

EXHIBIT A



**EL DORADO COUNTY PLANNING SERVICES
2850 FAIRLANE COURT
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667**

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM AND DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

Project Title: OR10-0001/Amend Title 15.14 - Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance (Grading Ordinance)

Lead Agency Name and Address: County of El Dorado

Contact Person: Shawna Purvines

Phone Number: (530) 621-5355

Property Owner's Name and Address: N/A

Project Applicant's/Agent's Name and Address: N/A

Project Engineer's / Architect's Name and Address: N/A

Project Location: Unincorporated Area of the County

Assessor's Parcel Number(s): N/A

Zoning: N/A

Section: N/A **T:** N/A **R:** N/A

General Plan Designation: N/A

Description of Project: Amend the County Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance increasing the threshold requirement for a Grading permit from 50 cubic yards to 250 cubic yards.

Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)

1. Building Services
2. Department of Transportation
3. El Dorado County Air Quality Management District
4. El Dorado County Resource Conservation District
5. El Dorado County Surveyor
6. El Dorado County Ag Department

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

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

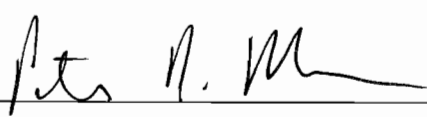
DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

Signature:  Date: 6/1/2010

Printed Name: Shawna Purvines For: El Dorado County

Signature:  Date: 6/1/10

Printed Name: Peter Maurer For: El Dorado County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction

This Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts resulting from a residential and commercial development.

Project Description

The "project" would update of the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (Section 15.14 of the County Code) and Volume III of the El Dorado County Design and Improvement Standards Manual, increasing the exemptions threshold to activate a grading permit from 50 cubic yards to 250 cubic yards.

Project Location and Surrounding Land Uses

Unincorporated area of El Dorado County

Project Characteristics

The Grading Ordinance regulates grading within the unincorporated area of El Dorado County. The Grading Ordinance's purpose is to safeguard life, limb, health, property and public welfare, and prevent the pollution of watercourses. The Grading Ordinance ensures that the intended use of a graded site is consistent with the El Dorado County General Plan, any Specific Plans adopted thereto, the adopted Storm Water Management Plan, California Fire Safe Standards and applicable El Dorado County ordinances including the Zoning Ordinance and the California Building Code.

Project Schedule and Approvals

This Initial Study is being circulated for public and agency review for a 30-day period. Written comments on the Initial Study should be submitted to the project planner indicated in the Summary section, above.

Following the close of the written comment period, the Initial Study will be considered by the Lead Agency in a public meeting and will be certified if it is determined to be in compliance with CEQA. The Lead Agency will also determine whether to approve the project.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is a fair argument that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of Mitigation Measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the Mitigation Measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

5. CEQA Section 15152. Tiering- El Dorado County 2004 General Plan EIR

The EIR for the County General Plan was developed as a program EIR that was "intended to provide information at a more general level of detail" (EDC 2004). As described in the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168, a program EIR can be used to simplify the task of preparing environmental documents on later parts of the program (e.g., adoption of a revised Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance). As a result and where appropriate, this document incorporates by reference information and conclusions of the General Plan EIR, including topics on regional influences, secondary effects, cumulative impacts, and other factors that would apply to the plan as a whole. The General Plan EIR is available for review at the El Dorado County Development Services Department located at 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667.

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

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

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

9. The explanation of each issue should identify:

- a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
- b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

I. AESTHETICS. <i>Would the project:</i>			
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?		X	
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?		X	
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character quality of the site and its surroundings?		X	
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect to Visual Resources would result in the introduction of physical features that are not characteristic of the surrounding development, substantially change the natural landscape, or obstruct an identified public scenic vista.

- a. **Scenic Vista.**
- b. **Scenic Resources.**
- c. **Visual Character.**
- d. **Light and Glare.**

FINDING: There is no specific project associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and any other relevant codes and ordinances. Any grading that causes or has the potential to result in a cut or fill that could potentially endanger any structure intended for human or animal occupancy, threaten the stability of any public road, or obstruct any watercourse or drainage conduit are prohibited. If one or more of the above conditions exists or has the potential to occur regardless of amount of cubic yards disturbed, grading activity is required to stop and begin corrective action immediately. Therefore, a less than significant impact is expected with the project either directly or indirectly.

