignitability, and create defensible spaces at Family Camp so that a fire could pass through the camp as a low-intensity fire that would not cause significant damage to structures or forest trees. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Implementation of Alternative 6 would be subject to the Stanislaus National Forest's Middle Fork Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Project which would provide long-term beneficial effects of fuel load reduction, similar to those described for Master Plan alternatives 1 – 5. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), indirect effects would result due to the continued encroachment by dense tree regeneration and brush, and the increasing threat of stand-replacing wildfires in the absence of the implementation of a Fuel Reduction Program. Without a fuel reduction plan, Alternative 7 could expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. **(Significant Impact)**

4.8.3 Conclusion

Implementation of the fuel load reduction plan under Alternatives 1 – 6 will reduce impacts to the project from wildland fires to a less than significant level. With the inclusion of the mitigation measures described above, the Master Plan would not result in significant hazardous materials impacts. **(Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation)**

4.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

4.9.1 Setting

4.9.1.1 *Water Quality*

The project site is bisected by the Middle Fork Tuolumne River. Within the project site, the river has infrastructure including a seasonal dam and built water retaining walls, two pedestrian bridges and one vehicular bridge, concrete river ford, and a horseshoe setup on a river island. A major portion of the camp property slants toward the river with slopes ranging from five to 50 percent. Manmade features such as trails and graded areas which were built on the naturally steep terrain have led to noticeable erosion and drainage issues throughout Family Camp resulting in sediment loading in the river. Stormwater runoff from the project site contains varying amounts of non-point source pollutants associated with development at Family Camp (i.e., roadway contaminants, litter, maintenance supplies, etc.). Excessive precipitation can carry these non-point pollutants into the river.

4.9.1.2 *Dam Failure*

There are over 40 dams in Tuolumne County. These range from dams creating large reservoirs intended to provide sources for irrigation, water supply, or power generation, to smaller impoundments which are part of water distribution or treatment systems or intended to provide a recreational amenity for visitors or residents.⁴⁴

The project site has a small temporary dam structure built during the Oakland era that is located upstream from the dining hall. The City of San José installs temporary flash boards in the dam structure to create a swimming area in the river for the summer season. The project site also has a river ford located downstream from the dining hall. The concrete river ford has culverts that are clogged with rocks and sediment which prevents the passage of fish during the summertime when water levels are low.

4.9.1.3 *Flooding*

Executive Order 11988 for Floodplain Management directs all federal agencies to refrain from conducting, supporting, or allowing actions in floodplains unless it is the only practicable alternative. The project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area. According to the Federal Management Agency (FEMA), the project site is located in Zone D, an area of undetermined but possible flood hazards.

Family Camp has minor on-site flooding associated with the amphitheater which was built in a drainage way that carries runoff from approximately 150 acres of forest lands. The road behind the amphitheater acts as an earthen dam with a culvert to allow water to pass under the facility. Bleachers were built on the front slope of the dam and, at times, water has overtopped the dam

⁴⁴ Tuolumne County. *Hazard Identification & Analysis*. <http://portal.co.tuolumne.ca.us/ps/psft/V-1234835115/II_HazardIdentificationAndAnalysis.pdf> Accessed June 6, 2011.

causing gulying under the bleacher seating and puddling around the amphitheater stage building. This subsequently causes damage to the structure and increases sediment in the stormwater runoff.

4.9.1.4 *Seiches, Tsunamis, and Mudflows*

A seiche is an oscillation of the surface of a lake or landlocked sea varying in period from a few minutes to several hours. There are no landlocked bodies of water near the project site that in the event of a seiche will affect the site.

A tsunami or tidal wave is a series of water waves caused by the displacement of a large volume of a body of water, such as an ocean or large lake. There are no bodies of water near the project site that in the event of a tsunami will affect the site.

A mudflow is a type of landslide that involves the rapid movement of a large mass of mud formed from loose soil and water. In general, the greater the existing slope the greater the overall threat of landslide. It is recommended that development on or near slopes with over 30 percent grades be mapped and analyzed by a geologist.⁴⁵ As mentioned above, a major portion of the camp property slants toward the river with slopes ranging from five to 50 percent.

4.9.1.5 *Groundwater*

Groundwater at the project site was encountered near the dining hall at approximately six feet below ground surface.⁴⁶ Groundwater levels change seasonally and likely vary throughout the 46.9-acre camp. The project site is not within an area designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as being supported by a sole source aquifer.⁴⁷

4.9.1.6 *Regulatory Setting*

Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. The CWA requires local municipalities to implement measures to control construction and post-construction pollution entering location storm drainage systems to the maximum extent practicable. In compliance with the CWA, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has implemented a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit for the State of California. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, and ground disturbances such as stockpiling or excavation. For projects disturbing one acre or more of soil,⁴⁸ a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be prepared prior to commencement of construction.

⁴⁵ Tuolumne County. *Hazard Identification & Analysis*. <http://portal.co.tuolumne.ca.us/ps/psft/V-1234835115/II_HazardIdentificationAndAnalysis.pdf> Accessed June 6, 2011.

⁴⁶ Groundwater was encountered at 6 feet below ground surface during soil testing activities for the Geotechnical Report.

⁴⁷ Source: EPA, Designated Sole Source Aquifers, 2008. www.epa.gov/region09/water/groundwater/ssa.html

⁴⁸ Effective July 1, 2010, all dischargers are required to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ adopted on September 2, 2009. Source: State Water Resources Control Board website, updated September 24, 2009, http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml.

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires water quality certification from the SWRCB together with a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) when placement of fill into Water of the US will occur. Areas meeting the regulatory definition of “Waters of the US” (jurisdictional waters) are subject to the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Construction activities within jurisdictional waters are regulated by the USACE. The placement of fill into such waters must comply with permit requirements of the USACE. No USACE permit will be effective in the absence of state water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

4.9.2 Environmental Checklist

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
2) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there will be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells will drop to a level which will not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17
3) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which will result in substantial erosion or siltation on-or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17
4) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which will result in flooding on-or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
5) Create or contribute runoff water which will exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17
6) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
7) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,15
8) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which will impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,15
9) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
10) Be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2

4.9.2.1 *Water Quality and Drainage*

Implementation of the Master Plan alternatives 1 - 3 would result in the disturbance of approximately 14,370 square feet (sf), or 0.33 acres, of soil from removal of the staff bathroom/laundry room and recreational shed (1,130 sf), construction of the new dining hall (7,640 sf), construction of the two tents burnt down in the 1999 Pilot fire, expansion of two cabins proposed for winterization to make them ADA compliant (800 sf), and construction of the new carport (4,800 sf). Alternative 4 would disturb approximately 12,110 sf of soil and Alternative 5 would disturb approximately 7,310 sf of soil. The Master Plan alternatives (1-5) would not disturb more than one acre of soils and, therefore, would not be required to conform to the requirements of the NPDES construction permit.

