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**DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR THE  
EAST GRIDLEY ROAD SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT**

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**CITY OF GRIDLEY**  
685 KENTUCKY STREET  
GRIDLEY, CA 96948

**AUGUST 2010**

**Prepared by:**





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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
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*Prepared for:*

**CITY OF GRIDLEY**  
685 KENTUCKY STREET  
GRIDLEY, CA 96948  
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*Prepared by:*

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**AUGUST 2010**



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This document is an Initial Study, which provides justification for the City of Gridley to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Gridley 5-Acre Solar Array Project (proposed project). The Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*, and the State CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code Regulations Section 15000 *et seq.*

An Initial Study is conducted by a Lead Agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064, an EIR must be prepared if an Initial Study indicates that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment. A Mitigated Negative Declaration is a written statement prepared by the Lead Agency describing the reasons why the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore would not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when:

*b) The initial study identifies potentially significant effects, but:*

- (1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed mitigated negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur; and*
- (2) There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.*

## 1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over a proposed project. Where two or more public agencies will be involved with a project, CEQA Guidelines Section 15051 provides criteria for identifying the lead agency. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." Based on the criteria above, the City of Gridley serves as the lead agency for the proposed Gridley 13-Acre Solar Array Project.

## 1.3 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

This document is divided into the following sections:

**1.0 Introduction** - This section provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

**2.0 Project Information** - This section provides general information regarding the project including the project title, lead agency and address, contact person, brief description of the project location, general plan land use designations, zoning designation, identification of surrounding land uses, and identification of other public agencies whose review, approval, and/or permits that may be required. Also provided is a checklist of the

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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environmental factors that are potentially affected by the project. Finally, this section provides the environmental determination for the project, identifying that a mitigated negative declaration will be prepared for the project.

**3.0 Project Description** - This section provides a detailed description of the proposed project and identifies, if agreeable, project alternatives considered and not selected.

**4.0 Environmental Checklist** - This section describes the environmental setting/overview for each of the environmental subject areas, evaluates a range of impacts classified as "no impact," "less than significant," "less than significant with mitigation incorporated," and "potentially significant" in response to the environmental checklist. Each environmental checklist question is discussed and analyzed. Where appropriate, mitigation measures are identified to mitigate potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

**Section 4.0** contains the following environmental issue subsections as well as the CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Aesthetics                       | 10. Land Use and Planning              |
| 2. Agriculture and Forest Resources | 11. Mineral Resources                  |
| 3. Air Quality                      | 12. Noise                              |
| 4. Biological Resources             | 13. Population and Housing             |
| 5. Cultural Resources               | 14. Public Services                    |
| 6. Geology and Soils                | 15. Recreation                         |
| 7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions         | 16. Transportation/Traffic             |
| 8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials  | 17. Utilities and Service Systems      |
| 9. Hydrology and Water Quality      | 18. Mandatory Findings of Significance |

Each environmental issue subsection is organized as follows:

The **Overview** summarizes the existing conditions at the regional, sub-regional and local level as appropriate, and identifies applicable plans and technical information for the particular issue area.

The **Checklist Discussion/Analysis** provides a detailed discussion of each of the environmental issue checklist questions. The level of significance for each topic is determined by considering the predicted magnitude of the impact. Four levels of impact significance are evaluated in this initial study:

- **No Impact:** No project-related impact to the environment would occur with project development.
- **Less than Significant Impact:** The impact would not result in a substantial and adverse change in the environment. This impact level does not require mitigation measures.
- **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated:** An impact that may have a "substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15382). However, the incorporation of mitigation

measures would reduce the project-related impact to a less than significant level.

- **Potentially Significant Impact:** An impact that is "potentially significant" as described above, but for which mitigation measures cannot be immediately suggested or the effectiveness of potential mitigation measures cannot be determined with certainty. In such cases, an EIR is required.

Where appropriate, a **Mitigation Measures** section is included that lists mitigation measures for impacts identified as "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated." These measures are designed to avoid, minimize, rectify, compensate for, reduce or eliminate identified potential impacts.

The **Conclusions** section summarizes the potential impacts and mitigation measures of the project on an environmental issue. If mitigation measures are recommended, the potential impacts after the implementation of these measures are assessed.

**5.0 Special Studies and References** - This section lists all the special studies and other documents either used or referred to in the Initial Study, and persons consulted during preparation of this document.



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## 2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

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## 2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

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<b>Project Title:</b>	East Gridley Road Solar Array Project
<b>Lead Agency Name and Address:</b>	City of Gridley 685 Kentucky Street Gridley, CA 95948
<b>Contact Person and Phone Number:</b>	Andrea Redamonti Community Development Director (530) 846-3631
<b>Project Location:</b>	The project site is located in Section 4, T17N, R3W, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian and appears on the 7.5-minute USGS Gridley, CA Quad Map. (APN 024-220-023) (Latitude 39°21'47.73"N, Longitude 121°38'16"W); and within the City's existing wastewater treatment plant.
<b>Project Sponsor's Name and Address:</b>	City of Gridley 685 Kentucky Street Gridley, CA 96948
<b>General Plan Designation:</b>	Industrial
<b>Zoning:</b>	General Industrial (M-2)
<b>Summary of Project:</b> (See also Section 3.0, Project Description)	The project involves the installation of a solar array system to serve the City of Gridley's Wastewater Treatment Plant.
<b>Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:</b>	The project is adjacent to and north of the City's wastewater treatment plant along East Gridley Road and is surrounded by orchards and field crops and the Feather River.
<b>Other agencies whose approval is required:</b> (e.g. permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)	A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Permit.

## 2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

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### Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is reduced to less than significant through the use of a mitigation measure as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions           | <input type="checkbox"/> Population, Housing, Environmental Justice    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources          | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards/Hazardous Materials        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Circulation                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils               | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

### CEQA 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 the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. 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 significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a "potentially significant impact" or "less than significant impact after mitigation." 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, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.

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**Andrea Redamonti**  
Community Development Director

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August 13, 2010  
Date



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## 3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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### 3.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND OBJECTIVES

The City of Gridley is located along Highway 99 in southern Butte County in Northern California, approximately 30 miles south of the City of Chico and approximately 60 miles northeast of the City of Sacramento. The project is located east of the City, outside the City limits, on the Feather River, and within the City's wastewater treatment plant area. The project is located in Sections 3 and 4, Township 17 North, Range 3 West, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, Gridley CA quad [Latitude 39°21'47.73"N, Longitude 121°38'16.97"W].

### 3.2 PROJECT FEATURES

The project site is within the City's wastewater treatment plant parcel which contains an orchard, bound by wastewater treatment percolation ponds to the south, an agricultural industrial use to the east, the Feather River to the west and East Gridley Road to the north. A packing plant is located adjacent to the parcel to the east as are more orchards. (**Figure 3.0-1, Project Location**).

The project will be tied to the existing electric grid and is intended to offset the needs of the City of Gridley Wastewater Treatment Plant. The City has determined that an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is the appropriate CEQA document for this project.

#### SOLAR ARRAY

The City of Gridley is proposing installation of a solar array system on approximately thirteen (13) acres to offset the electrical needs of the City of Gridley's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The proposed array will be 750 KW DC (kilowatts direct current) in size and will produce approximately 1,590,000 hours (kwh) of energy per year and may be expanded at some point in the future to utilize the entire 13-acre parcel. (**Figure 3.0-2, Project Site Plan**)

The project will result in the installation of a number of photovoltaic solar panels throughout the property, which will likely be single-axis solar trackers, an example of which is shown in **Photo 3.1**. Solar panels will rotate east to west around the horizontal center axis. The proposed panels will likely be mounted atop an 8-foot tall steel post driven into the ground 5 to 10 feet below grade, depending on the soil conditions at the site. The solar panels, mounts and installation techniques will be engineered to



**Photo 3.1:** Dual axis solar tracker

### **3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

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adequately withstand winds within the Gridley area and to meet the structural requirements of the California Building Code.

All panels will be connected via underground conduit, located approximately 6-12 inches below the ground surface. Mechanical interconnects will be used to synchronize panel movement. Conduit will be connected to an inverter which converts direct current (DC) power as generated by the panels to alternating current (AC) power which can then be tied into the existing electric grid. The project will likely require four 600-volt inverters. Satcon PowerGate Plus PV Inverters will likely be utilized. Each inverter will be at a maximum 8'x11.5'x3.5' (HxWxD), and noise production will be less than 65 decibels (dB).

The project area will be fenced with 6- to 7-foot tall chain link fence, and a security system and gate will be installed to secure the project area. The solar array will be operated and maintained by the City of Gridley. The panels will need to be periodically washed to improve performance.

#### **DRAINAGE AND EROSION CONTROL MEASURES**

The project site is relatively level and currently contains a walnut orchard. Project improvements will require removal and disposal of the existing walnut orchard with minimal grading. It is anticipated that trees will be cut, and the stumps will be excavated according to standard orchard removal processes set by the City.

Drainage is characterized by infiltration, and there are no major drainage ways within the project area. The project will not change the drainage pattern of the site. Upon completion of the project, it is anticipated that less than 10% of the project site will be converted from pervious to impervious surfaces. Following installation of solar panels, the project area will be vegetated with native grasses to aid in the infiltration of stormwater onsite, and no off-site drainage is expected.

#### **FLOODPLAIN**

The project site is located within Flood Zone A [area inundated by 100-year flood, no base elevation] as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA, Map No. 06007C1110C, June 1998) and will require the solar panel system be located at least one foot above the 100-year flood water elevation.

#### **ACCESS**

Access to the site is via the existing wastewater treatment plant and boat ramp access road off East Gridley Road (on the east bank of the Feather River). The access road runs through the project to access other public facilities in the area.



Figure 3.0-1  
Project Location



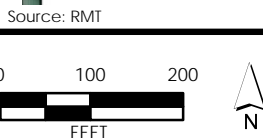




MATERIAL LIST			
ITEM	QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION
1	3948	EA	PANEL: 230 W MODULE
2	69	EA	RACKING: WATTSUN MICRO MW: 56 PANELS PER TRACKER
3	3	EA	RACKING: WATTSUN MICRO MW: 28 PANELS PER TRACKER
4	1	EA	INVERTER: POWERGATE PLUS 500 kW SATCON
5	1	EA	INVERTER: POWERGATE PLUS 250 kW SATCON
6	TBD	EA	TRANSFORMER:
7	TBD	EA	SWITCHGEAR:
8	TBD	LF	AC CABLE:
9	TBD	LF	DC CABLE:
10	2474	LF	FENCING:
11	3498	LF	ACCESS ROAD:

- NOTES**
- 0.75 MW LAYOUT IS SHOWN.
  - LOCATION OF POWER LINE AND UTILITY POLES IS APPROXIMATE.

**NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**



**Figure 3.0-2**  
Project Site Plan  
**PMC**





### 3.3 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

It is proposed that construction of the solar array will take approximately four months time, and will begin in the fall of 2010 and continue until the spring of 2011.

#### CONSTRUCTION METHODS

Construction will consist of removal of the orchard and any vegetation that has established, installation of steel supports, and installation of solar panels. The solar panels will arrive via semi-truck, partially assembled. Additionally, trenching for the installation of conduit between panels will occur.

#### STAGING AREAS

During construction, it is contemplated that the City will stage construction equipment and materials on the project parcel, which is owned by the City. The City also owns a parcel adjacent to and west of the project area that may be utilized for construction staging outside of the 100' buffer for valley elderberry bushes present on the site. No permanent work would be done at staging areas. The only activities that would occur on these sites would be for staging, storage, fueling, and maintenance of equipment. All deliveries and activities in this staging area would occur during normal business hours and would be structured so that they would not substantially obstruct traffic or affect noise levels. No hazardous or flammable materials would be stored at the site in unsecured locations. Only authorized project staff would be allowed on the site.

### 3.4 PROJECT APPROVALS

This project as proposed requires the disturbance of land and therefore may be subject to a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Pollution Prevention Permit (SWPPP) from the Regional Water Quality Control Board if greater than one acre of land is disturbed as a result of the project.

The solar system project is located adjacent to the Feather River and will have to comply with the Basin Plan for the Central Valley Region, although it is not anticipated that the project will impact this watershed.

### 3.5 RELATIONSHIP OF PROJECT TO OTHER PLANS

#### CITY OF GRIDLEY GENERAL PLAN

The City's General Plan contains the following policies and implementation programs relating to the project:

#### Goals:

Conservation Goal 4: To minimize negative impacts to prehistoric and historic resources.

### 3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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Conservation Goal 6: To encourage local generation and use of renewable energy.

Policies:

Conservation Policy 4.4: The City will require presence of a professional archaeologist to monitor all ground-disturbing activities for improvements to the City's wastewater treatment plant and other City-sanctioned earth disturbing activities within 150 meters of the Feather River.

Conservation Policy 6.1: The City's Electrical Utility will expand local generation and use of renewable energy sources for electricity in Gridley and the share of renewable energy in the City's overall portfolio.

Conservation Policy 6.2: The City will promote development and use of renewable energy, including not only hydroelectric power, but also solar and fuel derived from local agricultural products or agricultural waste

Conservation Policy 6.4: The City will allow flexibility in development standards, where necessary, to encourage construction of active solar systems or combination shade structures/active solar systems on private property.

Conservation Policy 6.8: The City will proactively pursue collaborative projects with regional, State, and federal agencies to produce renewable energy in Gridley.

The project is currently designated Industrial (M) land use and is zoned General Industrial (M-2). The erection of electric facilities is a permitted use within this zone district. (Gridley General Plan and Municipal Code)

#### BASIN PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

The City of Gridley and the proposed project site is located within the Feather River Basin, which is under the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region. In 1998, the RWQCB adopted the fourth edition of the *Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region*. The *Basin Plan* defines existing and potential beneficial uses of surface and groundwaters in the Sacramento River Basin, including the Feather River Basin, and sets forth water quality objectives for these waters.

## 3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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The solar array project is located within the Feather River watershed, which ultimately flows to the Sacramento River. Existing or potential beneficial uses of the Feather River and the Sacramento River include municipal and domestic water supply, power generation, recreation, cold freshwater habitat, spawning habitat and wildlife habitat. The water quality objectives include standards for bacteria, chemical constituents, color, dissolved oxygen, pH, sediment and suspended materials, temperature and turbidity (*Basin Plan*).

### AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Butte County is located within the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin. Also included in the Air Basin are Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, Yuba and Sutter Counties. These counties have adopted a uniform air quality attainment plan, which was updated in 2006. The California Clean Air Act of 1988 requires each air pollution control district and air quality management district to attain and maintain California's ambient air quality standards. The Air Quality Element of both the Gridley and Butte County General Plans identify goals, objectives, policies and implementation strategies for air quality. The Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) is the local authority for implementing and enforcing air quality programs. These measures would apply to construction-related emissions as well as to emissions related to project operations.

### SOLAR RIGHTS ACT - AB 2473

This law became effective on January 1, 2005 and amends the Solar Rights Act of 1978 (Civil code section 714, Health and Safety Code section 17959.1, Government code Section 65850.5) It is the intent of this law that "local agencies not adopt ordinances that create unreasonable barriers to the installation of solar energy systems, including, but not limited to, design review for aesthetic purposes." Local authorities shall approve applications through permit issuance and can only restrict solar installations based on health and safety reasons. Additional key changes limit aesthetic solar restrictions to those that cost less than \$2,000 and limits a building official's review of solar installations to only those items that relate to specific health and safety requirements or local, state and federal law.

### 3.6 SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

The project has been designed to avoid or minimize the significant environmental impacts associated with construction and operation of the project. For some of the environmental impacts that have been identified as being potentially significant, mitigation measures are outlined in this document. These mitigation measures would reduce the environmental impacts to levels that are less than significant. As a result, the project is expected to meet the standards for a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

This Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is closely related to and is "tiered" upon analysis contained in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the City

### **3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

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of Gridley 2030 General Plan. The General Plan Land Use Element and Conservation Element include policies that encourage future urban development to be centralized within the City limits, the Sphere of Influence and the City's Planned Growth Area, and the Area of Concern, in an effort to encourage more compact growth and preservation of important agricultural lands elsewhere in the County. As identified on page 2 of the Land Use Element 'the City will focus new development during the General Plan time horizon within Gridley's proposed portion of the Area of Concern (located between the cities of Gridley and Biggs). Section 6.0 of the Draft 2030 General Plan EIR thoroughly analyzes the cumulative effects of the adoption of the 2030 General Plan. This analysis identifies the conversion of agricultural lands that will result due to the adoption of the General Plan and identifies this impact as significant and unavoidable, since no feasible mitigation or fee structure can adequately offset the impacts associated with conversion. At the time of General Plan adoption, a Statement of Overriding Consideration was made regarding this impact to agricultural land conversion to urban uses, and Findings of Fact were made.

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## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>1. AESTHETICS.</b> Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 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"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### OVERVIEW:

The City of Gridley is located within the northeastern extent of the Sacramento Valley, in the southwest portion of Butte County. The City is located approximately 2 miles west of the Feather River with the Northern Sierra Nevada foothills to the east. West of the City is the Sacramento River Valley rising to the Coast Range. The Sutter Buttes, which are located southwest of Gridley, are visible throughout most areas of the City.