<p>II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by California Department of forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forrest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>			
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Locally Important Farmland (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?			X
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?			X
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?			X
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?			X
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?			X

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect to Agricultural Resources would occur if:

- There is a conversion of choice agricultural land to nonagricultural use, or impairment of the agricultural productivity of agricultural land;
- The amount of agricultural land in the County is substantially reduced; or
- Agricultural uses are subjected to impacts from adjacent incompatible land uses.

- a. **Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.** No Impact
- b. **Williamson Act Contract.** The project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, and would not affect any properties under a Williamson Act Contract. There would be no impact.
- c. **Non-Agricultural Use.** No conversion of agriculture land would occur as a result of the project. There would be no impact.
- d. **Loss of Forest land or Conversion of Forest land.** No Impact.
- e. **Conversion of Prime Farmland or Forest Land.** No Impact

FINDING The General Plan requires agricultural grading activities that convert one acre or more of undisturbed vegetation to agricultural cropland to obtain an agricultural grading permit through the El Dorado County Agricultural Commissioner’s office. All agricultural practices, including fuel reduction and fire protection, that do not change the natural contour of the land and that use the “best management practices” as adopted by the Board of Supervisors shall be exempt from obtaining the agricultural grading permit. For this “Agriculture” category, there would be no impact.

III. AIR QUALITY. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X	
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X	
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect on Air Quality would occur if:

- Emissions of ROG and No_x, will result in construction or operation emissions greater than 82lbs/day (See Table 5.2, of the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District – CEQA Guide);
- Emissions of PM₁₀, CO, SO₂ and No_x, as a result of construction or operation emissions, will result in ambient pollutant concentrations in excess of the applicable National or State Ambient Air Quality

Standard (AAQS). Special standards for ozone, CO, and visibility apply in the Lake Tahoe Air Basin portion of the County; or

- Emissions of toxic air contaminants cause cancer risk greater than 1 in 1 million (10 in 1 million if best available control technology for toxics is used) or a non-cancer Hazard Index greater than 1. In addition, the project must demonstrate compliance with all applicable District, State and U.S. EPA regulations governing toxic and hazardous emissions.
- a. **Air Quality Plan.** El Dorado County has adopted the *Rules and Regulations of the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District* (February 15, 2000) establishing rules and standards for the reduction of stationary source air pollutants (ROG/VOC, NOx, and O3). Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and any other relevant codes and ordinances. Any activities associated to grading, would pose a less than significant impact on air quality because the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) requires the implementation of a Fugitive Dust Mitigation (FDM) if emissions exceed allowable thresholds. A FDM, if required, would address grading measures and operation of equipment to minimize and reduce the level of defined particulate matter exposure and/or emissions below a level of significance.
 - b. **Air Quality Standards.** There is no project associated with the amendment. The proposed amendment may cause air quality impacts, which may contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation during certain types of grading activity. However, any grading activities that generate dust emissions exceeding either the state or federal ambient air quality standards for PM10 would be required to meet Air Pollution Control District requirements. This is a less-than-significant impact.
 - c. **Cumulative Impacts.** Less than significant as all grading activity is subject to the *Rules and Regulations of the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District* (February 15, 2000).
 - d. **Sensitive Receptors.** Less than significant as all grading activity is subject to the *Rules and Regulations of the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District* (February 15, 2000).
 - e. **Objectionable Odors.** Less than significant as all grading activity is subject to the *Rules and Regulations of the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District* (February 15, 2000).

FINDING The proposed amendment would not affect the implementation of regional air quality regulations or management plans. The amendment may result in increased emissions due to potential grading activity as part of construction projects; however, projects are required to apply for a building permit that include existing regulations and would reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level. Additional impacts to air quality would be less than significant. The proposed project would not cause substantial adverse effects to air quality, nor exceed established significance thresholds for air quality impacts.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
b. 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife			X	

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i>				
Service?				
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			X	
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X	
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X	
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?			X	

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect on Biological Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Substantially reduce or diminish habitat for native fish, wildlife or plants;
- Cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels;
- Threaten to eliminate a native plant or animal community;
- Reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal;
- Substantially affect a rare or endangered species of animal or plant or the habitat of the species; or
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species.