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would remove all Family Camp facilities and would disturb more than one acre of soils. Alternative 6 would be required to conform to the requirements of the NPDES construction permit. Alternative 7 (No Project) would involve no changes to Family Camp and, therefore, would not disturb any soils on-site. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

The active channel of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River, up to the ordinary high water line and its associated wetlands, fall under the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). In

addition, freshwater wetland habitat at the southwest end of Family Camp, as well as freshwater wetland at the amphitheater near the northeast boundary of the camp are generally considered Waters of the US and activities conducted within them may be subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE and RWQCB. A jurisdictional wetland delineation to determine the precise locations and boundaries of USACE jurisdiction has not been completed for the Master Plan but may be needed as part of future improvements. Any proposed activities that affect waters of the US and/or State will require 401 Certification and/or a Waste Discharge Requirement from the RWQCB. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

With implementation of the Master Plan Alternative 1, the amount of impermeable surface area at Family Camp would increase by approximately 13,655 sf, or 0.6 percent. Project-related activities that could potentially result in excessive sedimentation into the river include replacement of bridges, repairs to the swimming dam, renovation and lengthening of the river retaining walls, renovation of the concrete ford, relocation of the horseshoe pit from the island, removal of the concrete path that leads to the island, reconfiguration of the beach area, exposure of loose soil during construction activities, and renovation of the amphitheater and associated drainage. Contact of uncured concrete with water could release chemicals. Implementation of the Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measure incorporated into the project would ensure that disturbed areas are stabilized, appropriate erosion control measures are implemented during maintenance, and renovation activities and a spill prevention and response plan is prepared. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project site is 94 percent pervious and the addition of 13,655 square feet of impervious surfaces at the site, under Alternative 1, would not substantially impact groundwater supplies or affect aquifer recharge. **(No Impact)**

Implementation of the Master Plan would include improvements to the drainage system at Family Camp which would reduce the levels of sedimentation currently entering the river as a result of rain runoff, dust disturbance, and camper activities in the beach area. Reduced sedimentation would be a long-term benefit to the health of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would convert all impervious surfaces to pervious surface through the removal of all Family Camp facilities. Alternative 6 includes an abandonment plan, subject to US Forest Service approval, which would incorporate erosion and sediment control measures to protect the river during demolition. These control measures will reduce temporary water quality impact to a less than significant level. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

In the long-term, Alternative 6 would result in a benefit for water quality in the Tuolumne River due to the replacement of currently developed/landscaped areas by more natural vegetation communities. **(No Impact)**

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), facilities at Family Camp would continue to be utilized and maintained in their existing locations. Existing environmental conditions would not improve including sedimentation and erosion issues that degrade the water quality of the river. **(Significant Impact)**

4.9.2.2 *Dam Failure*

The State Division of Safety of Dams regulates the construction, maintenance, and overall safety of all substantial impoundments that are over 25 feet in height and have a capacity of over 50 acre-feet. A Hazard Identification and Analysis report was completed for Tuolumne County which determined that the modern design standards for dams include significant safety factors that generally make the failure of any dam a very low risk. The small recreational dam at the project site is seasonal, its capacity is minimal, and its flash board design is basic and removable. The likelihood of failure of this seasonal dam is low. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

The amphitheater and a portion of the entrance road were built in a drainage way. Occasionally, the culvert floods and water flows over the top of the dam. It has been determined that the soil retaining system at the top of the existing amphitheater may be unstable and the slope behind the seating area may be prone to failure. As described in Section 4.6, *Geology and Soils*, prior to any amphitheater improvements a qualified geotechnical engineer will be retained to assess the stability of soil at the top of the amphitheater seating area. The engineer will provide recommendations to prevent slope failure. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

There are no levees in Tuolumne County, thus the alternatives would have no adverse impact on levees.⁴⁹ **(No Impact)**

4.9.2.3 *Flooding*

The Master Plan alternatives includes improvements to the amphitheater to fix its flooding and drainage issues. Improvements to the amphitheater would reduce surface runoff at Family Camp and would decrease erosion and sediment loading into the river. **(No Impact)**

The removal of the amphitheatre and culvert under Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would eliminate flooding and decrease erosion and sediment loading into the river. **(No Impact)**

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), facilities at Family Camp would continue to be utilized and maintained in their existing locations. The amphitheatre area would continue to experience flooding and the sedimentation and erosion issues would continue to degrade the water quality of the river. **(Significant Impact)**

4.9.2.4 *Seiches, Tsunamis, and Mudflows*

There are no bodies of water near Family Camp that in the event of a tsunami or seiche will affect the site. **(No Impact)**

The project site does not have a history of major landslides or mudflows. There is one known landslide at Family Camp located on the slope southwest of the dining hall. As described in Section 4.6, *Geology and Soils*, all Master Plan development proposed on or adjacent to slopes that have grades exceeding 30 percent will be surveyed and mapped by a qualified geologist prior to

⁴⁹ Tuolumne County. *Hazard Identification & Analysis*. <http://portal.co.tuolumne.ca.us/ps/psft/V-1234835115/II_HazardIdentificationAndAnalysis.pdf> Accessed June 6, 2011.

construction activities. When slope hazards are identified, new development will conform to the recommendations of a qualified geotechnical engineer. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.9.3 Conclusion

The Master Plan would improve the long term health of the Tuolumne River by improving the drainage system at Family Camp and reducing sediment loading into the river. The Master Plan includes an Erosion Control/Dust Suppression conservation measure to reduce impacts from maintenance and renovation activities, and any proposed activities that affect waters of the US and/or State will require 401 Certification and/or a Waste Discharge Requirement from the RWQCB. With compliance to the applicable permits, measures and studies which are incorporated as part of the project, the Master Plan and Alternative 6 would not result in impacts to water quality, and would not result in hazards related to flooding, mudflows, or dams. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.10 LAND USE

4.10.1 Setting

4.10.1.1 *Existing On-site Land Uses*

Natural land features at Family Camp include vegetation, a river, a meadow, and steep forested elevation variations. Trails and graded areas are located throughout the camp. The Middle Fork Tuolumne River bisects Family Camp and development at Family Camp is located along the northern and southern sides of the river.

The northwestern portion of the project site is developed with 70 platform tent cabins. South of the tent cabin area is a trail that leads to the camp meadow located in the central western portion of the project site. The meadow is developed with a softball diamond and surrounding land uses include an outdoor storage area to the west, the Sierra Lodge to the south, and a campfire pit surrounded by benches to the east. The southwestern portion of Family Camp is developed with a septic system wastewater aeration pond, a lift station and pump control house, and an access road.