The project is located northeast of the City to the east of SR 99 along East Gridley Road. East Gridley Road connects Highway 70 to Highway 99 and Gridley. The Colusa Highway/East Gridley Road is a major corridor. (EDAW City General Plan, Community Character and Design Element, pgs 4 and 43, 2009).

Trees and other riparian vegetation are found along the banks of the Feather River. The Feather River, associated riparian areas and the adjacent agricultural fields are the most scenic portion of the project area. The City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is located immediately to the east of the project and the solar array will be located within the WWTP. No scenic roadways are identified within the project area.

The project will result in the removal of a walnut orchard owned by the City and possibly several oak trees. The City of Gridley does not currently have a tree ordinance.

The Solar Rights Act amended in 2004 by AB 2473 prohibits local governments from restricting the installation of a solar energy system based on aesthetics. Local authorities shall approve applications through permit issuance and can only restrict solar installations based on health and safety reasons. Additional key changes limits aesthetic solar restrictions to those that cost less than \$2,000 and limits a building official's review of solar installations to only those items that relate to specific health and safety requirements or local, state and federal law.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) The project would involve the installation of a solar panel system. The parcel contains a walnut orchard which will need to be removed in order to accommodate the solar equipment. The project is located in an area of dense vegetation and orchards. Tree removal will be located along East Gridley Road; however, East Gridley Road is not a scenic vista highway. The City considers this impact to be **less than significant**.
- b) See a) above. This impact is considered to be **less than significant**.
- c) See a) above. The removal of the orchard at the project area would have a **less than significant** impact on the visual character of the project area. In addition, the Solar Rights Act amended in 2004 by AB 2473 prohibits local governments from restricting the installation of a solar energy system based on aesthetics. The project will have a **less than significant impact** on the visual character of the project area.
- d) As noted above in c), security lighting will be installed on the property. However, all lights will be a maximum of 25 feet high and will be shielded to direct light to the immediate area. The nearest residence is approximately one-quarter mile from the project area, and dense riparian vegetation within the project area will provide additional shielding to any on-site lighting; therefore, day or nighttime views in the area would not be adversely affected. This impact is considered to be **less than significant**.

### CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO AESTHETICS:

The proposed project will have a **less than significant** impact on aesthetics and visual resources within the project vicinity.



## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p><b>2. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES.</b> 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 Department 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 the 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 Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>				
<p>a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 122200(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4625), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>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?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**OVERVIEW:**

The project is in and surrounded by the unincorporated area of Butte County, though the project site (as a part of the WWTP) is owned and operated by the City of Gridley. The site has is

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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currently in agricultural production in the form of a walnut orchard. The area surrounding the facility is utilized for agricultural purposes and is cultivated in orchard and row crops. Most of the land surrounding Gridley is open space and agricultural land.

The California Department of Conservation manages a Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), which identifies and maps significant farmland. The classification of farmland as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance is based upon the suitability of soils for agricultural production, as determined by a soil survey conducted by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). An FMMP map has been prepared for Butte County, including the Gridley area, and was last updated in 2006.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) The project consists of installation of a solar array system on a City-owned parcel that contains a walnut orchard. The project is bound to the south by the existing wastewater treatment plant, to the west by the Feather River and orchard to the east. The project is entirely within an area mapped as "Farmland of Statewide Importance" by the FMMP (California Department of Conservation, FMMP, 2008). The *City of Gridley Final Environmental Impact Report for the City of Gridley 2030 General Plan* identified that the adoption of the 2030 General Plan for the City of Gridley would result in a net loss of Important Farmland as a result of the conversion of farmland and lands zoned for agricultural use to urban development. The EIR identified this impact as Significant and Unavoidable and a Statement of Override was made at the time the General Plan was adopted by the City Council in December 2009. This Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is closely related to and is "tiered" upon analysis contained in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the City of Gridley 2030 General Plan pursuant to Section 15183 of the CEQA Guidelines. This impact has been thoroughly analyzed by the *City of Gridley Final Environmental Impact Report for the City of Gridley 2030 General Plan*, and no further analysis is required (pursuant to Section 15183 of the CEQA Guidelines). Since the conversion of farmland was thoroughly considered in the 2030 General Plan and the EIR for the General Plan, and the proposed project is consistent with the General Plan, this project will have a **less than significant** impact to important farmlands as identified by the Department of Conservation.
- b) See a) above. The project site is not under any Williamson Act contract. The project area is identified for public uses. The City has determined that renewable energy production is consistent with public land use. Therefore the project has been determined to be consistent with the City's intended use of this site. **No impact.**
- c) See a) above. The project will involve the conversion of an orchard; however, the orchard is owned by the City and is within the boundaries of the City's wastewater treatment plant. In addition, the project is surrounded by the unincorporated area of Butte County. The project will not result in any changes to the existing environment which could result in conflict with existing zoning for or cause rezoning or conversion of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production to non-agricultural uses. **No impact.**
- d) See a) above. The project would not result in the conversion of any forest land. **No impact.**
- e) See a) above. This impact is considered **less than significant.**

### CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES:

The project would have a **less than significant impact** on agricultural resources.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>3. AIR QUALITY.</b> Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### OVERVIEW:

The climate of the project area is characterized by hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. During the summer months from mid-April to mid-October, significant precipitation is unlikely. Temperatures during the summer range from daily maximums approaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit to evening lows in the high 50s and low 60s. During the winter, high temperatures are typically in the 60s with low temperatures in the 30s. Wind direction is primarily north-south, due to the channeling effect of the mountains on each side of the valley. During the summer months, surface air movement is from the south, particularly during the afternoon hours. During the winter months, wind direction is more variable.

The geographical and climatic conditions of Butte County contribute to adverse air quality. The basin area traps pollutants between two mountain ranges to the east and the west. This problem is sometimes exacerbated by a temperature inversion layer that traps air at lower levels below an overlying layer of warmer air. Butte County has been designated as a nonattainment area for state and federal standards for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Butte County was designated as an attainment or unclassified area for all other state and federal ambient air quality standards.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

**TABLE 4.3-1  
BUTTE COUNTY AIR QUALITY DATA**

Year	Highest Measurement		Days Exceeded Ambient Standards			
	Ozone (ppm)	PM <sub>10</sub> (ug/m <sup>3</sup> ) <sup>1</sup>	Federal Ozone	State Ozone	Federal PM <sub>10</sub>	State PM <sub>10</sub> *
2009	0.073	47.7	0	2	0	0.0
2008	0.096	140.8	6	14	0	37.0
2007	0.084	66.1	3	10	0	12.1

Source: California Air Resources Board, Chico-Manzanita Avenue Monitoring Station

<sup>1</sup> State 24-hour average PM<sub>10</sub> measurement.

\* Expected days in exceedance of State ambient air quality standards.

The Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) monitors air quality within the County, and it serves as the lead agency responsible for implementing and enforcing Federal, State, and County air quality regulations. The primary source of air pollution within the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB) is motor vehicles, although some pollution can be attributed to the seasonal burning of agricultural fields and dust from agricultural operations.

In response to pollutants emitted from motor vehicles, the state legislature adopted the California Clean Air Act, which requires local air districts to develop measures to reduce emissions from mobile sources. The BCAQMD has adopted the Indirect Source Review Guidelines (ISR Guidelines) to reduce emissions resulting from vehicular activity and to identify mitigation strategies for new development projects that affect air quality.

### Federal Air Quality Regulation

Under the Federal Clean Air Act of 1970, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for several air pollutants, referred to as "criteria pollutants." The six criteria pollutants are ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), inhalable particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and lead. The specific standards are based on medical evidence that indicates that exposure to certain air pollutants is harmful to public health. The ambient standards are two-tiered; primary standards are designed to protect public health, while secondary standards are designed to protect the environment (e.g., damage to vegetation or property). Recently, the EPA issued new standards for ozone and for particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

Butte County has been designated an "Attainment" area for three out of five federal ambient air quality standards (NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub>). The County has also been designated a "Transitional Non-attainment" for O<sub>3</sub> and a "Moderate Non-attainment" for CO.

### State Air Quality Regulation

In 1988, California passed the California Clean Air Act (CCAA). Like its federal counterpart, the CCAA establishes ambient air quality standards. The state standards differ from the federal standards in two ways: (1) the state standards are more stringent; and (2) the state list of criteria pollutants includes: sulfates, hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), vinyl chloride, and visibility reducing particles.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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As with federal standards, California standards are keyed to certain averaging periods. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is responsible for establishing air quality standards. The CARB also regulates mobile emission sources and oversees the activities of the air pollution control districts (APCDs) and the air quality management districts (AQMDs).

According to state air quality standards Butte County has been designated an "Attainment" area for CO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub>. It was also designated a "Moderate Non-attainment" for O<sub>3</sub> and a "Non-Attainment" for PM<sub>10</sub>.

**Short Term Impacts:** Construction-generated emissions are short-term and of temporary duration, lasting only as long as construction activities occur, but possess the potential to represent an air quality impact. The construction and development of the proposed project components would result in the temporary generation of emissions resulting from site grading and excavation, motor vehicle exhaust associated with construction equipment and worker trips, and the movement of construction equipment, especially on unpaved surfaces. Emissions of airborne particulate matter are largely dependent on the amount of ground disturbance associated with site preparation activities. It is anticipated the project will have minimal ground disturbance and earth moving activities.

**Long Term Impacts:** The project is a solar array project and will result in temporary air quality impacts during construction and installation. The solar panel system will be ground-mounted; however, solar power systems typically do not generate air pollution. Therefore there are no long term impacts on GHG emissions (addressed below in Section 4.7 of this document). Butte County has been designated as a nonattainment area for state and federal standards for ozone particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>). Butte County was designated as an attainment or unclassified area for all other state and federal ambient air quality standards.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) The proposed project will not obstruct implementation of any applicable air quality plans. The project will have **no impact** on the air quality plan.
- b) The construction component of the project will include removal of an orchard and grading to level the approximately thirteen acres and to install supports for the solar panels. Depending on the soil conditions at the site, the depth of the driven supports (steel post) would be 5 to 10 feet below grade. These activities would generate dust, a source of PM<sub>10</sub>. The County is currently in non-attainment status for state standards for PM<sub>10</sub>. In addition, construction vehicles and equipment may generate reactive organic gases (ROG), which are a component of ozone. Ozone is a pollutant for which the County is in moderate non-attainment status under state standards. Although construction-related air quality impacts are temporary and would cease once construction is completed, construction activities nevertheless would have a potentially significant impact on air quality. The Implementation of **MM 3.1** and **MM 3.2**, in addition to implementation of BCAQMD regulations, will result in impacts that are considered to be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.
- c) With implementation of **MM 3.1**, the project would not result in a cumulatively considerable increase of air pollutants due to the temporary nature of construction activity. This impact is considered to be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.
- d) The closest residences to the project site are approximately half a mile to the east (across the Feather River). Construction activities are limited to grading to level and require minimal

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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earth moving activities. With implementation of **MM 3.1**, the project would result in a **less than significant with mitigation incorporated** impact on sensitive receptors.

- e) The project involves the installation of a solar panel system. No objectionable odors are associated with this type of system. The project will have **no impact** on odors.

### MITIGATION MEASURES:

**MM 3.1:** Depending on weather conditions, the City shall incorporate into the project and require that the contractor comply with some or all of the following dust control measures as needed to control fugitive dust.

- Water all active construction sites at least twice daily, or as needed. Frequency should be based upon the type of operation, soil, and wind exposure.
- Land clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation activities shall be suspended when winds exceed 15 miles per hour, as determined by an anemometer on-site or at the direction of Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB).
- Apply non-toxic binders (e.g., latex acrylic copolymer) to exposed areas after cut and fill operations.
- Consider applying a synthetic cover or granite to exposed areas.
- Use alternatives to open burning of vegetative material on the project site, such as chipping, mulching, or conversion to biomass fuel, unless otherwise deemed infeasible by the BCAQMD.

*Timing/Implementation:* Upon commencement of grading and construction activities.

*Enforcement/Monitoring:* City of Gridley Planning Department, Butte County Air Quality Management District.

**MM 3.2:** To mitigate impacts of diesel equipment emissions during construction, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented:

- The primary contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that all construction equipment is properly tuned and maintained.
- Utilize existing power sources (e.g., power poles) or clean fuel generators rather than temporary power generators when feasible.
- Minimize idling time to 10 minutes.

*Timing/Implementation:* Upon commencement of grading and construction activities.

*Enforcement/Monitoring:* City of Gridley Planning Department, Butte County Air Quality Management District.

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO AIR QUALITY:

The project could have temporary impacts on air quality during construction activities. With implementation of **MM 3.1**, impacts to air quality are considered **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.</b> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 wetlands, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### OVERVIEW:

A list of special-status species and habitats that have the potential to occur within the Project Study Area (PSA) or vicinity was prepared using information provided by the California Department of Fish and Game's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Rarefind



program (CDFG 2010a), CNDDDB Quickviewer (CDFG 2010b), and the California Native Plant Society online inventory (CNPS 2010). In addition, a formal list of special-status species with the potential to occur in the PSA was obtained from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2010a) in order to develop a comprehensive list of special-status species to be evaluated in this report. The database searches were queried for the Gridley, California United States Geologic Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle (**Appendix A**).

When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists a species as threatened or endangered under Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), areas of habitat considered essential to its conservation and survival may be designated as critical habitat. These areas may require special consideration and/or protection due to their ecological importance. In June 2010, potential critical habitat designations within the general vicinity of the PSA were checked using the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal (USFWS 2010b). Designated critical habitat is not located within or surrounding the PSA.

A PMC biologist conducted a field survey to evaluate the special-status plant and animal species that have the potential to occur within the PSA and map all vegetation communities present within the PSA on June 21, 2010. During the reconnaissance-level field surveys, the entire PSA was walked to determine if habitat for special-status species occurs within or adjacent to the PSA.

For the purposes of this section "special status species" are those that fall into one of the following categories:

- Listed as rare, threatened or endangered by the state or federal governments (endangered Species Act, 50 CFR 17.12 for listed plants and various notices in the Federal Register; California Endangered Species Act, 14 CCR 670.5).
- Proposed for rare, threatened or endangered status.
- Designated as Species of Special Concern by state governments.
- Included on the California Native Plant Society List of 1A, 1B and 2.
- Plants and wildlife that meet the definitions of rare and endangered species under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15380).
- Birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

Under CEQA, a project that substantially adversely affects any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local, regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFG or USFWS will have a significant impact on the environment. For this assessment, the term "sensitive natural community" includes those communities that, if eliminated or substantially degraded, would sustain a significant adverse impact as defined under CEQA.

### Vegetation Communities

One vegetation community exist within the project area; agricultural/orchard.

The agricultural land within the PSA consists of English walnut (*Juglans regia*) orchards and a section of oak trees (southeastern corner). Orchards are the most prevalent agricultural lands in the region. The understory is mostly dominated by non-native grasses and forbs such as annual

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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bluegrass (*Poa annua*), Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), field mustard (*Brassica rapa*), filarees (*Erodium* spp.), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), cut-leaved geranium (*Geranium dissectum*), English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), prickly sow thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*), wild lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), common mallow (*Malva neglecta*), and little mallow (*M. parviflora*).

Agricultural lands generally occur in areas that once supported productive and diverse biological communities. The conversion of native vegetation to agricultural lands reduces wildlife species diversity and habitat value. However, some common and agricultural “pest” species forage in these habitats and cultivated vegetation can provide benefits such as cover, shade, and moisture for these and other species during hot summer months. Typical species found in agricultural lands include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), and western harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*).

### Special Status Species

Based on the results of the database search, the field reconnaissance visit of the project site, and professional expertise, the proposed project site does not provide habitat for any federal, state or local special status plant or wildlife species with the exception of nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). It should be noted that no elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus* spp), the host plant for the federally threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) were identified within the PSA. Although the Feather River occurs within approximately 300 feet of the proposed project, no elderberry shrubs are within 100 feet of the project limits.

### **Raptors and Other Migratory Birds**

Raptor nests including Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), and white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*) are protected under the MBTA and Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code. Suitable raptor nesting habitat occurs in the PSA within the orchard. Migratory birds forage and nest in multiple habitats such as those found within the walnut orchard of the PSA. The nests of all migratory birds are protected under the MBTA, which makes it illegal to destroy any active migratory bird nest.

### **DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:**

- a) The orchard trees (walnuts) and/or oak trees within the PSA may provide nesting habitat for raptors and migratory birds protected under the MBTA.

All trees within the PSA are scheduled to be removed. Direct and indirect impacts to raptor and other migratory bird species may occur, if these species are nesting either within the PSA or in the vicinity of the PSA during project construction. Construction could also result in noise, dust, increased human activity, and other indirect impacts to nesting raptors or migratory bird species in the project vicinity. Potential nest abandonment, mortality to eggs and chicks, as well as stress from loss of foraging areas could occur due to project implementation. **MM 4.1** would reduce the impacts to nesting migratory birds to **less significant impacts with mitigation incorporated**.