a – f No significant impact

FINDING: There is no specific project associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and any other relevant codes and ordinances. Any grading that causes or has the potential to result in a cut or fill that could potentially endanger any structure intended for human or animal occupancy, threaten the stability of any public road, or obstruct any watercourse or drainage conduit are prohibited. If one or more of the above conditions exists or has the potential to occur, grading activity is required to stop and begin corrective action immediately. Therefore, a less than significant impact is expected with the amendment.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?			X	
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?			X	
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X	

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. *Would the project:*

d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

X

Discussion:

In general, significant impacts are those that diminish the integrity, research potential, or other characteristics that make a historical or cultural resource significant or important. A substantial adverse effect on Cultural Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Disrupt, alter, or adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or a property or historic or cultural significant to a community or ethnic or social group; or a paleontological site except as a part of a scientific study;
- Affect a landmark of cultural/historical importance;
- Conflict with established recreational, educational, religious or scientific uses of the area; or
- Conflict with adopted environmental plans and goals of the community where it is located.

FINDING: There is no specific project associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and any other relevant codes and ordinances. Therefore, a less than significant impact is expected with the amendment.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. *Would the project:*

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

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

X

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

X

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

X

iv) Landslides?

X

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

X

c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

X

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) creating substantial risks to life or property?

X

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

X

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect on Geologic Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Allow substantial development of structures or features in areas susceptible to seismically induced hazards such as groundshaking, liquefaction, seiche, and/or slope failure where the risk to people and property resulting from earthquakes could not be reduced through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards;
 - Allow substantial development in areas subject to landslides, slope failure, erosion, subsidence, settlement, and/or expansive soils where the risk to people and property resulting from such geologic hazards could not be reduced through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards; or
 - Allow substantial grading and construction activities in areas of known soil instability, steep slopes, or shallow depth to bedrock where such activities could result in accelerated erosion and sedimentation or exposure of people, property, and/or wildlife to hazardous conditions (e.g., blasting) that could not be mitigated through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards.
- a. **Seismic Hazards.**
- i) According to the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, there are no Alquist- Priolo fault zones within El Dorado County. The nearest such faults are located in Alpine and Butte Counties. There would be no impact.
 - ii) The potential for seismic ground shaking from grading activity of 250 cubic yards in the unincorporated area of the County would be considered less than significant.
 - iii) El Dorado County is considered an area with low potential for seismic activity. Impacts would be less than significant.
 - iv) All grading activities onsite would be required to comply with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance. Compliance with the Ordinance would reduce potential landslide impacts to less than significant.
- b. **Soil Erosion.** All grading activities with or without a permit are required to comply with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance and any other relevant codes and ordinances. The Grading Ordinance allows the Director to require, suspend or revoke a permit for good cause. Corrective action is required immediately. Impacts would be less than significant.
- c. **Geologic Hazards.** All grading activities would comply with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance, impacts would be less than significant.
- d. **Expansive Soils.** All grading activities would comply with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance; impacts would be less than significant.
- e. **Septic Capability.** There would be no impacts related to septic systems.

FINDING: There is no specific project associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and any other relevant codes and ordinances. For this 'Geology and Soils' category impacts would be less than significant.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X	
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			X	

FINDING: There is no specific project associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and any other relevant codes and ordinances. For this, Greenhouse Gas Emission category, there is a less than significant impact expected with the amendment either directly or indirectly.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X	
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X	
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X	
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			X	

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect due to Hazards or Hazardous Materials would occur if implementation of the project would:

- Expose people and property to hazards associated with the use, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials where the risk of such exposure could not be reduced through implementation of Federal, State, and local laws and regulations;

- Expose people and property to risks associated with wildland fires where such risks could not be reduced through implementation of proper fuel management techniques, buffers and landscape setbacks, structural design features, and emergency access; or
- Expose people to safety hazards as a result of former on-site mining operations.

FINDING: There is no specific project associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and any other relevant codes and ordinances. The proposed amendment would not expose the area to hazards relating to the use, storage, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials. Any proposed use of hazardous materials would be subject to review and approval of a Hazardous Materials Business Plan issued by the Environmental Management. For this ‘Hazards and Hazardous Materials’ category, impacts would be less than significant.