The main building complex at Family Camp is located in the eastern portion of the project site on the southern side of the river. The main building complex comprises the dining hall, the camp store, a public restroom, and storage and mechanical buildings. Areas surrounding the main building complex are paved and pavement extends to the back of the retaining wall which lines the southern side of the river in this area of the camp. Employee living quarters, including a restroom/laundry building and staff cabins, are located behind the dining hall and on an adjacent slope. Across the river to the north of the main building complex are the playground, amphitheater, and additional employee cabins.

Recreational facilities at Family Camp include a volleyball court, basketball court, fish cleaning station, and plant identification trail. In the eastern portion of the project site, upstream from the dining hall, the Middle Fork Tuolumne River has a temporary dam structure that is used to create a swimming hole during summer months. There is a beach and a lawn area adjacent to the swimming hole. Additional physical features in the immediate vicinity of the river within Family Camp include two pedestrian bridge crossings, one vehicular bridge crossing, a concrete river ford, and a horse-shoe pit located on a river island.

4.10.1.2 *Existing Surrounding Land Uses*

Family Camp is located on land leased by the City of San José from the Groveland Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest. The project site is bound by forested areas on all sides, with the Yosemite Riverside Inn located approximately 0.10 miles east of the project site, and Cherry Lake Road running along the southern boundary of the project site. The camp is approximately 0.30 miles north of State Route 120 which leads to the north entrance of Yosemite National Park to the east and the town of Groveland to the west.

4.10.1.3 Existing Land Use Designation

Tuolumne County identifies Family Camp with a *P* designation in their General Plan which categorizes lands that are owned by public agencies. This designation is for lands that are exempt from County land use regulations. Family Camp is operated under a Special Use Permit/Land Lease Agreement on land owned and regulated by the US Forest Service.

The existing Special Use Permit/Land Lease Agreement requires renewal. The first step to permit renewal was preparation of the Master Plan which evaluates the facilities at Family Camp. This document provides both the US Forest Service and the City with a scope of proposed capital improvements for Family Camp. It has been determined that much of the camp is no longer in compliance with codes that have been established since approval by the US Forest Service of the previous Special Use Permit/Land Lease Agreement. Much of the work proposed for Family Camp is the result of deferred maintenance by the City, environmental work required by US Forest Service, and/or code compliance from other regulatory agencies.

4.10.2 Environmental Checklist

LAND USE					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,3
2) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,3
3) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,6

4.10.2.1 Land Use Impacts

The Stanislaus National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan (Forest Plan) contains forest goals, standards, and guidelines designed to guide the management of the Stanislaus National Forest. Broad management goals and strategies in the plan address the five problem areas: old forest ecosystems and associated species; aquatic, riparian, and meadow ecosystems and associated species;

fire and fuels management; noxious weeds; and lower westside hardwood ecosystems. Because the entire study area is located on US Forest Service lands the activities proposed by the City of San José under the Master Plan are subject to the Forest Plan (1991, as amended).

The following programs have been incorporated into the Master Plan design to comply with the goals of the Forest Plan:

- Noxious Weed Management Program
- Hazardous Tree Management Program
- Wildfire Protection Program

The following are also incorporated into the project to comply with the goals of the Forest Plan:

- A Biological Resources Report has been prepared by H.T. Harvey & Associates which incorporates conservation and mitigation measures into the project design in order to manage sensitive fish, wildlife, and plant species. As required by the US Forest Service, these measures will ensure continued population viability and prevent sensitive species from becoming federally listed as Threatened or Endangered (see Section 4.4, *Biological Resources*).
- Per US Forest Service policy, the City of San José will replace its current trash containers with approved bear-proof trash containers within three years after signing the new 20-year Special Use Permit/Land Lease Agreement. Also, the City will begin the installation of bear-proof food lockers after the acquisition and installation of bear-proof trash containers throughout the camp.

The US Forest Service instituted the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) policy in the Forest Plan to reduce impacts from development near waterways. RCA's are defined as a 300-foot zone on each side of a perennial waterway, measured from the banks full edge of the waterway. RCA widths may be adjusted at the project level if a landscape analysis has been completed and a site-specific Riparian Conservation Objectives (RCO) analysis demonstrates a need for different widths. At least 80 percent of the existing facilities at Family Camp are within the RCA. The City of San José is not permitted to build additional square footage within this zone without a landscape analysis. The City, however, may rebuild existing buildings in-kind and complete ADA improvements within the RCA zone. A portion of the Master Plan (alternatives 1-5) ADA ramp improvements and bear proof trash containers would increase impervious surfaces within the RCA zone, however these improvements would be consistent with the intent of the RCA zone and the Forest Plan. Alternatives 1 – 5 and 6 would be consistent with the Forest Plan and would not conflict with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), the camp would continue to operate without conformance to current codes and regulations including the Forest Plan, and would continue to limit disabled visitors from activities that take place in one of the many areas of camp that are not ADA compliant. **(Significant Impact)**

The Middle Fork Tuolumne River flows through Family Camp. During the summer months, the City inserts flash boards in the Oakland-era dam structure to create a swimming hole used by campers and staff. Tuolumne County is in the process of carrying out a grant-funded project to determine water quality in several local tributaries of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne River watersheds. It is anticipated that this project will lead to policies and/or operational infrastructures that will enhance the quality of

water in those tributaries, which could lead to new management practices in other tributaries. The Middle Fork Tuolumne River is part of this study. The City will comply with all future regulations regarding the river which are developed as a result of this study. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project site has been used as a municipal camp since the early 1920's when it was first opened by the City of Oakland. Alternatives 1 – 5 and 7 would continue to operate a municipal camp within the established Family Camp boundary and would not divide an established community. Alternative 6 would removal all Family Camp facilities and return the site to a natural state; this alternative would not divide an established community. **(No Impact)**

The Master Plan (alternatives 1-5) and Alternatives 6 and 7 would not conflict with any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. **(No Impact)**

4.10.3 Conclusion

None of the alternatives (1-7) would not divide an established community, nor would the alternatives conflict with any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. **(No Impact)**

Under Alternative 7, the camp would continue to operate without conformance to current codes and regulations including the Forest Plan. **(Significant Impact)**

None of the alternatives (1-7) would not result in any impacts related to environmental justice; therefore, the project would comply with Executive Order 12898, (February 11, 1994). **(No Impact)**

4.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

4.11.1 Setting

Pursuant to Policy 4.E.1 of the Tuolumne County General Plan, Tuolumne County mapped the significant Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ-2) lands identified by the California Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology. MRZ-2 zones were then evaluated based upon their location, relationship to their surrounding land uses, and economic viability for mining under a set of established criteria. Those lands which met the County's criteria were designated as a Mineral Preserve Zone (MPZ) overlay on the General Plan Land Use Diagrams. This overlay designation is used by the County to direct the development potential of the designated properties towards the types of development that are compatible with possible mineral resource extraction.⁵⁰