- b) The project will have **no impact** on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The entire project site is composed of

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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agricultural land (orchard), which although an important community to biological resources, it is considered sensitive by CDFG or USFWS.

- c) The proposed project area is not located within any jurisdictional wetlands or waters of the U.S. No permits will be required. The project will have **no impact** on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act as the features do not occur within or adjacent to the project site.
- d) The project site is currently active walnut orchard and is adjacent to a well traveled roadway. The site does not provide habitat for migratory corridors for fish or wildlife opportunities. **No impact** to native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species will occur due to the construction or implementation of the proposed project.
- e) The City of Gridley does not currently have a tree ordinance that would prevent the removal of trees; therefore the project will have **no impact** on any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Although no nests were observed during the June 2010 field survey, migratory birds including raptors potentially utilize these trees for nesting. **MM 4.1** will reduce project impacts to migratory birds to a level that is considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.
- f) The Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) is currently being coordinated by the Butte County Association of Governments. The HCP/NCCP has not yet been drafted, and therefore the proposed project will have **no impact** on any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, or conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan.

### Mitigation Measures:

**MM 4.1:** If proposed construction activities are planned to occur during the nesting seasons for local avian species (typically March 1st through August 31st), the City shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a focused survey for active nests of raptors and migratory birds within and in the vicinity of (no less than 100-feet outside project boundaries, where possible) the construction area no more than two weeks prior to ground disturbance or tree removal. If active nests are located during preconstruction surveys, USFWS and/or CDFG shall be notified regarding the status of the nests. Furthermore, construction activities shall be restricted as necessary to avoid disturbance of the nest until it is abandoned or a biologist deems disturbance potential to be minimal (in consultation with USFWS and/or CDFG). Restrictions may include establishment of exclusion zones (no ingress of personnel or equipment at a minimum radius of 100-feet around the nest) or alteration of the construction schedule. No action is necessary if construction will occur during the non-breeding season (generally September 1st through February 28th).

*Timing/Implementation:* Survey requirements shall be incorporated into contract plans during project design. Surveys shall be conducted no more than two weeks prior to construction. Any nests found shall be monitored throughout construction until there is no danger to nesting birds.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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*Enforcement/Monitoring:* City of Gridley Planning Department.

### **Conclusions Related to Biological Resources:**

The proposed project may impact special status and protected species as a result of project construction. Implementation of **MM 4.1** would reduce impacts from the project to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>5. CULTURAL RESOURCES.</b> Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**OVERVIEW:**

An *Archaeological Inventory Survey for the Proposed Gridley Boat Ramp Project* was completed in April 2008 by Sean Jensen, M.A (**Appendix B**). This project is within 0.34 miles of the Boat Ramp Project. A records search at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, consultation with affected Native American representatives and consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) were completed in preparation of the Archaeological Inventory Survey. A complete-coverage, intensive pedestrian survey was only conducted of the Boat Ramp area and not this project location.

Neither the existing records, consultations with tribal representatives, consultation with the NAHC, have documented or identified any prehistoric or historic sites, artifacts, traditional use area or sacred land listings within the project area or vicinity. The project site does not contain any structures. The Conservation Element of the City 2030 General Plan contains a policy pertaining to the project: Conservation Policy 4.4: The City will require presence of a professional archaeologist to monitor all ground-disturbing activities for improvements to the City's wastewater treatment plant and other City-sanctioned earth disturbing activities within 150 meters of the Feather River. (City General Plan, Conservation Element, pg. 12, 2009).

**DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:**

- a) The project is an existing walnut orchard and contains no structures. Since no historic properties are known to exist in the proposed project site, there will be **no impacts** to historical resources.
- b-c) Earthmoving activities will be within areas that have not been previously disturbed, other than the planting of an orchard. A records search at the Northeast Information Center did not identify any archaeological, paleontological or unique geologic features on-site or

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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within one-mile vicinity of the Boat Ramp project (Appendix B). Although it is not likely any resources exist, in accordance with policies and programs in the Conservation Element of the 2030 General Plan EIR, specifically Conservation Policy 4.4 which states the City will require presence of a professional archaeologist to monitor all ground-disturbing activities for improvements to the City's wastewater treatment plant and other City-sanctioned earth disturbing activities within 150 meters of the Feather River, **MM 5.1** and **MM 5.2** have been included in the event of an accidental find of cultural resources during grading of the site. Existing policies in the City's General plan along with MM 5.1 and MM 5.2 will result in this impact being **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

- d) The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted regarding Sacred Land Listings. The NAHC indicated that there are no Sacred Land listings for the project area or adjacent lands (NAHC, 2008). However in accordance with policies and programs in the 2030 General Plan EIR, should previously unknown human remains be discovered during project activity, **MM 5.3** will reduce impacts to a level **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

### MITIGATION MEASURES:

**MM 5.1:** A professional archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology shall be retained to monitor all ground-disturbing activities. If, during the course of ground-disturbing activities cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric sites, historic sites, and isolated artifacts and features) are discovered, the City shall consider mitigation recommendations presented by a professional archaeologist and implement a measure or measures that the City deems feasible and appropriate. Such measures may include avoidance, preservation in place, excavation, documentation, curation, data recovery, or other appropriate measures. The Native American Heritage or other applicable Native American tribes shall also be notified and consulted on appropriate measures.

*Timing/Implementation:* During all earth moving activities  
*Enforcement/monitoring:* City of Gridley Public Works Department

**MM 5.2:** Prior to the commencement of project ground-disturbing activities, all construction personnel shall be informed of the type(s) of cultural resources that might be inadvertently uncovered in the area and protocols to be implemented to protect Native American human remains and any subsurface cultural resources.

*Timing/Implementation:* Prior to construction activities  
*Enforcement/monitoring:* City of Gridley Public Works Department

**MM 5.3:** If human remains are discovered, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the find, and the County Coroner must be notified, according to Section 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of California's Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, and the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5(d) and (e) shall be followed.

*Timing/Implementation:* During all earth moving activities  
*Enforcement/monitoring:* City of Gridley Public Works Department

### CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The proposed project area is located on an orchard that has not been previously disturbed. Although the cultural resource review and survey completed for the project did not identify any cultural resources within the project area, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM 5.1** through **MM 5.3** potential impacts to unknown cultural, archaeological and paleontological resources will be **less than significant**.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.</b> 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### OVERVIEW:

Seismic risk within the Gridley area and Butte County results both from faults within the County and from faults outside the County that are near enough so that the County may experience potentially damaging ground motion from earthquakes on these faults.

The nearest faults to the project area are located in the Sutter Buttes to the southwest of the City. Most of these faults are inactive, with only two minor faults indicating any activity within the



## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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last 1.6 million years (California Division of Mines and Geology, 1994). Currently, there is only one fault classified as "active" by the California Mining and Geology Board located within Butte County. This is the Cleveland Hills Fault, located in the foothills south of Lake Oroville. This fault was the location of the epicenter of the 1975 Oroville earthquake, which registered 5.7 on the Richter scale. Ground motion from the earthquake was experienced at Gridley that corresponded to VII on the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale. Active faults located outside the County that could affect the area include the San Andreas Fault System, the Midland-Sweitzer Fault approximately 40 miles southwest of the County, and several faults located in the eastern Sierra Nevada. The Midland-Sweitzer Fault, in particular, is considered capable of producing a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that would be experienced in Butte County at a Modified Mercalli Scale intensity of IX (Butte County, 1996).

There are a number of faults in Butte County, along with a large number of relatively nearby faults, which could be considered "potentially active", either by the fairly restrictive criteria of the California Mining and Geology Board or by more conservative criteria. Within the County, the Big Bend Fault Zone, located in northeastern Butte County and considered potentially active by some geologists, could produce a magnitude 7.0 earthquake with a Modified Mercalli Intensity of IX or X. Approximately 35 miles west of Butte County, the Coast Ranges Thrust Zone could potentially produce an earthquake that would be experienced in Butte County as a Modified Mercalli Intensity of IX or X. Earthquakes on faults in the Sierra foothills could potentially produce similar intensities. However, it should be noted that Butte County has experienced only two damaging earthquakes in recent history - 1940 and 1975. In both cases, the most severe damage occurred to un-reinforced masonry buildings (Butte County, 1996). The City of Gridley has not experienced any significant damage from earthquakes in its history.

Liquefaction during an earthquake requires strong shaking continuing for a relatively long time period and loose, clean granular materials (particularly sands) that may settle and compact because of the shaking. Areas paralleling the Sacramento River, which contain clean sand layers with low relative densities, are estimated to have generally high liquefaction potential. The City is located in an area classified as having a "generally moderate" liquefaction potential. The granular layers underlying the City and other areas outside the Sacramento River have higher relative densities. However, local sites within the moderate potential area where loose, clean granular layers are present, or areas adjacent to the Sacramento River may have high liquefaction potential (Butte County, 1996).

The greatest potential subsidence areas in Butte County are those where heavy groundwater withdrawal is occurring, and in gas-producing areas. According to investigations by the U.S. Geological Survey, one of the areas of heaviest groundwater withdrawal is in a one-mile radius of the City of Gridley (Butte County, 1996).

Expansive soils are soils that have a potential to undergo significant changes in volume with changes in moisture content, either shrinking or swelling. Periodic shrinking and swelling of expansive soils can cause extensive damage to roads, buildings and other structures. The potential volume change of an expansive soil is governed by the moisture content and the percentage and type of clay minerals present in the soil. Soils in the Gridley area are considered to have a moderate expansive soil potential (Butte County, 1996).

A review of the current United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Survey provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates the project area is primarily underlain with Gianella fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded. Gianella soils are characterized as very deep, moderately well drained soils with a clay content of approximately 4 to 20%, negligible runoff, moderate to moderately rapid saturated hydraulic

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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conductivity. Hydrology in these soils has been altered both from extensive leveling and by protection from frequent flooding by the Sacramento and Feather River levee systems (NRCS).

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a)
- i) The proposed project will be constructed in compliance with the California Building Code Standards to ensure earthquake suitability of all structures. Therefore this impact is considered **less than significant**.
  - ii) The project area is in Seismic Zone 3, as noted in the Uniform Building Code, and all construction would be consistent with this zone. Following standard construction practices, seismic impacts on the project would be **less than significant**.
  - iii) See ii) above. Alluvial soils that may be subject to liquefaction do exist within the project area. All structures, asphalt and supports will be engineered to accommodate for the potential effect of liquefaction. Therefore the project will have a **less than significant impact** related to the potential effects of liquefaction.
  - iv) The project area is located on flat terrain that is not prone to landslides. Impacts from the proposed project will have **no impact** on landslides.
- b) Soils within the proposed project area are predominantly Gianella fine sandy loam. During earthmoving activities there is the hazard of soil erosion. The Regional Water Quality Control Board will require the City or their contractor to obtain a Stormwater Pollution Prevent Permit (SWPPP) which includes best management practices (BMPs) reduce the impacts associated with soil erosion. With implementation of existing permit requirements this impact is considered **less than significant**.
- c) The soils within the proposed project area tend to be stable and not prone to geologic or seismic hazards. Subsidence typically occurs with a significant drawdown of groundwater. No subsidence is expected as a result of the project. **No impact**.
- d) Although the Gridley area has a high groundwater table and some clay soils, the soils at the orchard are well drained and contain little clay and therefore have a low hazard for expansiveness. There will be some grading for installation of driven supports which would be 5 to 10 feet below grade. All structures, including solar panels and mounts, will be engineered and will be constructed consistent with the California Building Code, and therefore this impact is considered **less than significant**.
- e) The proposed project would not require sewers or waste disposal systems. The project will have **no impact** on the use of septic tanks within the project area.

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO GEOLOGY AND SOILS:

With implementation of existing permit requirements, specifically those of the Regional Water Quality Control Board which require the City or their contractor to obtain a SWPPP, impacts to geology and soils as a result of the proposed project are considered **less than significant**.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>7. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.</b> Would the project:				
a) 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"/>
b) 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"/>

### OVERVIEW:

#### *California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32)*

In 2006, the California State Legislature adopted the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 established a cap on statewide GHG emissions and set forth a regulatory framework to achieve a reduction in statewide GHG emissions levels. AB 32 charges the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the state agency charged with regulating air quality in the state, with implementation of the act. The regulatory steps laid out in AB 32 require CARB to: adopt early action measures to reduce GHG; establish a statewide greenhouse gas emissions cap for 2020 based on 1990 emissions; adopt mandatory reporting rules for significant source of greenhouse gases; adopt a scoping plan indicating how emission reductions will be achieved via regulations, market mechanisms and other actions; and adopt the regulations needed to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gases. The most recent emission inventory indicates that California had emissions of 497 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2004 (CAPCOA).

The regulatory timeline in AB 32 required that, by July 1, 2007, CARB would adopt a list of discrete early action measures, or regulations, to be adopted and implemented by January 1, 2010. In June 2007, CARB adopted three discrete early action measures: a low carbon fuel standard; reduction of HFC-134a emissions from non-professional servicing of motor vehicle air conditioning systems; and improved landfill methane capture. CARB estimates that by 2020, the reductions from these three discrete early action measures would be approximately 13 to 26 MMT CO<sub>2</sub>. On October 25, 2007 CARB gave final approval to the list of Early Action Measures, which includes nine discrete measures and 35 additional measures, all of which are to be enforceable by January 1, 2010. AB 32 required that by January 1, 2009, CARB adopt a scoping plan indicating how emission reductions will be achieved via regulations, market mechanisms and other actions. (CARB)

#### *Senate Bill 97*

Senate Bill 97, signed in August 2007, acknowledges that climate change is an important environmental issue that requires analysis under CEQA and directs the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to prepare guidelines for the feasible mitigation of GHG emissions, or the effects of GHG emissions. In 2009 the OPR submitted its recommended amendments to

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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the State CEQA Guidelines for addressing greenhouse gas emissions, which were developed to provide guidance to public agencies regarding the analysis and mitigation of GHG emissions and the effects of GHG emissions in CEQA documents. The Natural Resources Agency certified and adopted these amendments in July 2009. The Amendments became effective on March 18, 2010, and have been incorporated into the California Code of Regulations. The CEQA Statutes and Guidelines were amended to include discussion of greenhouse gas emissions as a topic in the Initial Study Checklist, as included herein.

**Long Term Impacts:** The project is an infrastructure project and will result in minor and temporary air quality impacts during construction and installation of the solar panel system. All infrastructure, except supports and conduit, will be above ground mounted; however, solar power systems typically do not generate air pollution. Therefore there are no long term impacts on GHG emissions. Butte County has been designated as a nonattainment area for state and federal standards for ozone particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>). Butte County was designated as an attainment or unclassified area for all other state and federal ambient air quality standards.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) The project is an infrastructure project and will result in temporary air quality impacts during construction. The solar panel system will be above ground mounted; however, solar power systems typically do not generate air pollution. Therefore there are no long term impacts on GHG emissions either directly or indirectly. This impact is considered **less than significant**.
- b) The project will not conflict with any adopted plans, policies or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. **No impact**.

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:

The proposed project will have a **less than significant** impact on greenhouse gas emissions either directly or indirectly.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>8. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.</b> Would the project:				
a) 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"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) 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"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would 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"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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### OVERVIEW:

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a federal, state, or local agency, or if it has characteristics defined as hazardous by such an agency. A hazardous material is defined by the California Health and Safety Code, Section 25501 is as follows:

*"Hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. "Hazardous materials" include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment (California Health and Safety Code, Section 25501).*

The release of hazardous materials into the environment could potentially contaminate soils, surface water, and groundwater supplies. Most hazardous materials regulation and enforcement is the responsibility of the Butte County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, which refers large cases of hazardous materials contamination or violations to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). It is not at all uncommon for other agencies to become involved when issues of hazardous materials arise such as the Air Pollution Control District, and both the federal and state Occupational Safety and Health Administrations (OSHA).

Under Government Code Section 65962.5, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) maintains a list of hazardous substance sites. This list, referred to as the "Cortese list", includes CALSITE hazardous material sites, sites with leaking underground storage tanks, and landfills with evidence of groundwater contamination. The most recent Cortese list, from 2010, identified one hazardous materials site at 576/582 East Gridley Road as open for site assessment (Leroy Hilbers Property, Case #040121). This site is 1.23 miles from the proposed project area.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) The project does not involve the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore the project will have **no impact**.
- b) Potential releases of motor vehicle fuels and oils could occur during construction. A SWPPP, will be required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and would include BMP measures to minimize the effects of such spills. No hazardous or flammable materials would be stored on site. The system will be surrounded by a 6 to 7 foot cyclone fence and a security gate, which would allow entry to authorized personnel only. The solar panels do not contain hazardous materials. The proposed project will have an impact that is considered to be **less than significant**.
- c) The nearest school to the project site (Gridley State Preschool, 1567 Booth Drive) is located in the City of Gridley is within half a mile away from the project. Operation of the proposed project does not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore the project will have **no impact** on schools with regard to hazardous materials.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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- d) The California Department of Toxic Substances Control *Envirostor* database shows one site 1.23 miles from the proposed project area. The project would have **no impact** on Cortese list sites.
- e) There are no public airfields within vicinity of the project area and no airport land use plans within two miles of the proposed project. **No impact.**
- f) There are no private airstrips in the project vicinity. **No impact.**
- g) The solar panels will be delivered by truck in crates and installed on-site. The trucks will likely use Highway 99 to East Gridley Road. Although traffic may be temporarily diverted during the transportation and delivery of the solar panels to the project site, there would be a **less than significant impact** on response plans and emergency evacuation plans.
- h) The proposed project will have **no impact** on fire hazards.