XI. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X	
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would 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 would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X	
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or -off-site?			X	
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X	
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			X	
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				X
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				X
j. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect on Hydrology and Water Quality would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Expose residents to flood hazards by being located within the 100-year floodplain as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
 - Cause substantial change in the rate and amount of surface runoff leaving the project site ultimately causing a substantial change in the amount of water in a stream, river or other waterway;
 - Substantially interfere with groundwater recharge;
 - Cause degradation of water quality (temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and/or other typical stormwater pollutants) in the project area; or
 - Cause degradation of groundwater quality in the vicinity of the project site.
- a. **Water Quality Standards.** Project related construction activities would be required to adhere to the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance which would require Best Management Practices (BMP's) to minimize degradation of water quality during any grading activity. Impacts would be less than significant.
- b. **Groundwater Supplies.** Grading activities may have a short-term impact as a result of groundwater discharge, however, adherence to the Grading Ordinance would ensure that impacts would be less than significant.
- c-f. **Drainage Patterns.** Any grading activity would be required to conform to the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance. Impacts would be less than significant.
- g-j. **Flood-related Hazards.** The risk of exposure to seiche, tsunami, or mudflows would be remote. There would be no impact.

FINDING: There is no project associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and any other relevant codes and ordinances. For this "Hydrology" category, impacts would be less than significant.

X. LAND USE PLANNING. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Physically divide an established community?				X
b. 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?				X
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect on Land Use would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in the conversion of Prime Farmland as defined by the State Department of Conservation;
- Result in conversion of land that either contains choice soils or which the County Agricultural Commission has identified as suitable for sustained grazing, provided that such lands were not assigned urban or other nonagricultural use in the Land Use Map;
- Result in conversion of undeveloped open space to more intensive land uses;

- Result in a use substantially incompatible with the existing surrounding land uses; or
- Conflict with adopted environmental plans, policies, and goals of the community.

FINDING: For the ‘Land Use Planning’ category, the project would have no impact.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			X	X
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?			X	X

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect on Mineral Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in obstruction of access to, and extraction of mineral resources classified MRZ-2x, or result in land use compatibility conflicts with mineral extraction operations.

a-b. Mineral Resources. There are no known mineral resources on the site according to the General Plan. There are no known mineral resources of local importance on or near the project site. There would be no impact.

FINDING: There is no specific project associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP), Reclamation Plan and any other relevant codes and ordinances. There would be no impact to this ‘Mineral Resources’ category.

XII.NOISE. <i>Would the project result in:</i>				
a. 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?			X	
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise level?				X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect due to Noise would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in short-term construction noise that creates noise exposures to surrounding noise sensitive land uses in excess of 60dBA CNEL;
 - Result in long-term operational noise that creates noise exposures in excess of 60 dBA CNEL at the adjoining property line of a noise sensitive land use and the background noise level is increased by 3dBA, or more; or
 - Results in noise levels inconsistent with the performance standards contained in Table 6-1 and Table 6-2 in the El Dorado County General Plan.
- a. **Noise Exposures.** No project is associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, and any other relevant codes and ordinances..
- b. **Ground borne Shaking:** There is no specific project associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activity may generate ground borne vibration or shaking events. This potential impact would be limited to project construction. Adherence to the time limitations of construction activities to 7:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Friday and 8:00am to 5:00pm on weekends and federally recognized holidays would limit the ground shaking effects in the project area. Impacts would be less than significant.
- c. **Short-term Noise Increases.** There is no specific project associated with the proposed amendment. The temporary or short-term noise increases from any grading activity would potentially exceed the thresholds established by the General Plan. However, any grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, and any other relevant codes and ordinances. Adherence to these codes and ordinances would reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.
- d. **Long-term Noise Increases.** No development is proposed as part of the amendment and the extent of future grading activity is unknown. Impacts of the amendment would be less than significant.
- e-f. **Aircraft Noise.** No Impact

FINDING: For this 'Noise' Category, impacts would be less than significant.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (i.e., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (i.e., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect on Population and Housing would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Create substantial growth or concentration in population;

- Create a more substantial imbalance in the County’s current jobs to housing ratio; or
- Conflict with adopted goals and policies set forth in applicable planning documents.

FINDING: There would be no impacts to population growth and to population or housing displacement. For this “Population and Housing” category, impacts would be less than significant.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES. <i>Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:</i>				
a. Fire protection?				X
b. Police protection?				X
c. Schools?				X
d. Parks?				X
e. Other government services?				X

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect on Public Services would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Substantially increase or expand the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services without increasing staffing and equipment to meet the Department’s/District’s goal of 1.5 firefighters per 1,000 residents and 2 firefighters per 1,000 residents, respectively;
- Substantially increase or expand the demand for public law enforcement protection without increasing staffing and equipment to maintain the Sheriff’s Department goal of one sworn officer per 1,000 residents;
- Substantially increase the public school student population exceeding current school capacity without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand in services;
- Place a demand for library services in excess of available resources;
- Substantially increase the local population without dedicating a minimum of 5 acres of developed parklands for every 1,000 residents; or
- Be inconsistent with County adopted goals, objectives or policies.