4.11.2 Environmental Checklist

MINERAL RESOURCES					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,16
2) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,16

4.11.2.1 *Mineral Resources Impacts*

The project site is not located in a designated MPZ and the project would not be located on a site with locally-important mineral resources. The project site has been used for camping since the 1920's, and continued use of the site for camping activities (alternatives 1-5 and 7) or the removal of the camp and conversion to a natural state (Alternative 6) will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. **(No Impact)**

4.11.3 Conclusion

The proposed project would not result in any impacts to known mineral resources. **(No Impact)**

⁵⁰ Tuolumne County Planning Division. *General Plan: Chapter 4 Conservation and Open Space Element*. 1996. <http://portal.co.tuolumne.ca.us/psp/ps/TUP_COMMUNITY_DEV/ENTP/h/?tab=DEFAULT> Accessed May 25, 2011.

4.12 NOISE

4.12.1 Setting

4.12.1.1 *Background Information*

Noise is defined as unwanted sound. Noise can be disturbing or annoying because of its pitch or loudness. Pitch refers to relative frequency of vibrations, higher pitch signals sounds louder to people.

Noise is measured in “decibels” (dB) which is a numerical expression of sound levels on a logarithmic scale. A noise level that is 10 dB higher than another noise level has 10 times the sound energy and is perceived as being twice as loud. Sounds less than five dB are just barely audible and then only in the absence of other sounds. Intense sounds of 140 dB are so loud that they are painful and can cause damage with only a brief exposure. These extremes are not commonplace in normal working and living environments.

4.12.1.2 *Noise Environment*

Family Camp is located in a remote wilderness area within the Stanislaus National Forest and is characterized by relatively low noise levels due to the limited human activity in the area. During operation of Family Camp noise sources include vehicles moving throughout the site, sounds of people playing, shouting, and singing. The noise sources generated in the vicinity of the Camp primarily consist of vehicular traffic on State Route 120 (0.7 mile from Camp entrance), operations at the adjacent Yosemite Riverside Inn and infrequent aircraft flyovers.

The project is not located within the area encompassed by the Tuolumne County *Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*⁵¹ or in the vicinity of an airport. The nearest airport is the Pine Mountain Lake Public Airport, located approximately nine miles northwest of the project site. Additionally, there are no private airstrips located within the vicinity of the project site.

Noise-sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project site could include guests at Family Camp, staff who live at Family Camp, and/or those staying at the Yosemite Riverside Inn located approximately 0.10 miles east of the project site.

⁵¹ Tuolumne County Airport Land Use Commission. *Tuolumne County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*. January 22, 2003.

4.12.2 Environmental Checklist

NOISE					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Will the project result in:					
1) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
2) Exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
3) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
4) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
5) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, will the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
6) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, will the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2

4.12.2.1 Long-Term Noise Impacts

Implementation of alternatives 1 – 5 and 7 would not change the uses at the project site. Alternatives 1 -5 would improve existing facilities and features at the camp, and therefore, the proposed improvements would not result in a substantial change in the noise levels on the site. Proposed winter use of Family Camp, under Alternatives 1 – 4, would extend the duration of camp activities, but the overall noise level would be the same or less than existing levels (due to only 30 percent

occupancy during the winter season). Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would remove all Family Camp facilities and return the site to a natural state which would eliminate most human activities from the site and, thus, substantially reduce long-term noise levels. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

As mentioned previously, the project is not located within the area encompassed by the Tuolumne County *Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan* or in the vicinity of an airport. The nearest airport is the Pine Mountain Lake Airport, located approximately nine miles northwest of the project site. Additionally, there are no private airstrips located within the vicinity of the project site. **(No Impact)**

4.12.2.2 *Short-Term Noise Impacts*

The Master Plan alternatives (1-5) will result in temporary noise increases during demolition, construction and certain maintenance activities as part of the Master Plan improvements. Typical hourly average construction noise levels are 75 to 80 dBA measured at a distance of 100 feet from the site during busy construction periods. Major construction activities such as demolition and construction of the dining hall will occur when camp visitors are not at Family Camp, between camp sessions in various phases, and will require less than 12 months to complete. No pile driving would be required for construction of the project.

Implementation of Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would result similar temporary noise increases described for the Master Plan alternatives, although the noise from demolition would likely occur in one phase (less than 6 months) rather than over multiple phases like the Master Plan.

Temporary construction noise impacts to special-status wildlife species were determined to be less than significant through incorporation of mitigation measures, described in *Section 4.4 Biological Resources* of this document.

Because the duration of demolition and construction would be less than a year under Alternatives 1 - 6, the project would not result in significant short-term construction related noise impacts. **(Less than Significant Impact)**

Alternative 7 (No Project) does not include any camp improvements, therefore, no short-term noise impacts related to demolition or construction would occur. **(No Impact)**

The following avoidance standards would further reduce impacts to temporary noise impacts related to construction:

- Noise-generating activities associated with the construction project shall be restricted to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with no construction activities on Sunday or holidays. .
- The contractor shall use “new technology” power construction equipment with state-of-the-art noise shielding and muffling devices. All internal combustion engines used on the project site shall be equipped with adequate mufflers and shall be in good mechanical condition to minimize noise created by faulty or poor maintained engines or other components.

- Prohibit unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines and locate stationary noise generating equipment as far as possible from sensitive receptors.
- Notify adjacent neighbors of the construction schedule and provide a telephone number for noise complaints (e.g., beginning work too early, bad muffler, etc.) and institute reasonable measures warranted to correct the problem.

4.12.2 Conclusion

Alternatives 1 - 6, with implementation of the above measures, would not result in significant noise impacts. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternative 7 would not result in any noise impacts. **(No Impact)**

4.13 POPULATION AND HOUSING

4.13.1 Setting

Family Camp has capacity to serve 390 campers per night housed within 65 rentable visitor tent cabins. At capacity, the Camp has 40 to 60 employees and volunteers housed within 26 staff cabins, the Family Camp caretaker's house, and the assistant manager's cabin. Family Camp has a maximum use population of 450 which includes campers and staff. The summertime season of Family Camp lasts 60 days.