### **CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:**

With implementation of existing regulatory agency permit requirements, impacts to hazards and hazardous materials as a result of the proposed project are considered **less than significant**.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.</b> Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### OVERVIEW:

Although the City of Gridley is located approximately two miles west of the Feather River, a major tributary to the Sacramento River, the project is located on the east bank of the Feather River. The Feather River is controlled by the Oroville Dam, located approximately 20 river-miles upstream of the project site. The dam was constructed in 1968 as part of the California State Water Project. The project site is located within Flood Zone A [area inundated by 100 year flood, no base elevation] as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA, Map No. 06007C1110C, June 1998) (See **Figure 4.0-1, FEMA Flood Zones**).

The City is within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), one of nine regional boards in the state. The Central Valley RWQCB, with an office in Redding, develops and enforces water quality objectives and implementation plans that safeguard the quality of water resources in its region. Specifically, the RWQCB identifies potential water quality problems, confirms and characterizes water quality problems through assessments, remedies problems through imposing or enforcing appropriate measures, and monitors problem areas to assess effectiveness of remedial measures. Remedies for problems include their prevention or cleanup. Common means of prevention are the issuance of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, waste discharge requirements (WDRs), and discharge prohibitions and restrictions. Cleanup is implemented through enforcement measures such as Cease and Desist Orders and Cleanup and Abatement Orders.

One of the duties of the RWQCB is the development of "basin plans" for the hydrologic area over which it has jurisdiction. In 1998, the Central Valley RWQCB issued the fourth edition of its Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Valley Region, also known as the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan covers both the Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River Basin, including the Feather River. It sets forth water quality objectives for both surface and ground waters for the region, and it describes implementation programs to achieve these objectives. The Basin Plan provides the foundation for the regulations and enforcement actions of the Central Valley RWQCB.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

a) The project involves the installation of a solar panel system. The project includes construction of stormwater protection measures including vegetation of the project site following installation of the solar array to provide bio filtration of stormwater and to enhance infiltration of stormwater. Vegetation of the site will reduce stormwater runoff from the project area once construction is completed and will reduce the impacts of first flush pollutants on area waterways by improving infiltration onsite and allowing pollutants to settle out and be filtered by natural vegetation. Construction activities will be required to obtain a Storm Water

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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Protection and Pollution Permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, which requires the utilization of best management practices (BMPs) during construction to reduce the effects of erosion and stormwater runoff. With these permit requirements this project will result in a **less than significant** impact.

- b) The project involves the installation of a solar panel system and does not require regular use of water or result in the generation of wastewater. The project will require water once or twice a year to wash the solar panels and the City's municipal water supply is adequate to serve this need. The City may utilize reclaimed water to wash solar panels once the infrastructure is installed to support the use of reclaimed water in the City. This impact is considered **less than significant**.
- c) The project site would involve at-grade construction and would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or significantly create or contribute to runoff water. This impact is considered **less than significant**.
- d) See b) and c) above. The project would not generate additional runoff or exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage system. The adjacent Feather River will not be affected by the project. **Less than significant impact**.
- e) See a) through d) above. The project would not generate additional runoff or exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage system. **No impact**.
- f) See a) through e) above. No other substantial water quality degradation is expected to occur as a result of the proposed project. **Less than significant**.
- g) The project site is within the 100-year floodplain; however, the project does not involve the construction of any housing. Thus, no housing would be placed within a 100-year floodplain as a result of the project. **No impact**.
- h) The project is located within Flood Zone A [area inundated by 100 year flood, no base elevation] as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA, Map No. 06007C1110C, 1998). The project does not involve the construction of a structure, but ground-mounted solar panels. The solar panels will be at least one foot above the 100-year flood water elevation, as calculated by the City engineer and as noted in mitigation measure **MM 9.1**. The project will therefore have a **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated** with regard to impeding or redirecting flood flows.
- i) See g) and h) above. The project is located within Flood Zone A, as mapped by FEMA. The proposed solar panel system will be located at least one foot above the 100-year flood water elevation and therefore the project will have a **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated** involving risk of loss, injury or death from flooding.
- j) Please refer to **Section 4.6, Geology and Soils**, in which the hazards from landslides were evaluated and found to be less than significant. The project is located downriver of the Oroville Dam, which may experience seiche as a result of earthshaking activities, thus increasing flows in the Feather River. The facility is located within the Oroville Dam Failure Inundation Area (FERC, 2002). This hazard is addressed in the Butte County General Plan and the California Division of Safety of Dams inspects the Oroville dam on a regular basis. The proposed project will have **no impact** on this potential hazard.

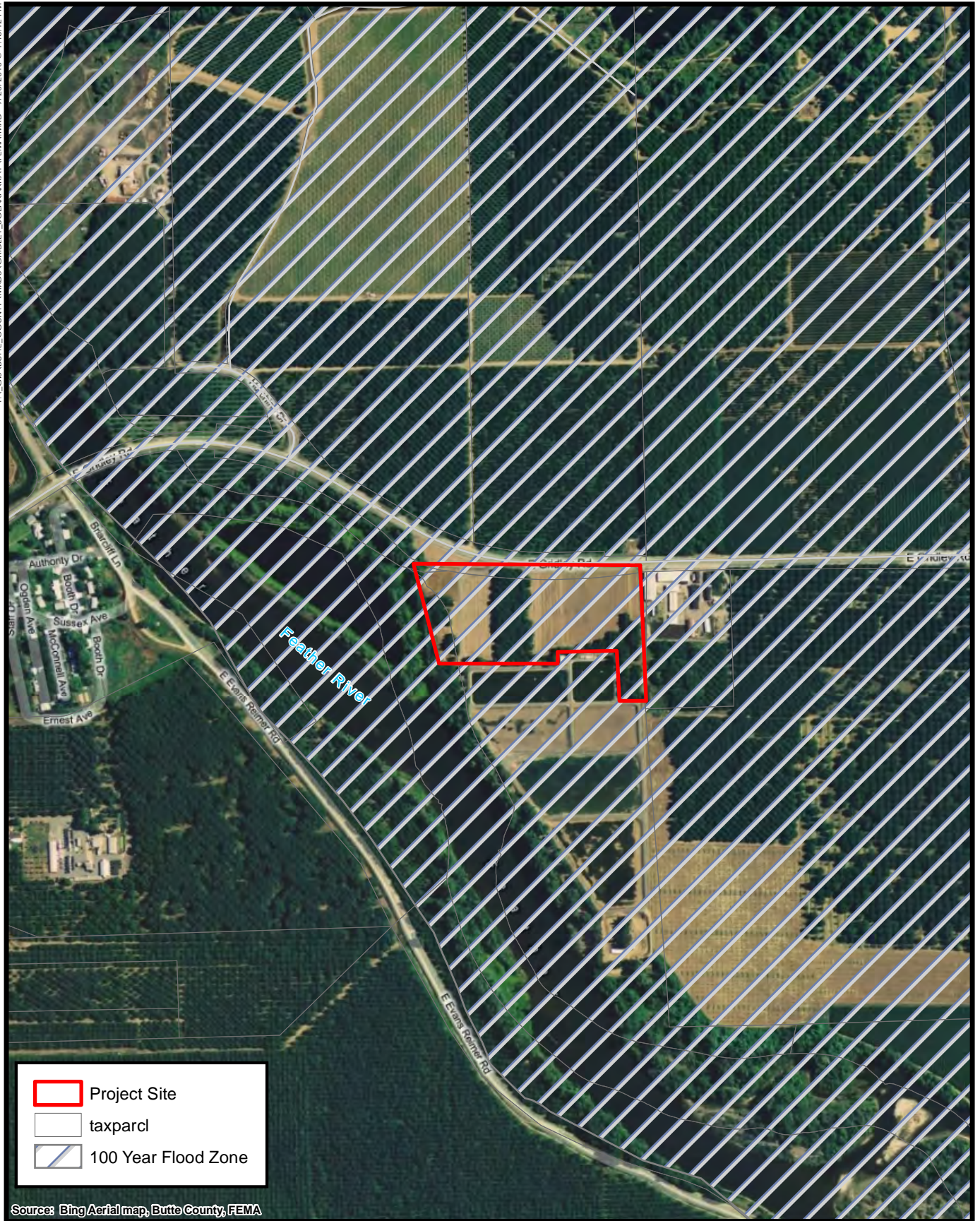


Figure 4.0-1  
Flood Map  
PMC<sup>®</sup>

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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### MITIGATION MEASURES:

**MM 9.1:** Prior to installation of the solar panel system, the City Engineer shall determine the site's elevations and assure the solar panels will be at least one foot above the 100-year flood water elevation.

*Timing/Implementation:* Prior to construction activities.  
*Enforcement/Monitoring:* City of Gridley Public Works Department.

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY:

With existing Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements which require the City or their contractor to obtain a SWPPP, impacts to hydrology and water will be less than significant. With the implementation of mitigation measure **MM 9.1** which requires the solar panels be one foot above 100-year flood water elevation, the impacts from flooding will be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>10. LAND USE AND PLANNING.</b> Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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"/>

### OVERVIEW:

The proposed Gridley Solar Array Project is located on City of Gridley property, surrounded by the unincorporated area of Butte County. The 5-acre parcel is within the wastewater treatment plant which is owned and operated by the City of Gridley. The basis for land use planning at the project site is therefore the City of Gridley General Plan. The City's General Plan was last revised in December 2009. The Land Use Element of the General Plan designates the project area as Industrial (M), while City zoning for the project site is General Industrial (M-2). The project site is surrounded by the wastewater treatment plant and agricultural lands.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) All work for the proposed project will occur within City-owned land and will not physically divide any portion of the community. **No impact.**
- b) The project would be consistent with the Land Use designations identified in the City of Gridley General Plan. **No impact.**
- c) See **Section 4.4, Biological Resources.** No Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans apply to this area of Butte County. Therefore, there is **no impact.**

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO LAND USE AND PLANNING:

The project would have **no impact** on existing or planned land uses on the site or in the vicinity, and would not significantly conflict with any existing land use plans.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>11. MINERAL RESOURCES.</b> Would the project:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### OVERVIEW:

There has been no significant mining activity in the Gridley area. The California Division of Mines and Geology publication *Mines and Mineral Producers Active in California (1994-1995)* does not show any mines in the vicinity. The project area is not located within a mineral resource area identified by the *Butte County General Plan*.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) No mineral resources have been identified within the project area, and no mining operations are located there. Therefore, the project would have **no impact** on mineral resources.
- b) See a) above. Although one historic, non-reporting (not operating) mine is known to have existed along the Feather River to the north of the project site, Butte County has not delineated any location within the project area as a mineral resource recovery site within any of its land use plans. **No impact.**

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO MINERAL RESOURCES:

The project would have **no impact** on mineral resources.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>12. NOISE.</b> Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or of applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 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"/>
c) 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) 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"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would 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"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### OVERVIEW:

In 2002, the City Council adopted a Noise Ordinance for the City (Gridley Municipal Code Section 9.40). The Noise Ordinance regulates noise generated by various activities, and sets forth procedures for the handling of complaints related to noise. One provision of the Noise Ordinance (9.40.160) regulates the time that construction activities may occur, prohibiting such activity on weekdays from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on weekdays or at any time on Sundays or holidays.

The City of Gridley Noise Element establishes land use compatibility criteria for a variety of land uses in terms of Day/Night Average Noise Levels (Ldn). The uses with the highest degree of sensitivity have the lowest corresponding land use compatibility criteria with respect to noise. For each of these noise sensitive uses, noise levels exceeding 70 dB Ldn are considered "Normally Unacceptable".

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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The project is located adjacent to the City's existing wastewater treatment plant, an area surrounded by agricultural land use. There are no noise sensitive receptors within the vicinity of the proposed project. The nearest residents are approximately one half mile to the west of the project area across the Feather River.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) The project involves the installation of a solar array system on a 5-acre parcel. No noise sensitive uses would be close enough to the site to be significantly affected by project related noise. The solar system will not result in a significant increase in operating noise or exceed standards established in the general plan. Temporary noise impacts may occur during grading and subsequent installation of panels; however, this impact is considered **less than significant**.
- b) Ground-borne vibrations resulting from the installation of ground-mounted solar equipment may occur. These impacts would be temporary in nature, as discussed in (a) above. Impacts generated would be considered **less than significant**.
- c) The project will not result in any new noise generating sources and, therefore, the project would have **no impact** on permanent noise levels.
- d) Temporary increase in noise levels would occur during grading and installation work, mainly from vehicles and equipment. As discussed in (a) above, construction would be required to comply with noise requirements set forth in the General Plan and the municipal code. Impacts to noise levels would be temporary in nature and are considered to be **less than significant**.
- e) There is no public airfield in the vicinity; thus, there would be **no impacts** that pertain to public airfields.
- f) There is no private airfield in the vicinity; thus, there would be **no impacts** that pertain to private airfields.

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO NOISE:

Noise impacts associated with the project will be **less than significant**.



## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>13. POPULATION AND HOUSING.</b> Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) 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"/>
c) 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"/>

### OVERVIEW:

According to the California Department of Finance, E-5 Report, the estimated 2009 population for the City of Gridley is 6,417 persons. The 2000 U.S. Census population for the City of Gridley was 5,408 persons. This represents an increase of 1,009 persons in the past 9 years, or 18.7 percent growth from 2000 to 2009. The average annual growth rate between 2000 and 2009 was approximately 2.07 percent (California Department of Finance).

The project will not add directly to the housing stock or population in the City of Gridley. The project would provide an augmented source of electrical service to the existing City's customers.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) The proposed project would offset the needs of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Conduits leading from the solar array system to a subpanel will interconnect to the wastewater treatment plant. Therefore the project will have **no impact** on population growth.
- b) No existing housing or residents would be displaced by the proposed project. Therefore, there will be **no impact** to displacement of people or housing as a result of the proposed project.
- c) See b) above. **No impact.**

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO POPULATION AND HOUSING:

The project would have **no impact** on population and housing.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>14. PUBLIC SERVICES.</b> 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 following public services:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### OVERVIEW:

Police protection in the City of Gridley is provided by the City. The City also operates and maintains water and sewer lines, streets, parks and electricity. Fire protection within the City is provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and volunteer service. Schools in the area are operated by the Gridley Unified School District.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) The proposed project will have **no impact** on fire protection services within the City of Gridley or surrounding area.
- b) The project would not affect the provision of police protection services. **No impact.**
- c) The project would not affect school enrollments nor generate a need for new facilities. **No impact.**
- d) The project would have **no impact** on demand for parks. Also, please refer to **Section 14.4, Recreation.**
- e) The project would have **no impact** on other governmental services. For impacts on service systems in the City of Gridley, please refer to **Section 4.16, Utilities and Service Systems.**

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO PUBLIC SERVICES:

The project would have **no impacts** on public services.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>15. RECREATION.</b>				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**OVERVIEW:**

The project consists of installation of a solar array system on a 5-acre parcel to offset the needs of City of Gridley's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The proposed project does not include recreational facilities.

**DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:**

- a) The proposed project does not include recreational facilities and would not impact surrounding recreational uses, i.e. the boat launch facility located south of the project, which is used for day-use recreational purposes. This impact is considered **less than significant**.
- b) The proposed project would not increase the demand for parks or other recreational facilities as the project consists of installation of infrastructure equipment. This impact is considered **less than significant**.

**CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO RECREATION:**

The project would have a **less than significant impact** on parks and recreational facilities.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>16. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.</b> Would the project:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### OVERVIEW:

The City of Gridley is intersected by State Route 99 and the Union Pacific Railroad. The project site is located adjacent to the Feather River, two miles east of the City of Gridley, and is accessed from East Gridley Road. The proposed project will not require the closure of streets during construction or operation. Public transportation for Gridley residents is provided by Butte County Transit, which offers daily bus trips to and from Chico, Paradise, Oroville and Biggs. The project will require routine visits by personnel for monitoring and maintenance of equipment, but will not require constant on-site employees or frequent coming and going of vehicles.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) The project consists of installation of a solar array system to offset the needs of the wastewater treatment plant. Although the project may result in a minor increase in traffic to the facility for delivery and installation of the solar array system, this increase is anticipated to be minimal and can be limited to non-peak traffic hours. Once installed, there would be minor trips for maintenance of the panels. The project would not generate a significant amount of additional traffic on roadways, as it does not involve the construction of residences, commercial centers, or other buildings for land use activities that generate traffic. Therefore, the project would have a **less than significant impact** on the City's circulation system including intersections, streets, highways, freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths and mass transit.
- b) Since the project will have less than significant on traffic volume as described in a) above, the project would have **less than significant impact** on LOS or traffic volumes.
- c) The project would have **no impact** on airstrip usage or on air traffic patterns.
- d) The project will not result in the modification of the existing access intersection (12 feet wide) from East Gridley Road and therefore will not result in any increased hazards due to a design feature. The impact is considered **less than significant**.
- e) The project will not interfere with emergency access within the City of Gridley or surrounding County lands. **No impact**.
- f) The project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation, or decrease the performance or safety of such facilities. **No impact**.