FINDING: For this ‘Public Services’ category, the amendment would have no impact.

XV. RECREATION.				
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
b. 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?				X

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect on Recreational Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Substantially increase the local population without dedicating a minimum of 5 acres of developed parklands for every 1,000 residents; or
- Substantially increase the use of neighborhood or regional parks in the area such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur.

a. **Parks.** The amendment would not result in an increase usage of parks and recreational facilities.

b. **Recreational Services.** The amendment would not impact recreation services or sites.

FINDING: The amendment will have no impacts to park facilities or recreation services.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?				X
b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				X
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	
f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				X

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect on Traffic would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system;
- Generate traffic volumes which cause violations of adopted level of service standards (project and cumulative); or
- Result in, or worsen, Level of Service “F” traffic congestion during weekday, peak-hour periods on any highway, road, interchange or intersection in the unincorporated areas of the county as a result of a residential development project of 5 or more units.

FINDING: Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP), County Design Manual and any other relevant codes and ordinances. The impacts of the amendment related to Transportation/Traffic category would be less than significant.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
b. 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?				X
c. 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?			X	
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
e. 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?				X
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			X	

Discussion:

A substantial adverse effect on Utilities and Service Systems would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Breach published national, state, or local standards relating to solid waste or litter control;
- Substantially increase the demand for potable water in excess of available supplies or distribution capacity without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand, or is unable to provide an adequate on-site water supply, including treatment, storage and distribution;
- Substantially increase the demand for the public collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand, or is unable to provide for adequate on-site wastewater system; or
- Result in demand for expansion of power or telecommunications service facilities without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased or expanded demand.

a. – b. No Impacts.

c. **New Stormwater Facilities.** Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP), County Design Manual and any other relevant codes and ordinances. Impacts would be less than significant.

d. – g. No Impacts

FINDING: There is no specific project associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County

Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP), and any other relevant codes and ordinances. Impacts would be less than significant.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. Does the project:				
a. 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?			X	
b. 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)?			X	
c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X	

Discussion:

- a. There is no specific project associated with the proposed amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP), and any other relevant codes and ordinances. The amendment may have the potential to significantly affect fish or wildlife species. Compliance with all related codes and ordinances would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant.
- b. There is no project association with this amendment. Any cumulative impacts could not be determined as a result of the amendment. Grading activities (with or without a permit) are required to comply with all other requirements of the Grading Ordinance, CEQA, the County Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP), and any other relevant codes and ordinances. Impacts would be less than significant.
- c. Based on the discussion contained in this document, potentially significant impacts to human beings would not occur with respect to Air Quality and Noise. Adherence to related County policies and ordinances would reduce potential impacts to less than significant. As discussed in the noise section, any increases would be temporary and would not exceed the thresholds for interior or exterior noise as established by the County General Plan. The proposed amendment would not result in substantial impacts to human beings. Any projects or future development resulting from the amendment would require permits or project specific environmental review. Impacts would be less than significant.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCE LIST

The following documents are available at El Dorado County Planning Services in Placerville.

El Dorado County General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report
Volume 1 of 3 – EIR Text, Chapter 1 through Section 5.6
Volume 2 of 3 – EIR Text, Section 5.7 through Chapter 9
Appendix A
Volume 3 of 3 – Technical Appendices B through H

El Dorado County General Plan – A Plan for Managed Growth and Open Roads; A Plan for Quality Neighborhoods and Traffic Relief (Adopted July 19, 2004)

Findings of Fact of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors for the General Plan

El Dorado County Zoning Ordinance (Title 17 - County Code)

County of El Dorado Drainage Manual (Resolution No. 67-97, Adopted March 14, 1995)

County of El Dorado Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (Ordinance No. 3883, amended Ordinance Nos. 4061, 4167, 4170)

El Dorado County Design and Improvement Standards Manual

El Dorado County Subdivision Ordinances (Title 16 - County Code)

Soil Survey of El Dorado Area, California

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutes (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.)

Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 15000, et seq.)