4.13.2 Environmental Checklist

POPULATION AND HOUSING					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
2) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
3) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2

4.13.2.1 *Impacts to Population and Housing*

The Master Plan (alternatives 1-5) would make improvements to existing camp facilities which include reconstructing two visitor tent cabins that were destroyed in a fire. Besides the two replacement tent cabins, camp capacity would not increase with implementation Master Plan. Master Plan alternatives 1 – 4 would increase use of the project site to include a winter season. During the wintertime up to 16 visitor cabins and 13 staff units would be used for 26 weekends. These proposed improvements would not create new permanent housing or businesses that would increase population growth in the project area; nor will the project displace housing or people. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would remove Family Camp facilities from the project site including the visitor cabins, staff cabins, Family Camp caretaker's house, and the assistant manager's cabin. The staff cabins, caretaker's house, and the assistant manager's cabin are secondary housing provided for employees of Family Camp during camp operation. The removal of these residential

units would not displace people or require the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. **(No Impact)**

4.13.3 Conclusion

None of the Alternatives (1-7) would not result in impacts to population and housing. **(No Impact)**

4.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

4.14.1 Setting

4.14.1.1 *Fire Service*

Calls for fire service are handled through the local 911 dispatch system. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) responds to both structural fires and medical calls from Family Camp, with mutual aid support from the Smith Station Volunteer Fire Department (also referred to as Tuolumne County Fire Department, Station 63), and the Groveland Fire Department which is a combination of career and volunteer fire fighters. The nearest CAL FIRE Station to Family Camp is located just off State Route 120, approximately 16 miles west of Family Camp. The Smith Station Volunteer Fire Department is located approximately seven miles west of Family Camp. The Groveland Fire Department is located approximately 15 miles west of Family Camp.

The US Forest Service is the lead agency for wildland fires at the camp with mutual aid support from CAL FIRE, the Smith Station Volunteer Fire Department, and the Groveland Fire Department. The nearest US Forest Service fire engine is stationed at Buck Meadows on State Route 120, approximately six miles west of Family Camp.

4.14.1.2 *Police Service*

Calls for police service are handled through the local 911 dispatch system. Law enforcement service at Family Camp is provided by the Tuolumne County Sheriff Department which operates out of its headquarters located at 28 North Lower Sunset Drive in the City of Sonora, approximately 23 miles northwest of Family Camp. The Tuolumne County Sheriff Department is aided by a volunteer Community Service Unit (CSU) which performs a multitude of law enforcement duties including serving subpoenas, handicap parking enforcement, motorist assists, victim witness transport, crime scene security, and property bookings. CSU members receive special training and after passing a driving test, they drive a Community Assistance Patrol (CAP) car. The nearest CSU station to the project site is located at 12720 Par Court in Groveland, approximately 12 miles west of the camp.

4.14.1.3 *Parks and Schools*

San José Family Camp is an existing city-sponsored recreational camping facility located in Tuolumne County and operated by the City of San José.

4.14.2 Environmental Checklist

PUBLIC SERVICES					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:					
Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17
Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17
Other Public Facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17

4.14.2.1 Impacts to Public Services

Master Plan alternatives 1 – 4 would allow the project site to be used year-round which would incrementally increase demand for police and fire services. Year-round use of the site will not, however, increase response times to calls from the project site. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

The intent of the Master Plan is to make improvements to a City-serving recreational facility. Implementation of the proposed Master Plan improvements and year-round use of the camp facility (under alternatives 1-4) would not result in an increased demand for schools, parks, or any other public facilities that would otherwise warrant new facilities. **(No Impact)**

The Master Plan (alternatives 1-5) would allow the City of San José to build a new dining hall that would better suit the needs of campers. The Master Plan would also allow the City to complete infrastructure improvements throughout the camp. These improvements would improve the overall level of service of the Family Camp facilities. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would remove all Family Camp facilities and the City of San Jose would no longer have a recreational camping facility outside of city limits. While Family Camp is a unique recreational facility for San Jose residents, the City does have other recreational facilities and there are other similar facilities outside of the city limits available to San Jose residents. With the removal of the camp, under Alternative 6, any demand for police and fire services, schools or any

other public facilities would be substantially reduced or eliminated. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternative 7 (No Project) would not improve camp facilities or infrastructure. Alternative 7 would not result in an increased demand for police and fire services, schools, parks, or any other public facilities that would otherwise warrant new facilities. **(No Impact)**

The Master Plan alternatives would not increase the population of San José or the site area and, therefore, would not result in an increased demand for schools, parks, or any other public facilities that would otherwise warrant new facilities. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.14.3 **Conclusion**

Year-round use of the site, under Alternatives 1 – 4 would incrementally increase the need for fire and police services, however, not to the extent that fire and police response times would be diminished. None of the alternatives (1-7) would increase the demand for schools, parks, or other public facilities. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.15 RECREATION

4.15.1 Setting

The Stanislaus National Forest encompasses 898,099 acres on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada and includes lakes, mountain peaks, and over 800 miles of streams and rivers. Recreational opportunities within the national park include hiking, fishing, camping, picnicking, backpacking, canoeing/kayaking, off-road vehicle use, winter sports, and more.

Family Camp is one of the many available camping opportunities within the Stanislaus National Forest. The City of San José has operated the Camp since 1968. The Camp is open generally from May to mid-October and use of the camp varies based upon the time of year. During spring and fall the camp is open for family, group, and individual use. During this period the camp is often occupied by community organizations such as scouts, YMCA, and special interest groups. Fishermen often stay at the camp for early spring fishing. The Family Camp summer program runs from the middle of June to the middle of August. The Family Camp summer program is supported by a full staff, complete in-house meal service, and a variety of structured activities. Families arrive throughout the week and stay an average of four nights. Each family stays in their own tent cabin. Meals are prepared by camp chefs and served cafeteria style in the dining hall. Family Camp has 65 rentable tent cabins, a dining complex, a swimming area within the Middle Fork of Tuolumne River, an amphitheater, campfire circles, restroom/bath units, a softball field, an archery range, a horseshoe pit, a playground, shuffleboard courts, and a lodge for arts and crafts and gatherings.

4.15.2 Environmental Checklist

RECREATION					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Will the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility will occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
2) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2

4.15.2.1 *Impacts to Recreational Facilities*

Family Camp has been operated by the City of San José since 1968. Over time the facility has become deteriorated and it is now in need of repairs. The Master Plan would make improvements to the existing camp infrastructure which has been subject to substantial physical deterioration over the years due to deferred maintenance. **(No Impact)**

Master Plan alternatives 1 - 4 includes winterization of Family Camp to allow year-round use of the facilities. Year-round use of the camp would result in the conversion of 16 tent cabins to enclosed heated sleeping facilities such as small cabins or yurts. Winterization of the camp may include the addition of bathrooms to the enclosed cabin units. Environmental impacts from installation of the new cabin units will require subsequent environmental review and mitigation for any impacts will be implemented as appropriate. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Winter use of Family Camp would not result in new activities that would cause substantial deterioration of the camp facilities. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would remove all Family Camp facilities and the City of San Jose would no longer have a recreational camping facility outside of city limits. While Family Camp is a unique recreational facility for San Jose residents, the City does have other recreational facilities and there are other similar facilities outside of the city limits available to San Jose residents. With the removal of the camp, under Alternative 6, any demand for police and fire services, schools or any other public facilities would be substantially reduced or eliminated. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternative 7 (No Project) would not improve camp facilities or infrastructure. Without any camp improvements, Family Camp facilities would be maintained in their current condition. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.15.3 Conclusion