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION:

The project would not have a significant impact on traffic or transportation facilities. Impacts to traffic will be **less than significant**.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>17. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.</b> Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water 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"/>
d) 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"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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"/>
f) 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### OVERVIEW:

The City of Gridley provides a number of utilities and services including water, wastewater, and electricity to most areas of the City. The proposed solar array project is located on City-owned land within the wastewater treatment plant. The project includes the extension of electricity from the WWTP to the project area to operate the solar array system. The project will in turn offset the needs of the City's WWTP.

### DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST ANSWERS:

- a) The project involves the installation of a solar panel system and would not generate wastewater. The project will not result in the City exceeding the wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Therefore this impact is considered to be **less than significant**.
- b) The project will not result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities. **No impact**.
- c) The project will not result in construction of new storm water drainage facilities. Therefore the project will have a **less than significant** impact on stormwater.
- c) The project does not include connection to the City water system. This impact is considered minimal and will have a **less than significant** impact on the City's water supplies.
- e) The proposed project will not result in the generation of any wastewater. This impact is considered to be **less than significant**.
- f) The Neal Road Landfill is operated by the Butte County Public Works Department, Solid Waste Division. The project will not generate waste and will have a **less than significant impact** on solid waste services.
- g) See f) above. **No impact**.

### CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS:

The project would have a **less than significant impact** upon utilities and service systems.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>18. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
a) 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 wild-life population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plants or animals, 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"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### DISCUSSION OF MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- a) Refer to **Section 4, Biological Resources**. The project has potential to impact listed species through the modification of habitat and the removal of trees. Implementation of **MM 4.1** requires mitigation to reduce impacts to migratory birds and would reduce anticipated impacts to a level considered **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Refer to **Section 5, Cultural Resources**, in which the cultural resources are discussed. Potential impacts to cultural, archaeological and paleontological resources that are unknown at this time are mitigated by implementation of **MM 5.1, MM 5.2 and MM 5.3. Less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

- b) The project proposes the installation of a solar panel system to serve the City's wastewater treatment plant and will not have a cumulative effect. The proposed project impacts are considered to be cumulatively **less than significant**.
- c) The Initial Study evaluated potential hazards to humans related to the project. Refer to **Section 8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials**, in which potential hazards are discussed. Potential impacts from hazards and hazardous materials are considered to be **less than significant**. The project is located within Flood Zone A [area inundated by 100 year flood, no



## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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base elevation] as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA, Map No. 06007C1110C, 1998). Implementation of mitigation measure **MM 9.1** requires the solar panels will be installed at least one foot above the 100-year flood water elevation. The project will therefore have a **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated** with regard to impeding or redirecting flood flows that could expose people or structures to a risk of loss, injury or death.



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## 5.0 SPECIAL STUDIES AND REFERENCES

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## 5.0 SPECIAL STUDIES AND REFERENCES

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### 5.1 DOCUMENTS REFERENCED IN INITIAL STUDY AND/OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following documents were used to determine the potential for impact from the proposed project. Compliance with federal, state and local laws is assumed in all projects.

Butte County. *The Butte County Comprehensive Plan, Volume 1: Master Environmental Assessment*. Butte County Development Services Department, Planning Division, Oroville, Calif. 1996.

Butte County. *Butte County Revised Mining Ordinance, Attachment I-Butte County Mining*. June 18, 2009 Mining Committee Hearing. <http://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/SMARA/Attachment%20G/Attachment%20G%20-%20Butte%20County%20Mining.pdf>. Accessed June 2009.

California Air Resources Board. *Website*. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/aqd/aqdpage.htm>. 2009.

California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. *Fault Activity Map of California*. 1994.

California Department of Conservation, Land Resource Protection. *Important Farmland in Butte County*. <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2006/but06.pdf>. 2008.

California Department of Finance. *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2009, with 2000 Benchmark*. Sacramento, California, May 2009. <http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-5/2009/>. Accessed June 2009.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control. *Envirostor Database*. <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>. Accessed June 2009.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, revised 2007. *The Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)*.

City of Gridley. *Webpage*. <http://www.gridley.ca.us/>. Accessed June, 2010.

EDAW. *City of Gridley 2030 General Plan*. Adopted December 4, 2009.

EDAW/AECOM. *City of Gridley 2030 General Plan Final EIR*. Certified December 4, 2009.

## 5.0 SPECIAL STUDIES AND REFERENCES

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- Federal Emergency Management Agency. Flood Insurance Rate Map, Map No. 06007C1125E. Prelim March 12, 2010.
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). *Oroville Facilities Relicensing Project, SP-E4 Flood Management Study, Appendix B, Dam Failure Inundation Maps*. [http://orovillereLICensing.water.ca.gov/pdf\\_docs/SP-E4%20App%20B.pdf](http://orovillereLICensing.water.ca.gov/pdf_docs/SP-E4%20App%20B.pdf). 2002.
- Foothill Associates (A). *Section 7 Biological Assessment, Gridley Boat Ramp Improvement Site, Butte County, CA*. February 20, 2009.
- Foothill Associates (B). *Request for the Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination for Waters of the U.S. occurring within the Gridley Boat Ramp Improvement Project Area, Butte County, CA*. February 20, 2009.
- Genesis Society. *Archaeological Inventory Survey, Gridley Boat Ramp Project*. April 29, 2008.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service. *Web Soil Survey 2.1, National Cooperative Soil Survey*. <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>. Accessed August 2010.
- PMC (PMC A). *City of Gridley Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Survey Report*. April 2009.
- PMC (PMC B). *Memo RE: Gridley WWTP Expansion Project – Migratory Bird and Raptor Nest Survey Results*. April 17, 2009.

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# APPENDICES

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# APPENDIX A

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES DATABASE SEARCH RESULTS

PMC  
JUNE 22, 2010

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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office**  
**Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that Occur in**  
**or may be Affected by Projects in the Counties and/or**  
**U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 Minute Quads you requested**

Document Number: 100622104229

Database Last Updated: April 29, 2010

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Quad Lists

Listed Species

Invertebrates

*Branchinecta lynchi*

vernal pool fairy shrimp (T)

*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*

valley elderberry longhorn beetle (T)

*Lepidurus packardii*

vernal pool tadpole shrimp (E)

Fish

*Acipenser medirostris*

green sturgeon (T) (NMFS)

*Hypomesus transpacificus*

delta smelt (T)

*Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Central Valley steelhead (T) (NMFS)

Critical habitat, Central Valley steelhead (X) (NMFS)

*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*

Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon (T) (NMFS)

Critical Habitat, Central Valley spring-run chinook (X) (NMFS)

winter-run chinook salmon, Sacramento River (E) (NMFS)

Amphibians

*Rana draytonii*

California red-legged frog (T)

Reptiles

*Thamnophis gigas*

giant garter snake (T)

Candidate Species

Birds

*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*

Western yellow-billed cuckoo (C)

Quads Containing Listed, Proposed or Candidate Species:

GRIDLEY (560C)

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## County Lists

No county species lists requested.

### Key:

- (E) *Endangered* - Listed as being in danger of extinction.
- (T) *Threatened* - Listed as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.
- (P) *Proposed* - Officially proposed in the Federal Register for listing as endangered or threatened.
- (NMFS) Species under the Jurisdiction of the [National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service](#). Consult with them directly about these species.
- Critical Habitat* - Area essential to the conservation of a species.
- (PX) *Proposed Critical Habitat* - The species is already listed. Critical habitat is being proposed for it.
- (C) *Candidate* - Candidate to become a proposed species.
- (V) Vacated by a court order. Not currently in effect. Being reviewed by the Service.
- (X) *Critical Habitat* designated for this species

## Important Information About Your Species List

### How We Make Species Lists

We store information about endangered and threatened species lists by U.S. Geological Survey 7½ minute quads. The United States is divided into these quads, which are about the size of San Francisco.

The animals on your species list are ones that occur within, **or may be affected by** projects within, the quads covered by the list.

- Fish and other aquatic species appear on your list if they are in the same watershed as your quad or if water use in your quad might affect them.
- Amphibians will be on the list for a quad or county if pesticides applied in that area may be carried to their habitat by air currents.
- Birds are shown regardless of whether they are resident or migratory. Relevant birds on the county list should be considered regardless of whether they appear on a quad list.

### Plants

Any plants on your list are ones that have actually been observed in the area covered by the list. Plants may exist in an area without ever having been detected there. You can find out what's in the surrounding quads through the California Native Plant Society's online [Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants](#).

### Surveying

Some of the species on your list may not be affected by your project. A trained biologist and/or botanist, familiar with the habitat requirements of the species on your list, should determine whether they or habitats suitable for them may be affected by your project. We recommend that your surveys include any proposed and candidate species on your list. See our [Protocol](#) and [Recovery Permits](#) pages.

For plant surveys, we recommend using the [Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories](#). The results of your surveys should be published in any environmental documents prepared for your project.

### Your Responsibilities Under the Endangered Species Act

All animals identified as listed above are fully protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations prohibit the take of a federally listed wildlife species. Take is defined by the Act as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect" any such animal.

Take may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or shelter (50 CFR §17.3).

Take incidental to an otherwise lawful activity may be authorized by one of two procedures:

- If a Federal agency is involved with the permitting, funding, or carrying out of a project that may result in take, then that agency must engage in a formal [consultation](#) with the Service.

During formal consultation, the Federal agency, the applicant and the Service work together to avoid or minimize the impact on listed species and their habitat. Such consultation would result in a biological opinion by the Service addressing the anticipated effect of the project on listed and proposed species. The opinion may authorize a limited level of incidental take.

- If no Federal agency is involved with the project, and federally listed species may be taken as part of the project, then you, the applicant, should apply for an incidental take permit. The Service may issue such a permit if you submit a satisfactory conservation plan for the species that would be affected by your project.

Should your survey determine that federally listed or proposed species occur in the area and are likely to be affected by the project, we recommend that you work with this office and the California Department of Fish and Game to develop a plan that minimizes the project's direct and indirect impacts to listed species and compensates for project-related loss of habitat. You should include the plan in any environmental documents you file.

## Critical Habitat

When a species is listed as endangered or threatened, areas of habitat considered essential to its conservation may be designated as critical habitat. These areas may require special management considerations or protection. They provide needed space for growth and normal behavior; food, water, air, light, other nutritional or physiological requirements; cover or shelter; and sites for breeding, reproduction, rearing of offspring, germination or seed dispersal.

Although critical habitat may be designated on private or State lands, activities on these lands are not restricted unless there is Federal involvement in the activities or direct harm to listed wildlife.

If any species has proposed or designated critical habitat within a quad, there will be a separate line for this on the species list. Boundary descriptions of the critical habitat may be found in the Federal Register. The information is also reprinted in the Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR 17.95). See our [Map Room](#) page.

## Candidate Species

We recommend that you address impacts to candidate species. We put plants and animals on our candidate list when we have enough scientific information to eventually propose them for listing as threatened or endangered. By considering these species early in your planning process you may be able to avoid the problems that could develop if one of these candidates was listed before the end of your project.

## Species of Concern

The Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office no longer maintains a list of species of concern.

However, various other agencies and organizations maintain lists of at-risk species. These lists provide essential information for land management planning and conservation efforts. [More info](#)

### Wetlands

If your project will impact wetlands, riparian habitat, or other jurisdictional waters as defined by section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, you will need to obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Impacts to wetland habitats require site specific mitigation and monitoring. For questions regarding wetlands, please contact Mark Littlefield of this office at (916) 414-6580.

### Updates

Our database is constantly updated as species are proposed, listed and delisted. If you address proposed and candidate species in your planning, this should not be a problem. However, we recommend that you get an updated list every 90 days. That would be September 20, 2010.

California Department of Fish and Game  
 Natural Diversity Database  
 Selected Elements by Scientific Name - Portrait  
 Gridley

Scientific Name/Common Name	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	GRank	SRank	CDFG or CNPS
1 Agelaius tricolor tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020			G2G3	S2	SC
2 Buteo swainsoni Swainson's hawk	ABNKC19070		Threatened	G5	S2	
3 Desmocerus californicus dimorphus valley elderberry longhorn beetle	IICOL48011	Threatened		G3T2	S2	
4 Great Valley Cottonwood Riparian Forest	CTT61410CA			G2	S2.1	
5 Grus canadensis tabida greater sandhill crane	ABNMK01014		Threatened	G5T4	S2	
6 Lasionycteris noctivagans silver-haired bat	AMACC02010			G5	S3S4	
7 Navarretia leucocephala ssp. bakeri Baker's navarretia	PDPLM0C0E1			G4T2	S2.1	1B.1
8 Riparia riparia bank swallow	ABPAU08010		Threatened	G5	S2S3	
9 Sagittaria sanfordii Sanford's arrowhead	PMALI040Q0			G3	S3.2	1B.2
10 Thamnophis gigas giant garter snake	ARADB36150	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3	S2S3	



## Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants

v7-10b 4-21-10

**Status:** search results for "+Gridley (560C) 3912136" - Tue, Jun. 22, 2010 12:40 c

Tip: Lathyrus Astragalus returns species from both genera.[all tips and help.]  
[\[search history\]](#)

**Hits 1 to 1 of 1**

**Requests that specify topo quads will return only Lists 1-3.**

To save selected records for later study, click the ADD button.

Selections will appear in a new window.

open	save	hits	scientific	common	family	CNPS
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<b>Sagittaria sanfordii</b> 	Sanford's arrowhead	Alismataceae	List 1B.2

No more hits.





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## APPENDIX B

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY  
GRIDLEY BOAT RAMP PROJECT

GENESIS SOCIETY  
APRIL 29, 2008

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# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY**

**Proposed Gridley Boat Ramp Project,  
c. 1.1-Acres, Butte County, California.**

Prepared for

**Rolls, Anderson & Rolls**  
115 Yellowstone Drive  
Chico, California 95973

Author

**Sean Michael Jensen, M.A.**

**Keywords** *for Information Center Use:*

Archaeological Inventory Survey, c. 1.1-acres, Butte County, CEQA/NEPA, USGS Gridley,  
Ca. 7.5' Quad., No Historic Properties/Historical Resources/Archaeological Resources.

April 29, 2008



# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Project Background

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey involving approximately 1.1-acre of land at the Gridley Boat Ramp facility, located adjacent to the east side of the Feather River, approximately ¼-mile south of East Gridley Road, in Butte County, California. The proposed project will involve replacement of the existing boat ramp, construction of a floating dock, parking lot, restrooms, and fish cleaning facilities, as well limited land re-contouring and vegetation removal, all to occur within the 1.1-acre impact area.

The proposed project will involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components in conjunction with dredging and re-contouring lands within the vicinity of the existing boat ramp and other proposed actions, and will therefore have the potential to impact cultural resources located within the Area of Potential Effect (APE), which consists of the c. 1.1-acre project area itself (see attached *Project Location Map*). Evaluation of the project's effects to cultural resources must be undertaken in conformity with Butte County rules and regulations, and in compliance with requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq. (CEQA), and The California CEQA Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, California Administrative Code, Section 15000 et seq. (Guidelines as amended).

As well, the project will require permitting through the US Army Corps of Engineers because of impacts or potential impacts to waters of the United States. Cultural studies must therefore also comply with federal guidelines, including in particular Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and other rules and regulations.

## Scope of Work

Compliance with CEQA requires completion of projects in conformity with the amended (October 1998) Guidelines, including in particular Section 15064.5. Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA requires completion of projects in conformity with the standards, guidelines, and principles in the Advisory Council's Treatment of Archaeological Properties: A Handbook (1980), and Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (1983). Based on these rules, regulations and laws, the following tasks were considered an adequate and appropriate Scope of Work for the present archaeological inventory:

- Conduct a records search at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at CSU-Chico and consult with affected Native American representatives and the Native American Heritage Commission. The goals of the records search and consultation are to determine (a) the extent and distribution of previous archaeological surveys, (b) the locations of known archaeological sites and any previously recorded archaeological districts, and (c) the relationship between known sites and environmental variables. This step is also designed to ensure that, during subsequent

field survey work, all significant/eligible cultural resources are discovered, correctly identified, and properly interpreted.

- Conduct a complete-coverage, intensive pedestrian survey of the APE. The purpose of the pedestrian survey is to ensure that previously recorded sites identified during the records search and consultation are re-located and eligibility evaluations updated on the basis of existing conditions vis-à-vis site integrity and condition. For previously undocumented sites discovered, the field survey would involve formally recording these on State DPR-523 Primary Records. For both previously identified and newly identified resources, the level of field work would be sufficient to recommend measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects of the undertaking to any sites recommended eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Upon completion of the records search, consultation and pedestrian survey, prepare an archaeological inventory survey report that identifies project effects and that includes an **Historic Properties Treatment Plan** for any eligible or potentially eligible properties affected by the undertaking.