Implementation of the Master Plan would make improvements to, and extend the use of an existing recreational resource. The Master Plan would result in a beneficial impact to a recreational facility that is operated by the City of San José. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4.16 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

4.16.1 Setting

1.16.1.1 *Roadway Network*

Regional access to the site is provided by State Route (SR) 120, located south of Family Camp. SR 120 begins at Interstate 5 in San Joaquin County near Manteca, continues through Yosemite National Park, and ends at US Route 6 in Mono County near the Nevada State line. In the vicinity of the project site, SR 120 is a two-lane roadway. From SR 120, Cherry Lake Road follows the southern boundary of Family Camp and continues to run east, past the southeastern corner of the site for approximately 0.15 miles before it changes direction and curves to the north. Two access roads coming off of the west side of Cherry Lake Road provides direct access to the project site.

Internally, there are a series of paved roads which provide access to various areas of Family Camp. Most families, groups, and staff arrive at the camp in their personal vehicles. Visitor vehicles are parked in 65 spaces throughout the tent areas and staff vehicles are parked at the ridge area along the southern service road, near the wastewater aeration pond. A small parking area is located across the river from the dining hall/office building, near the playground area. This parking area is used by campers just arriving at Family Camp, before being assigned a camp tent, or by disabled and elderly persons who cannot traverse the hilly terrain from their tent cabin to the dining hall facility. All parking areas are either graveled or bare earth, except for the vehicle spaces behind the dining hall, which are paved.

4.16.1.2 *Transit, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Facilities*

Family Camp is a 46.9-acre self-contained campground facility located in the Stanislaus National Forest. There are no public bus systems that stop at Family Camp. Family Camp is not easily accessible by any pedestrian or bicycle routes. The project site is within the Groveland District of the Stanislaus National Forest which has a network of hiking trails campers may use for recreational purposes once they arrive at the camp. There are no active mountain biking trails in the vicinity of Family Camp.

4.16.2 Environmental Checklist

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
1) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
2) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2
3) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
4) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible land uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
5) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project: 6) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17

4.16.2.1 Existing and Project Generated Traffic

Family Camp is located in a rural area where traffic peaks during the summertime when the mountain roads are more accessible to tourists visiting Yosemite National Park, and when the weather brings high volumes of recreational visitors to the forests. Access to the project area is generally by vehicle, and then upon arrival at a given destination people use trails to hike and bike, or the river to boat. Family Camp visitors typically arrive in vehicles with multiple passengers because it is a camp that caters to family and group events. Peak use of Family Camp occurs during the summer season. The summertime season of Family Camp lasts 60 days and each family stays in a tent for an average of 3.8 nights. Assuming 100 percent occupancy of the visitor tent cabins at Family Camp all summer, the 65 rentable visitor tent cabins would be vacated and reoccupied a maximum of 16 times over the course of the season.

It is estimated that each tent at Family Camp generates 1.5 vehicles per tent stay. For the purposes of this discussion it is assumed that each tent stay would include one or two associated vehicles.⁵² This would result in the generation of 130 to 260 one-way trips per visitor tent turnaround, or 2,080 to 4,160 total one-way trips over the course of the summer. There are no set arrival or departure times for visitors at Family Camp; therefore, vehicle trips occur spaced out over the course of each week and each day. By averaging out the total trips generated from visitors at Family Camp, the summer season of Family Camp generates between 35 and 70 one-way visitor vehicle trips each day (either arriving or exiting). Assuming that each staff unit generates two vehicle trips per day (one exiting and one entering), the maximum summertime staff trip generation rate is 66 one-way trips per day.⁵³ Other vehicle trips generated by Family Camp include delivery/service truck trips during. Existing operations of Family Camp result in a maximum of 138 trips per day.⁵⁴

Implementation of Master Plan alternatives 1 – 4 would increase use of the project site to include a winter season. During the wintertime up to 16 visitor cabins and 13 staff units would be used for 26 weekends. Assuming one to two vehicles per tent stay, the camp would generate 16 to 32 visitor

⁵² The City of San José estimates 1.5 vehicles associated with each tent stay at Family Camp. This discussion is based on one to two roundtrips per tent stay (one to two trips in and one to two trips out, associated with each car).

⁵³ Staff trips include round-trips associated with each of the 26 staff units, each of the five staff ‘visitor’ tent-cabins, the assistant manager cabin, and the caretaker house for a total of 66 one-way trips.

⁵⁴ The estimated maximum trips per day is based on an average of the overall trips generated by visitors at Family Camp per summer. Trips rates could vary. The estimated maximum trips generated per day also assumes that each family stays within the self-contained campground facility once they arrive.

trips on Friday as campers arrive and 16 to 32 trips on Sunday as visitors leave. Winter use of Family Camp would also generate two one-way vehicle trips per day per occupied staff unit (one exiting and one entering)⁵⁵ and would include up to two weekly delivery/service trucks (as occurs during the pre- and post- season). The project would, therefore, result in the generation of approximately 46 to 62 vehicle trips on Friday, 30 vehicle trips on Saturday, and 46 to 62 vehicle trips on Sunday.⁵⁶

4.16.2.2 *Project Traffic Impacts*

Family Camp is generally accessed from the west with people coming from San José on State Route 120. Winter use of the camp would generate a maximum of 62 inbound and outbound traffic trips each Friday and Sunday, respectively, at varying times over the course of the day. The addition of 62 vehicle trips to the existing roadway network in the project area during the winter time would not exceed the capacity of the roadways, which normally support up to 138 vehicle trips associated with Family Camp per day during the peak-use summer season. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would remove all Family Camp facilities and end operation of the camp; therefore, no vehicle trips would occur under this alternative. **(No Impact)**

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), there would be no change in total vehicle trips compared to existing conditions because the operation of Family Camp would remain the same. **(No Impact)**

4.16.2.3 *Pedestrian Safety Improvements*

The Master Plan alternatives 1 - 4 include construction of staff carports at the current staff parking area near the wastewater aeration pond. The proposed carports would provide covered parking for 24 cars and uncovered parking for 12 cars. The covered parking would decrease icy conditions as staff enter and exit their cars during the winter months. The new carports would also protect vehicle windshields, side windows, back windows, and mirrors from accumulating ice and/or snow. This would improve visibility from the vehicles, thereby improving pedestrian safety as vehicles make their way through the camp. The carports would result in overall safer driving conditions for camp staff, and would benefit overall pedestrian safety at the camp during the winter months. **(No Impact)**

4.16.3 Conclusion

None of the Alternatives (1-7) would result in significant impacts to traffic in the project area. Winter use of Family Camp, under Alternatives 1 – 4, would not conflict with an applicable plan or program, change air traffic patterns, increase hazards from a design feature, result in inadequate emergency access, or decrease the performance or safety of transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. Under Alternatives 1 – 4, the proposed carports would improve pedestrian safety at Family Camp during the winter months. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

⁵⁵ Vehicle trips generated by staff during the winter months includes those associated with 13 staff units, the caretaker house, and the assistant manager cabin for a total of 15 roundtrips or 30 one-way staff trips.