The present document constitutes the final report for this project, detailing the results of the records search, consultation and pedestrian field survey and providing recommendations for treatment of historic properties affected. All field survey procedures followed guidelines provided by the State Historic Preservation Office (Sacramento) and conform to accepted professional standards.

## Location

The Gridley Boat Ramp Project consists of an existing boat ramp located adjacent to the east side of the Feather River, approximately ¼-mile south of East Gridley Road, in Butte County, California. The proposed project will involve replacement of the existing boat ramp, construction of a floating dock, parking lot, restrooms, and fish cleaning facilities, as well limited land re-contouring and vegetation removal. Lands affected total approximately 1.1-acres located within a portion of Section 4, Township 17 North, Range 3 East, as shown on the USGS Gridley, California, 7.5' series quadrangle (see attached **Project Location Map**).

Until relatively recently, lands within this general area remained largely undeveloped for residential or commercial uses, being utilized since about 1865 for ranching and orchard farming. During the past several decades, however, the pace of development within the Gridley area generally and in the vicinity of the Highway 70 corridor (Highway 70 is located c. one mile east of the project area) has increased, with residential, commercial, and recreational development ongoing in some areas.

Based on available topographic and other maps, but notwithstanding the effects of past and on-going land uses (particularly historic farming, ranching, contemporary recreational activities, prior construction of existing boat ramp and related features), the project area appeared to contain lands of generally low sensitivity for both prehistoric and historic-period sites and features.

## 2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Several information sources were considered relevant to evaluating the types of sites and site distribution that might be encountered within the project area. The information evaluated includes data maintained by the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CSU-Chico), consultation with Native American representatives and the Native American Heritage Commission, and published and unpublished documents relevant to regional environment, prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments.

### **Northeast Information Center Records**

The records of the Northeast Information Center (CSU-Chico) were examined for existing recorded prehistoric and historic sites and previous archaeological survey within or near the project area (Records Search dated April 21, 2008, I.C. File # W08-31, copy attached), with the following results.

#### **Previous Archaeological Survey:**

None of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been subjected to survey by a professional archaeologist. Likewise, no archaeological surveys have been conducted within a quarter mile of the project area.

#### **Recorded Cultural Resources:**

No prehistoric or historical cultural resources have been formally recorded or otherwise identified within, adjacent or close to the project area.

### **Native American Consultation**

In conjunction with the records search for the present project, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted regarding Sacred Land Listings. The NAHC indicated that there are no Sacred Land listings for the project area or adjacent lands (response dated April 25, 2008, attached). The contact list from the Native American Heritage Commission included the following individuals and groups, all of whom were contacted and requested to supply any information they might have concerning prehistoric sites or traditional use areas within the project area:

1. Berry Creek Rancheria.
2. Butte Tribal Council.
3. Enterprise Rancheria.
4. Greenville Rancheria.
5. Konkow Valley Band of Maidu
6. Maidu Cultural and Development Group.
7. Maidu Nation.
8. Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria.
9. Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians.

To date, no responses have been received from these contacted groups.

## Other Sources

In addition to examining records at the Northeast Information Center at CSU-Chico and Native American consultation, the following sources were also reviewed by the Information Center, or separately:

- The National Register of Historic Places (1988, Supplements 1966 through 7-00).
- The California Register of Historical Resources (2007)
- The California Inventory of Historic Resources (State of California 1976).
- The California Historical Landmarks (State of California 1996).
- The California Points of Historical Interest (May 1992 and updates).
- The Historic Property Directory (OHP 2007).
- USGS Quadrangle: 1951 Gridley 15'.
- Published and unpublished documents relevant to environment, ethnography, prehistory and early historic developments in the vicinity (reviewed below), providing context for assessing site types and distribution patterns for the project area.

**Environmental Context:** The project area consists of northern Sacramento Valley lands located adjacent to the east side of the Feather River, within lands that receive winter storm runoff from a significant watershed. The area contains deep sediments of the Sacramento Valley, which in turn has been uplifted along its eastern margin where it interfaces with the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

In view of the substantial surface water sources throughout this area, including in particular the Feather River, prehistoric use and occupation was generally intensive, but the population was not randomly distributed. Clearly, the most intensively occupied land areas were at elevated locations along the river systems and along the Valley/Foothill interface located east of Gridley and east of the present project area.

**Prehistory:** The earliest residents in the Great Central Valley are represented by the Fluted Point and Western Pluvial Lakes Traditions, which date from about 11,500 to 7,500 years ago (Moratto 2004). Within portions of the Central Valley of California, fluted projectile points have been found at Tracy Lake (Heizer 1938) and around the margins of Buena Vista Lake in Kern County. Similar materials have been found to the north, at Samwel Cave near Shasta Lake and near McCloud and Big Springs in Siskiyou County. These early peoples are thought to have subsisted using a combination of generalized hunting and lacustrine exploitation (Moratto 2004).

These early cultural assemblages were followed by an increase in Native population density after about 7,500 years ago. One of the most securely dated of these assemblages in north-central California is from the Squaw Creek Site located north of Redding. Here, a charcoal-based C-14 date suggests extensive Native American presence around 6,500 years ago, or 4,500 B.C. Most of the artifactual material dating to this time period has counterparts further south, around Borax (Clear) Lake to the west, and the Farmington Area in a Valley setting east of Stockton. Important artifact types from this time period include large wide-stemmed projectile points and manos and metates.



In the Northern Sacramento Valley in the general vicinity of the project area, aboriginal populations continued to expand between 6,500 and 4,500 years ago. Early Penutian-speaking arrivals in this area may be represented by the archaeological complex known in the literature as the "Windmill" or "Early Horizon." These sites date to about 4,000-5,000 years ago, with the connection to Penutian-speaking peoples suggested on the basis of extended burials, large leaf-shaped and stemmed projectile points similar to points of the Stemmed Point Tradition in the Plateau and portions of the Great Basin, large villages established along major waterways, and elaborate material culture with a wide range of ornamental and other non-utilitarian artifact types being present (Ragir 1972). The continuation of this pattern through the "Middle Horizon", or from about 1,000 B.C. to A.D. 300, has also been documented at riverine sites within the Sacramento Valley, including several sites near Colusa on the west side of the Sacramento River, and along the Feather River between Oroville to the north, through the Gridley and Liveoak areas, to Marysville to the south.

Sometime around AD 200-300, the Valley may have experienced another wave of Penutian immigration. Arriving ultimately from southern Oregon and the Columbia and Modoc Plateau region and proceeding down the major drainage systems (including the Feather, Yuba and American Rivers and of course the Sacramento River), these Penutian-speaking arrivals may have displaced the earlier populations, including remnant Hokan-speaking peoples still resident within the Valley. Presumably introduced by these last Penutian-speaking peoples to arrive were more extensive use of bulbs and other plant foods, animal and fishing products more intensively processed with mortars and pestles, and perhaps the bow and arrow and associated small stemmed- and corner-notched projectile points.

**Ethnography:** The project area is located within northernmost territory claimed by the northernmost Nisenan at the time of initial contact with European/American culture (*circa* AD 1850) (Wilson and Towne 1978), but close to the border shared with the Maidu to the north. The Nisenan were also referred to as Southern Maidu.

The Nisenan, like the Maidu immediately north, were Penutian speakers, for whom the basic social unit was the family, although the village may also have functioned as a social, political and economic unit. Villages were usually located near water sources, with major villages inhabited mainly in the winter as it was necessary to relocate into the hills and higher elevation zones to establish temporary camps during food gathering seasons (i.e., spring, summer and fall). Villages typically consisted of a scattering of bark houses, numbering from four or five to several dozen in larger villages, each house containing a single family of from three to seven people.

As with all northern California Indian groups, economic life for these Penutian-speaking groups revolved around hunting, fishing and the collecting of plant foods. Deer were an important meat source and were hunted by individuals by stalking or snaring, or by groups in community drives. Salmon runs, and other food resources available along the Feather and Yuba Rivers, also contributed significantly to local economies. While much of the fish protein was consumed immediately, a significant percentage, particularly during the fall salmon run, was prepared for storage and consumed during winter months. Acorns represented one of the most important vegetal foods and were particularly abundant within

the Oak Park Woodland which dominated lands located a short distance east of Gridley and along the margins of the major rivers, including the Feather River located adjacent to the project area.

Relations between Euro-Americans and Native Americans in the northern Sacramento Valley followed the course of interaction documented in most other parts of North America, but with particularly devastating consequences for the Sacramento Valley Indians. John Work's fur trapping expedition through the region in 1832-33 resulted in the introduction of several communicable diseases, the results of which were devastating to Native culture and society (Maloney 1945; Cook 1955; 1976).

Resource Considerations, Native American Sites: The discussion of regional prehistory and ethnography provides insight into the types of Native American sites likely to be present within the general project vicinity, with the most likely types for this area including:

- Large village sites located along the margins of the Feather River and other major streams, particularly at confluences.
- Surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage without evidence of buried cultural deposits, resulting from short-term occupation and/or specialized economic activities.
- Mortuary sites, often but not exclusively associated with large village complexes.
- Isolated finds of aboriginal artifacts and flakes.

Historic Context: Historic evidence exists to document that some of the Spanish and Mexican expeditions may have come through and made brief stays within northern California. John Work's fur trapping expedition through central California in 1832-33, the best documented of the initial forays into Valley, introduced several communicable diseases to the Native inhabitants which turned out to be devastating to Nisenan culture and society (Malony 1945; Cook 1976).

The next major incursion by White men occurred during the Gold Rush period, which in this area began in 1849-1850 with mining operations along the Feather River at Oroville, the Honcut Creek system to the east, and the Bear and Yuba River systems to the southeast. Beginning in 1855 the placer operations shifted to hydraulicking, with adverse effects on downstream communities near major river systems, such as Gridley, Marysville and Sacramento.

Gridley itself was an important early farming and ranching community. By the late 1860's and early 1870's, large tracts of farmland were being cleared throughout lands flanking the Feather River, with the railroad reaching the area from Sacramento in 1870.

As elsewhere in California, many of the Valley communities were purposefully created and funded by the railroads, with one of the objectives being to provide necessary services for the system itself (water, fuel), and another being to benefit from housing construction spurred by the extension of the railroad. Several towns in the vicinity of Gridley represent such communities whose period of intensive growth was directly related to the railroad and to the benefits to local agriculture and ranching (both sheep and cattle) which accompanied expansion of available markets created by the extension of long-haul freight into the Valley.

Another important historic railroad in the area is the Sacramento Northern Railroad. The Sacramento Northern emerged by consolidating and re-incorporating several interurban electric lines, including the Chico Electric and Northern Electric. This historic alignment is located east of the present project area, paralleling the Highway 70 corridor to the east.

Resource Considerations, Historic Resources: Historic overviews for the region document a range of historic site and feature types within this portion of Butte County in particular and the Northern Sacramento Valley in general. These range from remnant structures within historic communities to isolated farms, homesteads and ranch complexes, and irrigation ditches and canals, and drainage and other reclamation features. Also present within the vicinity but outside the APE for this project are constructed levees associated with the Feather River. The present APE is removed from the existing levee, however, which at this location has not been purposefully elevated and contains only limited concrete demolition rip-rap placed primarily following the 1986 flooding event.

### **3. PEDESTRIAN SURVEY and INVENTORY**

All of the project area was subjected to intensive pedestrian survey by walking back and forth across the c. 1.1-acre property with systematic transects maintained at c. 5-10 meter intervals. In searching for cultural resources, the surveyor considered the results of background research and was alert for unusual contours, soil changes, distinctive vegetation patterns, exotic materials, artifacts, feature or feature remnants and other possible markers of cultural sites. All of the existing built environment within and adjacent to the project area is fully contemporary – including the existing boat ramp, a fish-cleaning facility, and the nearby wastewater treatment features.

#### **Prehistoric Sites**

Neither the existing records at CSU-Chico, consultation with tribal representatives, consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission, nor the present pedestrian field survey have documented any prehistoric sites or artifacts, traditional use areas, or sacred land listings within, adjacent or close to the project area. The absence of prehistoric cultural material at this location is explained in part by the extensive disturbance to which virtually all of the project/study area has been subjected, including substantial grading and other construction activities associated with the existing Gridley boat ramp and associated picnic facilities and access roads, as well as intensive disturbance associated with construction of a waste water treatment plant adjacent to the east side of the project property.

#### **Historic Sites**

Neither the existing records at CSU-Chico nor the present pedestrian field survey have documented any historical sites or artifacts within, adjacent or close to the project area. The existing boat ramp and all associated facilities are contemporary, including the nearby wastewater treatment features, all having been constructed after 1970.

## 4. PROJECT EFFECTS

A project may have a significant impact or adverse effect on cultural resources/historic properties if the project will or could result in the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance or values of the resource would be materially impaired.

Based on the findings of the present inventory effort, no historic properties are present within the project area and no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking, as presently proposed.

## 5. PROJECT SUMMARY

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey involving approximately 1.1-acres of land at the Gridley Boat Ramp facility, located adjacent to the east side of the Feather River, approximately ¼-mile south of East Gridley Road, in Butte County, California. The proposed project will involve replacement of the existing boat ramp, construction of a floating dock, parking lot, restrooms, and fish cleaning facilities, and limited land re-contouring and vegetation removal.

A search of State data bases, including all records and documents available at the Northeast Information Center, consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission and Native American representatives identified by the NAHC, and intensive-level pedestrian survey have failed to identify any historical or prehistoric cultural resources, traditional use areas, areas of traditional collecting, or other cultural issues of concern within or adjacent to the project area/APE.

Based on the findings of the present archaeological inventory, no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking, as presently proposed. Despite these negative findings, the following general provisions are considered appropriate:

1. ***Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains:*** In the event that human remains are inadvertently encountered during any ground-disturbing activity or at any time subsequently, State law shall be followed, which includes but is not limited to immediately contacting the County Coroner's office upon any discovery of human remains.
2. ***Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of cultural material:*** The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that important unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future construction or other activities. This possibility is particularly relevant considering the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where extensive past disturbance has occurred, as in the present case. In the event of an inadvertent discovery

of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

## 6. REFERENCES CITED and/or UTILIZED

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# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY**

**Proposed Gridley Boat Ramp Project,  
c. 1.1-Acres, Butte County, California.**

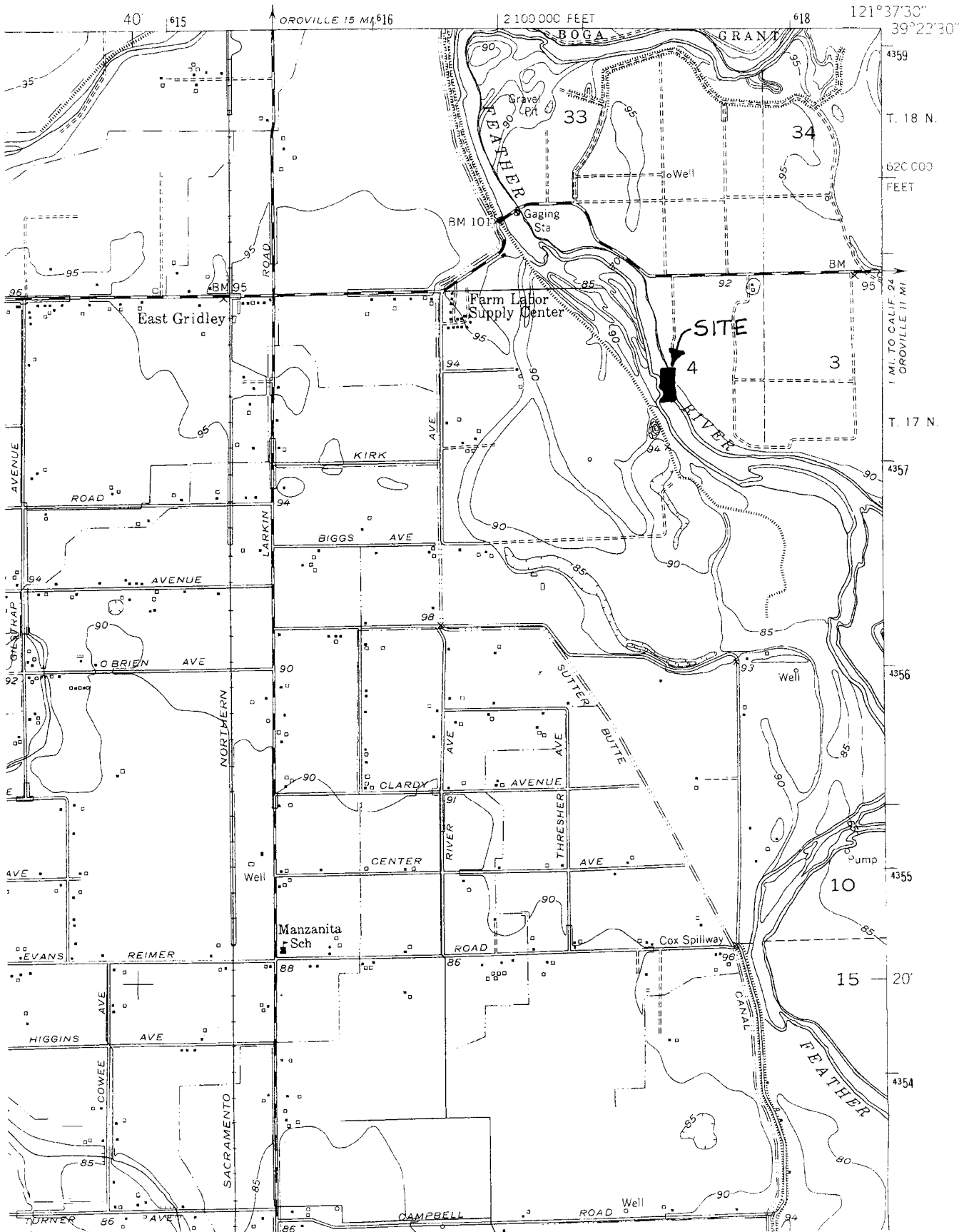
## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Project Location Map.
- Copy of Records Search from Northeast Information Center, W08-31.
- Copy of letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).
- Response letter from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).
- Letter contacts with Native American Representatives:
  1. Berry Creek Rancheria.
  2. Butte Tribal Council.
  3. Enterprise Rancheria.
  4. Greenville Rancheria.
  5. Konkow Valley Band of Maidu
  6. Maidu Cultural and Development Group.
  7. Maidu Nation.
  8. Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria.
  9. Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians.



GRIDLEY QUADRANGLE  
CALIFORNIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1662 1 NE  
(PALEIRMO)



Northeast Center of the  
California Historical Resources  
Information System

BUTTE  
GLENN  
LASSEN  
MODOC  
PLUMAS  
SHASTA

SIERRA  
SISKIYOU  
SUTTER  
TEHAMA  
TRINITY

California State University, Chico  
Building 25, Suite 204  
Chico, California 95929-0377  
Phone (530) 898-6256  
Fax (530) 898-4413

I.C. FILE # W008-31

**AGREEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

I, the undersigned, have been granted access to archaeological data on file at the Northeast Center of the California Historical Resources Information System. I understand the confidential nature of this information and agree to respect that confidentiality by not disclosing specific site locations to unauthorized individuals or in publicly distributed documents without written consent of the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Information Center Coordinator.

I agree to submit completed site records and reports pertinent to this project to this Information Center no later than 60 days after completion of field investigation. Subsequent reports on the identified sites that are pertinent to archaeological resource management will be submitted as well.

I understand that failure to comply with the above agreement is grounds for denial of access to archaeological data at any California Historical Resources Information Center.

Sean Jensen Name ~~Sean Michael Jensen~~ Signature 4-21-08 Date

GENESIS SOCIETY Affiliation 680-6170 Telephone

7053 MOLOKAI DRIVE PARADISE, CA 95969 Address

Purpose of Research: Planning  Scientific/Academic ( ) Other ( )

GRIDLEY BOAT RAMP Project

T17N, R3E, S4 Location

Gridley 7.5' Maps

**STAFF USE ONLY**

Time:	Fees:	<u>1</u> hour(s) @ \$100.00/hr	\$ <u>100.00</u>
IN: <u>3:25pm</u>		____ staff hours @ \$40.00/hr	\$ _____
OUT: <u>3:50pm</u>	Photocopy Charges:	____ copies @ \$.15/page	\$ _____
<u>Adrienne Stattery</u> Information Center Staff	Other:	_____	\$ _____
Backlog <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Qm</u> <u>none</u>	TOTAL:		\$ <u>100.00</u>

\*\*\* THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE \*\*\*

# GENESIS SOCIETY

*a Corporation Sole*

7053 MOLOKAI DRIVE  
PARADISE, CALIFORNIA 95969  
(530) 680-6170 VOX  
(530) 876-8650 FAX  
sean-jensen@sbcglobal.net

April 20, 2008

## **Native American Heritage Commission**

*Attn.: Ms. Debbie Treadway*  
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364  
Sacramento, California 95814

***Subject: Gridley Boat Launch Project, Butte, California.***

Dear Debbie:

Enclosed is a USGS based map showing the location of a 1.1-acre boat ramp replacement project, in Butte County, California.

We have been requested to conduct the archaeological survey, and are requesting any information you may have concerning archaeological sites or traditional use areas for this area. Any information you might supply will be used to supplement the archaeological and historical study being prepared for this project.

*Project Name:* Gridley Boat Ramp Project, c. 1.1-acres  
*County:* Butte  
*Map:* USGS Gridley, 7.5'  
*Location:* Section 4 of T17N, R3E

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Regards,



**Sean Michael Jensen, Administrator**



STATE OF CALIFORNIAArnold Schwarzenegger, Governor**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 653-4082  
Fax (916) 657-5390  
Web Site [www.nahc.ca.gov](http://www.nahc.ca.gov)



April 25, 2008

Sean Michael Jensen, Administrator  
GENESIS SOCIETY  
7053 Molokai Drive  
Paradise, CA 95969

Sent by Fax: 530-876-8650  
Number of Pages: 4

Re: Proposed: Gridley Boat Launch project, Butte County. Roddan Ranch Development project, Yuba County.

Dear Mr. Jensen:

A record search of the sacred land file has failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the sacred lands file does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans individuals/organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. The Commission makes no recommendation or preference of a single individual, or group over another. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe or group. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 653-4038.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debbie Pilas-Treadway".

Debbie Pilas-Treadway  
Environmental Specialist III

**Native American Contacts  
Butte County  
April 25, 2008**

Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
Cultural Resources Rep  
#5 Tyme Way Tyme Maidu  
Oroville , CA 95966  
gmix@berrycreekrancheria.  
(530) 534-3859  
(530) 534-1151 FAX

Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
Glenda Nelson, Chairperson  
1940 Feather River Blvd., Suite B Maidu  
Oroville , CA 95965  
eranch@cncnet.com  
(530) 532-9214  
(530) 532-1768 FAX

Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
Jim Edwards, Chairperson  
#5 Tyme Way Tyme Maidu  
Oroville , CA 95966  
gmix@berrycreekrancheria.  
(530) 534-3859  
(530) 534-1151 FAX

Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
Chairperson  
PO Box 279 Maidu  
Greenville , CA 95947  
(530) 284-7990  
(530) 284-6612 - Fax

Butte Tribal Council  
Ren Reynolds  
1693 Mt. Ida Road Maidu  
Oroville , CA 95966  
(530) 589-1571

Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
Mike DeSpain, EPA/Cultural Resources  
PO Box 279 Maidu  
Greenville , CA 95947  
mdespain.  
(530) 284-7990  
Fax: (530) 284-6612

Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
Frank Watson, Vice Chairperson  
1940 Feather River Blvd., Suite B Maidu  
Oroville , CA 95965  
eranch@cncnet.com  
(530) 532-9214  
(530) 532-1768 FAX

Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
Gabriel Gorbet, Tribal Administrator  
PO Box 279 Maidu  
Greenville , CA 95947  
ggorbet@greenvillerancheria.com  
(530) 284-7990  
Fax: (530) 284-6612

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Gridley Boat Launch project, Butte County.



**Native American Contacts**  
**Butte County**  
**April 25, 2008**

**KonKow Valley Band of Maidu**  
**Patsy Seek, Chairperson**  
 1706 Sweem Street  
 Oroville , CA 95965  
 (530) 533-1504

**KonKow / Concow  
Maidu**

**Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria**  
**Paula Cuddeford, Tribal Administrator**  
 125 Mission Ranch Blvd  
 Chico , CA 95926  
 pcuddeford@mechoopda-nsn.  
 (530) 899-8922 ext-209  
 Fax: (530) 899-8517

**Mechoopda Maidu  
Concow**

**Maidu Cultural and Development Group**  
**Lorena Gorbet**  
 PO Box 426  
 Greenville , CA 95947  
 (530) 284-1601

**Maidu**

**Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians**  
**Gary Archuleta, Chairperson**  
 #1 Alverda Drive  
 Oroville , CA 95966  
 frontdesk@mooretown.org  
 (530) 533-3625  
 (530) 533-3680 Fax

**Maidu  
KonKow / Concow**

**Maidu Nation**  
**Clara LeCompte**  
 P.O Box 204  
 Susanville , CA 96130

**Maidu**

**Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians**  
**James Sanders, Tribal Administrator**  
 #1 Alverda Drive  
 Oroville , CA 95966  
 (530) 533-3625  
 (530) 533-3680 FAX

**Maidu  
KonKow/Concow**

**Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria**  
**Dennis Ramirez, Chairperson**  
 125 Mission Ranch Blvd  
 Chico , CA 95926  
 award@mechoopda-nsn.gov  
 (530) 899-8922 ext 215  
 (530) 899-8517 - Fax

**Mechoopda Maidu  
Concow**

**This list is current only as of the date of this document.**

**Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.**

**This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Gridley Boat Launch project, Butte County.**



# GENESIS SOCIETY

*a Corporation Sole*

7053 MOLOKAI DRIVE  
PARADISE, CALIFORNIA 95969  
(530) 680-6170 VOX  
(530) 876-8650 FAX  
sean-jensen@sbcglobal.net

April 25, 2008

## **Native American Individuals, Groups and Tribes**

***Subject: Gridley Boat Ramp Project, Butte County, California.***

Dear Interested Native Americans:

Enclosed is a USGS topo-based map showing the location for a proposed boat ramp replacement project involving approximately 1.1-acres in Butte County, California.

We are requesting any specific information you might have concerning prehistoric sites or traditional use areas at this location, which is shown on the attached map and further described below:

Project Name: Gridley Boat Ramp Project, c. 1.1-acres  
County: Butte  
Map: USGS Gridley, 7.5'  
Location: Section 4 of T17N, R3E

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call me at (530) 680-6170.

Regards,



**Sean Michael Jensen, Administrator**





**508 Chestnut Street, Suite A, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067 (530) 926-4059 FAX (530) 926-4279**

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**MITIGATION MONITORING  
REPORTING PROGRAM  
FOR THE  
GRIDLEY EAST GRIDLEY SOLAR ARRAY  
PROJECT**

---

**SEPTEMBER 2010**

*Submitted to:*

**CITY OF GRIDLEY**  
685 Kentucky Street  
Gridley, CA 95948



## **MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM CONTENTS**

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Gridley East Gridley Solar Array Project. The MMRP includes a brief discussion of the legal basis for and the purpose of the program, discussion and direction regarding complaints about noncompliance, a key to understanding the monitoring matrix, and the monitoring matrix itself.

## **LEGAL BASIS OF AND PURPOSE FOR THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM**

California Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 requires public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting programs whenever certifying an environmental impact report (EIR) or a mitigated negative declaration. This requirement facilitates implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

The MMRP contained herein is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Gridley East Gridley Solar Array Project. It is to be used by the City of Gridley staff, participating agencies, project contractors and mitigation monitoring personnel during implementation of the project.

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Gridley East Gridley Solar Array Project presents a detailed set of mitigation measures that will be implemented throughout the lifetime of the project. Mitigation measures, as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15370, are measures that do any of the following:

- Avoid impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- Minimize impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- Rectify impacts by repairing, rehabilitating or restoring the impacted environment.
- Reduce or eliminate impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project.
- Compensate for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

The intent of the MMRP is to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of adopted mitigation measures and permit conditions. The MMRP will provide for monitoring of construction activities as necessary, on-site identification and resolution of environmental problems, and proper reporting to Agency staff.

The timing elements of mitigation measures and definition of the development process have been provided in detail throughout this MMRP to assist existing and future City staff by providing the most usable monitoring document possible.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY**

The City of Gridley will have primary responsibility for the operation and implementation of the MMRP. The City will be responsible for the following activities:

- Coordination of monitoring activities.
- Direction of the preparation and filing of compliance reports.
- Maintenance of records concerning the status of all mitigation measures.

The City will also have the responsibility of implementing the mitigation measures for which it has been identified as the primary enforcement and monitoring agent. Other agencies or persons which have been identified as enforcement and monitoring agents for specific mitigation measures will be responsible for implementing these measures.

### **MONITORING PERSONNEL**

The City of Gridley bears responsibility for ensuring that the mitigation measures in this document are implemented. The City reserves the right to hire technical experts and professionals to help in evaluating compliance. These may include but are not limited to biologists, archaeologists and planning professionals. Some of the measures will be assigned to the contractor as part of the scope of work.

### **MONITORING MATRIX**

The tables on the back pages of the MMRP identify the mitigation measures proposed for the Gridley East Gridley Solar Array Project. These mitigation measures are reproduced from the Gridley East Gridley Solar Array Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project. The tables have the following columns:

- **Mitigation Measure:** Lists the mitigation measures identified within the Gridley East Gridley Solar Array Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for a specific impact, along with the number for each measure as enumerated in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- **Timing:** Identifies at what point in time, review process or phase the mitigation measure will be completed.
- **Agency/Department Consultation:** References the person or agency with which coordination is required to satisfy the identified mitigation measure.
- **Verification:** Spaces to be initialed and dated by the individual designated to verify adherence to a specific mitigation measure.

### **NONCOMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS**

Any person or agency may file a complaint asserting noncompliance with the mitigation measures associated with the project. The complaint shall be directed to the City in written form, providing specific information on the asserted violation. The City shall conduct an investigation and determine the validity of the complaint. If noncompliance with a mitigation measure has



occurred, the City shall take appropriate action to remedy any violation. The complainant shall receive a written response indicating the results of the investigation or the final action corresponding to the particular noncompliance issue.

**MONITORING MATRIX FOR  
GRIDLEY EAST GRIDLEY SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT**

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Agency/Department Consultation	Verification (Date and Initials)
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>			
<p><b>MM 3.1:</b> Depending on weather conditions, the City shall incorporate into the project and require that the contractor comply with some or all of the following dust control measures as needed to control fugitive dust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water all active construction sites at least twice daily, or as needed. Frequency should be based upon the type of operation, soil, and wind exposure.</li> <li>• Land clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation activities shall be suspended when winds exceed 15 miles per hour, as determined by an anemometer on-site or at the direction of Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB).</li> <li>• Apply non-toxic binders (e.g., latex acrylic copolymer) to exposed areas after cut and fill operations.</li> <li>• Consider applying a synthetic cover or granite to exposed areas.</li> <li>• Use alternatives to open burning of vegetative material on the project site, such as chipping, mulching, or conversion to biomass fuel, unless otherwise deemed infeasible by the BCAQMD.</li> </ul>	<p align="center">Upon commencement of grading and construction activities.</p>	<p align="center">City of Gridley Planning Department, Butte County Air Quality Management District.</p>	

**DRAFT MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM**

<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Agency/Department Consultation</b>	<b>Verification (Date and Initials)</b>
<p><b>MM 3.2:</b> To mitigate impacts of diesel equipment emissions during construction, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The primary contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that all construction equipment is properly tuned and maintained.</li> <li>• Utilize existing power sources (e.g., power poles) or clean fuel generators rather than temporary power generators when feasible.</li> <li>• Minimize idling time to 10 minutes.</li> </ul>	<p align="center">Upon commencement of grading and construction activities</p>	<p align="center">City of Gridley Planning Department, Butte County Air Quality Management District</p>	
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>			
<p><b>MM 4.1:</b> If proposed construction activities are planned to occur during the nesting seasons for local avian species (typically March 1st through August 31st), the City shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a focused survey for active nests of raptors and migratory birds within and in the vicinity of (no less than 100-feet outside project boundaries, where possible) the construction area no more than two weeks prior to ground disturbance or tree removal. If active nests are located during preconstruction surveys, USFWS and/or CDFG shall be notified regarding the status of the nests. Furthermore, construction activities shall be restricted as necessary to avoid disturbance of the nest until it is abandoned or a biologist deems disturbance</p>	<p align="center"><i>Survey requirements shall be incorporated into contract plans during project design. Surveys shall be conducted no more than two weeks prior to</i></p>	<p align="center">City of Gridley Planning Department</p>	

**DRAFT MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Agency/Department Consultation	Verification (Date and Initials)
<p>potential to be minimal (in consultation with USFWS and/or CDFG). Restrictions may include establishment of exclusion zones (no ingress of personnel or equipment at a minimum radius of 100-feet around the nest) or alteration of the construction schedule. No action is necessary if construction will occur during the non-breeding season (generally September 1st through February 28th).</p>	<p><i>construction. Any nests found shall be monitored throughout construction until there is no danger to nesting birds</i></p>		
<p><b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b></p>			
<p><b>MM 5.1:</b> If, during the course of project implementation, cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric sites, historic sites, and isolated artifacts and features) are discovered, work shall be halted immediately within 50 feet of the discovery. The City of Gridley Planning Department shall be immediately notified, and a professional archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology shall be retained to determine the significance of the discovery. The City shall consider mitigation recommendations presented by a professional archaeologist and implement a measure or measures that the City deems feasible and appropriate. Such measures may include avoidance, preservation in place, excavation, documentation, curation, data recovery, or other appropriate measures. The Native American Heritage or other applicable Native American tribes shall also be</p>	<p>During all earth moving activities</p>	<p>City of Gridley Public Works Department</p>	

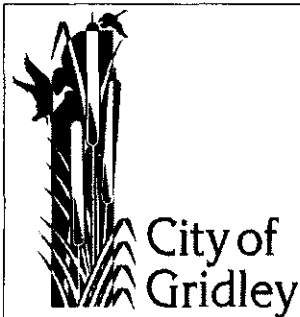
**DRAFT MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM**

<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Agency/Department Consultation</b>	<b>Verification (Date and Initials)</b>
notified and consulted on appropriate measures.			
<b>MM 5.2:</b> Prior to the commencement of project ground-disturbing activities, all construction personnel shall be informed of the type(s) of cultural resources that might be inadvertently uncovered in the area and protocols to be implemented to protect Native American human remains and any subsurface cultural resources.	Prior to construction activities	City of Gridley Public Works Department	
<b>MM 5.3:</b> If human remains are discovered, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the find, and the County Coroner must be notified, according to Section 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of California's Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, and the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5(d) and (e) shall be followed.	During all earth moving activities	City of Gridley Public Works Department	
<b>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</b>			
<b>MM 9.1:</b> Prior to installation of the solar panel system, the City Engineer shall determine the site's elevations and assure the solar panels will be at least one foot above the 100-year flood	Prior to construction activities.	City of Gridley Public Works Department	

**DRAFT MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM**

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<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Agency/Department Consultation</b>	<b>Verification (Date and Initials)</b>
water elevation.			