⁵⁶ Trips rates could vary. The estimated maximum trips generated per day assumes that each group stays within the self-contained campground facility once they arrive.

4.17 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

4.17.1 Setting

4.17.1.1 *Water Service*

Family Camp has two separate water supply systems used for potable and non-potable water which have been upgraded over the years.

Potable water at Family Camp is derived from one operating well that fills three 10,000-gallon storage tanks. The well delivers approximately 530,000 gallons of potable water annually through underground piping to campers, staff and volunteers annually.

Non-potable water at Family Camp is drafted from the river at two points: near the eastern most pedestrian bridge, and near the vehicular bridge. Non-potable water is stored in three tanks of varying sizes and delivered to users through underground piping. Approximately 220,000 gallons of non-potable water are taken annually from the river for fire protection, irrigation, and flushing toilets at the camp.

Overall operation of Family Camp requires the use of approximately 750,000 gallons of water each year.⁵⁷

4.17.1.2 *Sanitary Sewer/Wastewater Treatment*

The current sewer system consists of underground piping throughout the camp, and a sewer lift station, pump station, wastewater aeration pond, and spray field which are located in the southwest portion of the project site. In 1975, there was a major renovation to the camp sewage system. This included work on the sewer lateral pipe lines and restructuring of the wastewater aeration pond and spray-field. The sewer lift station and control buildings were rebuilt after a fire in 2000. The existing wastewater aeration pond has a design capacity of 795,000 gallons.

Operation of Family Camp generates approximately 637,500 gallons of wastewater per year.⁵⁸

4.17.1.3 *Storm Drainage System*

Stormwater from Family Camp is conveyed into the Middle Fork Tuolumne River, a tributary to the Tuolumne River. The Tuolumne River flows west from the Sierra Nevada to Don Pedro Reservoir, through the Central Valley, to its mouth at the San Joaquin River near Modesto. The San Joaquin River joins the Sacramento River to form a delta that drains into the Suisun Bay, the northern arm of the San Francisco Bay.

⁵⁷ Water use at Family Camp was estimated based upon 25 gallons of water per day per person. The summertime average persons per day at the Camp equates to 250 persons for 60 days. The pre-season and post-seasons at camp host approximately 200 persons per day for 14 weekends (28 days total). Pre-season, summertime, and post-season water use totals 515,000 gallons. Another 15,000 gallons of water is associated with the off season. Non-potable water used for irrigation, fire suppression, and toilet flushing is estimated at 10 gallons per person which equates to approximately 220,000 gallons of non-potable water per year.

⁵⁸ Wastewater estimate is based upon 85 percent of the total water use at Family Camp.

Stormwater at Family Camp is directed toward the river by gravity. The camp does not include a substantial amount of drainage ways or gutters to collect or guide the stormwater. Sandbags are used to help prevent erosion as needed. The deficiency of the existing drainage facilities at Family Camp is evident from damaged buildings due to puddling around the structures, uneven pedestrian paths where rainwater has flowed down the center of the walkways, and deteriorating slopes in need of retaining walls.

Another prominent drainage issue at Family Camp is the location of the amphitheater and a portion of the camp entrance road which were built in a drainage way that carries runoff from approximately 150 acres of forest lands. The road behind the amphitheater acts as an earthen dam with a culvert to allow water to pass under the facility. Bleachers were built on the front slope of the dam and, at times, water has overtopped the dam causing gulying under the bleacher seating and puddling around the amphitheater stage building which causes damage to the structure and increases sediment in the stormwater runoff. Additionally, the soil retaining system at the top of the bleacher area is potentially insecure and the slope could eventually fail.

4.17.1.4 Solid Waste

Family Camp has 30 to 35 garbage containers located throughout the camp property. The containers are emptied twice each day, and trash is deposited into a 40-cubic yard enclosed trash container located in the southwestern portion of the camp property. The trash container is emptied weekly during the high-occupancy summer months, and on an as-needed basis during the pre- and post-camp seasons. Four recycling stations are located throughout the camp property. Materials from these recycling stations are collected once each week.

Waste from Family Camp is collected by Moore Brothers Scavenger Co. Inc., who disposes of the solid waste at either the waste management facility in Sonora, California or the Groveland Transfer Station.⁵⁹

Operation of Family Camp generates approximately 600 cubic yards of solid waste per year.

4.17.2 Environmental Checklist

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project: 1) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17

⁵⁹ A transfer station is where recyclables and refuse are collected and sorted in preparation for processing or landfill.

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
Would the project:					
2) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2
3) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17
4) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17
5) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,17
6) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2

4.17.2.1 *Water Service*

The Master Plan alternatives 1 - 4 would require an estimated average of 914,000 gallons of water per year, which is 164,000 gallons of water per year more than existing conditions. The use of an additional 117,000 gallons of potable water and 47,000 gallons of non-potable water would not exceed the capacity of the existing camp water supply systems to meet the off-season demand. The project would have a less than significant impact on water supply. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternatives 1 – 4 would winterize the camp waterlines (refer to Figure 3.3-1). This would involve deepening the main waterlines at Family Camp below the frost line by at least 18 inches. Trenching could be approximately two feet wide and total approximately 3,100 linear feet. The ground disturbance from installing the deeper waterlines was studied as part of this environmental review,

thus any environmental impacts from installing the waterlines were disclosed as part of the Master Plan alternatives (1-4). **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternatives 5 and 7 would require the same amount of water per year as existing conditions. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 6 would remove all Family Camp facilities and would not require water usage greater than existing conditions after closure of the camp. **(No Impact)**

4.17.2.2 Sanitary Sewer/Wastewater Treatment

The existing wastewater aeration pond at the camp has a design capacity of 795,000 gallons with reserve storage (for a very wet month of May) of up to 860,000 gallons. Wastewater from the wastewater aeration pond is disposed of by spraying on a 2.8-acre parcel. Runoff waters and rainfall from the spray field is captured and returned to the wastewater aeration pond during the spraying season from May 1st to September 30th each year. Mean annual precipitation at the camp ranges from 21 to 47 inches.⁶⁰ Master Plan alternatives 1 – 4 would include replacement of the existing dining hall with an enlarged dining hall, reconstruction of the two tent cabins lost in the 1999 Pilot fire, construction of staff carpports, and ongoing maintenance activities. Master Plan alternatives 1 - 4 would winterize up to 16 of the camp tent cabins which would result in the operation of camp facilities for an additional 26 three-day weekends (or 78 nights) over the existing conditions each year. The camp would host up to 60 persons each weekend night during the winter months. The pond has been designed to handle 58.8 inches of direct rainfall plus sewage during the period of October 1st to May 1st.

The highest use of the camp occurs during the summertime for the approximately 60-day period when Family Camp is in session. During this peak period, up to 10,550 gallons per day of wastewater is generated and pumped into the wastewater aeration pond. At this rate, there is enough capacity in the wastewater aeration pond to hold wastewater from 75 high-flow days at any given time. Use of the camp tent cabins during the winter months would increase the use of the wastewater aeration pond during the off-season. The existing wastewater aeration pond has more than the required capacity to hold wastewater during the summer months and use of the pond during the off-season would not exceed the capacity of the existing treatment facility. A new or expanded wastewater aeration pond would not be required to serve the project. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternatives 5 and 7 would generate the same amount of wastewater per year as existing conditions, thus the existing treatment facility has adequate capacity. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 6 would remove all Family Camp facilities and would not generate wastewater after closure of the camp. **(No Impact)**

Alternatives 1 – 4 would also deepen the sewer pipes at Family Camp below the frost line by at least 18 inches. New sewer connections would be made to the Sierra Lodge, Snack Shack, new dining hall kitchen, and new ADA duplex cabin tents 609 and 610. Trenching would be approximately two feet wide and would be installed in the same area of disturbance as the waterlines (shown in Figure

⁶⁰ H.T. Harvey & Associates. *Biological Resources Report*. 2012.

3.3-1). The ground disturbance from installing the sewer lines was studied as part of this environmental review, thus any environmental impacts from installing the sewer lines were disclosed as part of the Master Plan alternatives. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Implementation of the Alternatives 1 - 7 would not result in significant impacts to the environment from expansion of existing wastewater treatment facilities. Under Alternatives 1 – 4, Family Camp will increase the need for wastewater treatment facilities at the camp, however, not at levels that will exceed the capacity of the existing wastewater treatment system. Alternatives 1 - 7 will result in less than significant impacts to sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment facilities at the camp. **(Less than Significant Impact)**

4.17.2.3 *Storm Drainage*

As discussed in Section 5.6, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the Master Plan (alternatives 1-5) includes improvements that could result in excessive sedimentation into the river without upgrades to the Camp drainage system. The Master Plan, therefore, proposes to upgrade stormwater drainage facilities where needed to improve existing drainage issues at Camp (i.e. install a berm/curb alongside the existing pathway that leads to the amphitheater to direct runoff water away from the creek). The Master Plan also proposes to avoid new drainage issues that could result from the proposed new Camp improvements (i.e. replant the amphitheater area with vegetation to slow erosion and runoff, if the amphitheater is relocated). The stormwater drainage improvements proposed by the Master Plan do not require trenching or other high-impact activities at would result in significant environmental effects. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would remove all Family Camp facilities and end camp operation. During demolition and removal of camp facilities, Alternative 6 could result in erosion and sedimentation into the river. As part of the abandonment plan, Alternative 6 would incorporate erosion and sediment control measures to protect the river during demolition. Alternative 6 would result in the replacement of currently developed/landscaped areas with more natural vegetation communities. Under this alternative, drainage facilities would no longer be needed at Family Camp. **(No Impact)**

Under Alternative 7 (No Project), facilities at Family Camp would continue to be utilized and maintained in their existing locations. No new drainage facilities would be installed that would result in significant environmental impacts. **(No Impact)**

4.17.2.4 *Solid Waste*

Implementation of the Master Plan (alternatives 1-5) would include replacement of the current trash containers at Family Camp with approved bear-proof trash containers within three years after signing the new 20-year Special Use Permit/Land Lease Agreement. The City would also begin the installation of bear-proof food lockers after the acquisition and installation of bear-proof trash containers throughout the camp. The Master Plan would bring the solid waste storage facilities at Family Camp into compliance with US Forest Service policy. **(No Impact)**

Master Plan alternatives 1 – 4 would generate approximately 700 cubic yards of solid waste per year. This is 100 cubic yards of solid waste above existing conditions at the camp. The additional solid

waste generated from implementation of the Master Plan (alternatives 1-4) would be incremental and would not result in the need for the construction of new landfill facilities. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternatives 5 and 7 would generate the same amount of solid waste per year as under existing conditions; therefore, these alternatives would not result in the need for the construction of new landfill facilities. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 6 would remove all Family Camp facilities and would not generate solid water after closure of the camp. **(No Impact)**

4.17.3 Conclusion

The Master Plan (1-5) would bring the solid waste storage facilities at Family Camp into compliance with US Forest Service policy. Implementation of the Master Plan alternatives 1 - 4 would result in an incremental increase in demand for utility services at the camp during the winter months. This increase would not, however, exceed the capacity of the existing utility systems. Additionally, the Master Plan (1-5) would make improvements to the deficient storm drainage system at the camp which would result in reduced sediment loading into the river. The Master Plan would result in overall less than significant impacts to the utility system at Family Camp. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Alternative 6 would remove all Family Camp facilities in order to close the camp and, therefore, would not require utility service or any utility infrastructure. **(No Impact)**

Alternative 7 would result in no change in demand for utility services at the camp; therefore, this alternative would not result in the need for the construction additional utility infrastructure. **(No Impact)**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Checklist Source(s)
1) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1-17
2) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1-17
3) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1-17
4) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1-17

The Master Plan (alternatives 1-5) and Alternative 6 (Camp Closure) would not result in significant impacts to aesthetics, agricultural and forest resources, greenhouse gas emissions, land use, mineral resources, population and housing, recreation, transportation, and utilities and service systems.

With the implementation of the conservation, mitigation and avoidance measures included in the Master Plan (alternatives 1-5) and Alternative 6 and described in the air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and noise sections of this document (refer to Sections 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8, 4.9, and 4.12), the Master Plan and Alternative 6 would not result in significant environmental impacts.

4.18.1 Conclusion

The Master Plan would not degrade the quality of the environment, reduce habitat for plant or animal species, or eliminate examples of periods of California history. The Master Plan would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution towards a significant cumulative impact, achieve short-term goals to the disadvantage of long-term goals or cause adverse effects on human beings. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

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SECTION 5.0

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