# CITY OF GRIDLEY

## Staff Report

TO: City Council  
FROM: Andrea Redamonti, Community Development Director  
MEETING DATE: October 4, 2010  
SUBJECT: Public Hearing for **East Gridley Road (Wastewater Treatment Plan Site) Solar Array Project** Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

---

### **SUMMARY:**

The City of Gridley is lead agency for a proposed solar array project located north and adjacent to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant site off of East Gridley Road. Prior to obtaining funding and construction of the project, environmental review must be completed according to the California Environmental Quality Act. The City has complied with CEQA regulations by completing an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission recommended Council certify the environmental document.

### **BACKGROUND:**

This project is proposed on a 13-acre parcel which is part of the City-owned wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) property off East Gridley Road. The photovoltaic solar array will be 750 KW DC (kilowatt direct current) in size and will produce approximately 1,590,000 kilowatt hours (kwh) of energy per year and may be expanded at some point in the future to utilize the entire 13-acre parcel. The project will be tied to the existing electric grid and is intended to serve the City's WWTP. Access to the site will be via the existing plant and boat ramp access road off East Gridley Road. The initial environmental review has identified: a) air quality, b) biological resources, c) cultural resources and d) hydrology and water quality are significant environmental impacts requiring mitigation resulting from the project. The project area is within the 100-year floodplain and mitigation has been incorporated to mitigate any impacts from flooding.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

An Initial Study/Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared for the project in July 2010. The 30-day comment period for review of the environmental documents closed on September 20, 2010.

Staff has prepared written responses to each written and verbal comment received on the Initial Study/MND. The responses to comments were then submitted to each commenter (Agency). As of the date of this staff report, no additional comments or responses to the comments have been received by the City.

To date, the City received three comments on the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project consisting of (1) an email from Caltrans, dated September 8, 2010; 2) letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, dated September 7, 2010, and 3) two email inquiries from Butte County Environmental Health, dated August 30th and September 10th. Included are the letters received during the public comment period as well as any responses to comments. Supporting materials for the responses to comments are attached to this staff report.

Upon further review of the IS/MND by City staff, a minor modification has been made to Section 1.0, Introduction. These changes are considered to be a minor modification to the project under CEQA and are consistent with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines. This addition is consistent with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines and consists of minor technical changes or additions to the project that do not result in significant effects not discussed in the previous IS/MND. The project does not require a Subsequent Negative Declaration as defined by Section 15164 as the project does not consist of substantial changes to the project.

**ATTACHMENTS (in order):**

- A. Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the East Gridley Road Solar Array Project.
- B. Comments and Responses to Comments for the East Gridley Road Solar Array Project DIS/MND and the proposed MMRP.
- C. Resolution No. 2010-R-041

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the City Council hold a public hearing to receive input on the responses to comments on the Draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the East Gridley Road Solar Array Project; and

- Adopt Resolution No. 2010-R-041, "A RESOLUTION OF THE GRIDLEY CITY COUNCIL CERTIFYING THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND ADOPTING THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM FOR A 5-ACRE SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE CITY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ON EAST GRIDLEY ROAD, A PORTION OF ASSESSOR PARCEL NO.024-220-023, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2010082046", by reading of title only.



For a complete copy of  
Attachments A and B, please go to  
[www.gridley.ca.us](http://www.gridley.ca.us) or you can request a  
copy on cd by calling 846-3631

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-R-041**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GRIDLEY CITY COUNCIL CERTIFYING THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND ADOPTING THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM FOR A 5-ACRE SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE CITY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ON EAST GRIDLEY ROAD, A PORTION OF ASSESSOR PARCEL NO.024-220-023, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO.2010082046**

**WHEREAS**, a Mitigated Negative Declaration ("MND") has been prepared, publicized, circulated and reviewed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Cal. Pub. Res. Code sections 21000 *et seq.*, "CEQA") and the State CEQA guidelines (Cal. Code Regs, Title 17, sections 15000 *et seq.*, "CEQA Guidelines"); and

**WHEREAS**, a Notice of Preparation was released for public and agency review and comment on the Gridley Boat Launch Improvement Project, with public review period starting August 20, 2010 and ending on September 20, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has reviewed and considered the verbal and written information provided by interested parties as well as the information provided in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration ("MND") and

**WHEREAS**, the MND reflects the Council's independent judgment; and

**WHEREAS**, the mitigation measures listed in the MND shall be made conditions of project approval to ensure that the project will not have significant effect on the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program has also been prepared in accordance with CEQA and Implementing Guidelines.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Gridley City Council certifies the Mitigated Negative Declaration as complete, adequate and in compliance with CEQA, and hereby adopts the associated Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Gridley 5-Acre Solar Array Project as follows:

**FINDINGS:**

Based upon information contained in this staff report and/or testimony received at the public hearing, the City Council of the City of Gridley makes the following findings:

1. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, an Initial Study was prepared to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed project.
2. The City received comments from affected agencies which resulted in minor modifications to be made Section 1.0-1.0, under 1.1. Introduction and Regulatory Guidance. The changes are considered to be a minor modification to the project under CEQA and are consistent with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines. The additions are determined consistent with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines and consists of minor technical changes or additions to the project that do not result in significant effects

**RESOLUTION NO.2010-R-041**

not discussed in the previous IS/MND. No Subsequent Negative Declaration as defined by Section 15164 will be required as the project does not consist of substantial changes to the project.

- 3. The Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration determined the project could have a significant impact on the environment; however, with the mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study, all potential impacts would be reduced to a level of less than significant.
- 4. No additional written comments have been received which present evidence the project will have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Monitoring Program attached to this staff report are adequate under CEQA.
- 5. The City Council approves the Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, for the East Gridley Road Waste Water Treatment Plan Solar Array Project, which is kept on file at the City Planning Department and approves the Mitigation Monitoring Program, attached as Exhibit "A" to this resolution.
- 6. The proposed project has been reviewed and is consistent with the General Plan, in that the land use being proposed is consistent with the goals and policies of the Conservation Element of the General Plan and consistent with the General Industrial land use designation.
- 7. All of the findings and conclusions made by the City Council pursuant to this Resolution and the exhibit incorporated herein are based on substantial evidence in the entire record before the Commission.

\*\*\*\*\*

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing resolution was introduced, passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Gridley at a regular meeting held on the 4th day of October 2010 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Ann Fichter

**RESOLUTION NO.2010-R-041**

ATTEST: CITY CLERK

---

Robert Hickey

**AGENDA  
GRIDLEY PLANNING COMMISSION**

REGULAR MEETING  
5:30 P.M.; MONDAY  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2010



GRIDLEY CITY HALL  
685 KENTUCKY STREET  
GRIDLEY, CA 95948

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**  
**ROLL CALL**

**CHAIR AUJLA**  
**RECORDING SECRETARY**

**1. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**1.1 Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Gridley East Gridley Road Solar Array Project.**

- A. Receive staff report for Items 1.1 and 1.2
- B. Open public hearing
- C. Close public hearing
- D. Commission discussion
- E. Staff recommends the Planning Commission Adopt Resolution No. R-P-05 (2010) “A RESOLUTION OF THE GRIDLEY PLANNING COMMISSION CITY OF GRIDLEY CERTIFYING THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND ADOPTING THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM FOR A 5-ACRE SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE CITY’S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ON EAST GRIDLEY ROAD, A PORTION OF ASSESSOR PARCEL NO.024-220-023, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2010082046”, by reading of title only.

**1.2 Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Gridley 27-Acre Solar Array Project.**

- A. Staff report was reviewed above
- B. Open public hearing
- C. Close public hearing
- D. Commission discussion
- E. Staff recommends the Planning Commission Adopt Resolution No. R-P-04 (2010), “A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GRIDLEY RECOMMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL CERTIFY THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND ADOPT THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE CITY’S 27-ACRE SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT LOCATED EAST OF HIGHWAY 99, SOUTH OF ORD RANCH ROAD, ASSESSOR PARCEL NO. 025-200-088, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2010082047”, by reading of title only; and

**2. COMMISSION CONSIDERATION/PRESENTATIONS**

**2.1 Public Meeting to consider the 2010 Gridley Bicycle Plan Update**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**3.1 August 16, 2010 Planning Commission minutes**

**4. COMMISSION DISCUSSION/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

**5. PUBLIC FORUM**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW, IT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF THIS COMMISSION THAT NO ACTION SHALL BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM PRESENTED DURING THE PUBLIC FORUM OR ON UNSCHEDULED MATTERS UNLESS THE COMMISSION, BY MAJORITY VOTE, DETERMINES THAT AN EMERGENCY SITUATION EXISTS, OR, UNLESS THE COMMISSION BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE FINDS THAT THE NEED TO TAKE ACTION AROSE SUBSEQUENT TO THIS AGENDA BEING POSTED.

**6. ADJOURNMENT** to the regular Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 18, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED IN THE FOYER OF CITY HALL AT 4:00 P.M. ON THE 17<sup>h</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2010, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2.



# MINUTES GRIDLEY CITY COUNCIL AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

REGULAR MEETING  
7:00 P.M., MONDAY  
OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

CITY HALL  
685 KENTUCKY STREET  
GRIDLEY, CALIFORNIA

**Mayor, Jerry Fichter**  
**Vice Mayor, Bruce Johnson**  
**Council member, Dan Boeger**  
**Council member, Dave Garner**  
**Council member, Owen Stiles**

**A. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Fichter called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.**

**B. ROLL CALL – Recording Secretary**

**Council Members**

Present: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter  
Absent: None  
Arriving post roll call: None

**Staff present:** Rob Hickey, City Administrator  
Brant Bordsen, City Attorney  
Karin Helvey, Finance Director  
Bruce Nash, City Engineer  
Andrea Redamonti, Community Development Director  
Gary Keeler, Chief of Police

**C. INVOCATION - None**

**D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – led by Vice Mayor Johnson**

**E. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FORUM**

Jeanne Hart, 1221 Bridgeford Avenue, asked if the streets would be paved once the sewer project is complete.

City Engineer Bruce Nash said the width will vary, it will not be new from gutter to gutter, but yes, it will be paved over.

Brant Bordsen then spoke briefly regarding his award winning pumpkin. He grew the 4<sup>th</sup> largest pumpkin in the world weighing 1,645.5 pounds.

**F. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Public Hearing to receive input on the City's intent to authorize a special assessment and lien

Fire Captain Skip Sannar reviewed the staff report stating this is the only property that did not respond to notices by abating the property.

Mayor Fichter opened the public hearing and seeing no one present wishing to speak, closed the public hearing.

2. Approve Resolution No. 2010-R-044, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRIDLEY ACCEPTING A REPORT OF WEED ABATEMENT COSTS AND ASSESSING LIENS ON AFFECTED PARCELS FOR SAID COSTS"

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2010-R-044 made by Councilman Boeger, seconded by Councilman Stiles

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed, 5-0**

3. Public Hearing to discuss the supplemental appropriation of COPS (Citizen's Option for Public Safety) allocation

**Chief Keeler reviewed the staff report and went over the process and the expected use of funds.**

**There was brief Council discussion regarding how the money has been spent in the past.**

**Mayor Fichter opened the public hearing and seeing no one present wishing to speak, closed the public hearing.**

4. Approve Resolution No. 2010-R-035, **"A RESOLUTION OF THE GRIDLEY CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF CITIZEN'S OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (COPS) ALLOCATION"**

**Motion to approve Resolution No. 2010-R-035 made by Councilman Garner, seconded by Councilman Boeger**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed, 5-0**

5. Public Hearing to receive input on the responses to comments on the Draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the Gridley 27-acre Solar Array Project

**Community Development Director Andrea Redamonti reviewed the staff report and summarized the process up to this point. All concerns/comments received from affected agencies have been addressed.**

**There was brief discussion regarding the archeological impact portion of the MND.**

**Mayor Fichter opened the public hearing and seeing no one present wishing to speak, closed the public hearing.**

6. Approve Resolution No. 2010-R-040, **"A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRIDLEY CERTIFYING THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND ADOPTING THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE CITY'S 27-ACRE SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT LOCATED EAST OF HIGHWAY 99, SOUTH OF ORD RANCH ROAD, ASSESSOR PARCEL NO. 025-200-088, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2010082047"**

**Motion to approve Resolution No. 2010-R-040 made by Councilman Stiles, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed, 5-0**

7. **Public Hearing to receive input on the responses to comments on the Draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the East Gridley Road Solar Array Project**

**Community Development Director Andrea Redamonti reviewed the staff report. Much like the previous item, all comments from affected agencies have been addressed.**

**Mayor Fichter opened the public hearing and seeing no one present wishing to speak, closed the public hearing.**



8. **Approve Resolution No. 2010-R-041, "A RESOLUTION OF THE GRIDLEY CITY COUNCIL CERTIFYING THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND ADOPTING THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM FOR A 5-ACRE SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE CITY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ON EAST GRIDLEY ROAD, A PORTION OF ASSESSOR PARCEL NO. 024-220-023, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2010082046"**

**Motion to approve Resolution No. 2010-R-041 made by Vice Mayor Johnson, seconded by Councilman Stiles**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed, 5-0**

#### **G. CONSENT CALENDER**

9. Council minutes dated July 19<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010
10. Power Purchase Agreement
11. Wiley Award Proclamation
12. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

**Mayor Fichter presented the proclamation to Lindsey Hensher of Catalyst. Ms. Hensher spoke briefly thanking Council for the proclamation and described some of the programs provided by Catalyst**

13. Resolution No. 2010-R-042 Opposing Proposition 19
14. Resolution No. 2010-R-043 Opposing Proposition 26
15. Treasurer's Report, September 2010
16. Fire Department monthly report, August 2010
17. Recreation Department monthly report, August 2010
18. Electric Department monthly report, August 2010
19. City Engineer monthly report, August 2010
20. Building Department monthly report, August 2010
21. Code Enforcement monthly report, August 2010
22. Police Department monthly report, August 2010
23. Planning Department monthly report, August 2010
24. Public Works Department monthly report, August 2010

**Motion to approve consent items 9-24 made by Councilman Stiles, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed, 5-0**

#### **H. REPORTS AND MISCELLANEOUS**

25. Approval of Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant and Resolution No. 2010-R-037

**Fire Captain Skip Sannar briefed Council on the Fire Department's participation in the Volunteer Fire Assistance Act, a \$10,000 grant with 50% being reimbursable by the state. Historically, these funds have been used to purchase a type 3 fire engine, thermal imaging cameras and personal protective equipment. This year the funds would be used to purchase personal protective equipment.**

**Motion to approve Resolution No. 2010-R-037 made by Councilman Garner, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed, 5-0**

26. Mi C.A.S.A Education, Inc. request for funds

**Administrator Hickey stated that the request was addressed to Council so this item has been placed on the agenda for Council discussion however the funds in the discretionary budget have been exhausted.**

**Council directed staff to notify Mi C.A.S.A. to resubmit their request after the new year to be considered in the 2011/2012 budget.**

27. City Engineer Request to Amend Sewer Main Construction Contract

**City Engineer Bruce Nash reviewed the staff report and the changes that necessitate the contract amendment. The original agreement between the City and Rolls, Anderson & Rolls provided for an amount of \$221,616. As of August 24, 2010, they are approaching that limit. The original scope of work has been added on to, which requires additional plans, inspections, etc. The request is for an additional \$84,000.**

**After brief discussion, motion to approve the amendment request in the amount of \$84,000 was made by Councilman Boeger, seconded by Councilman Garner**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed 5-0**

28. "Railroad Park" Bronze Plaque Proposals

**Administrator Hickey reviewed the three bids received for a bronze plaque for the Railroad Park.**

**Mayor Fichter stated that Maryann Jenkins who has been involved in the project from the beginning designed the sign. One of the bidders represented her design more to her liking than the others and that one is Cramer Monument.**

**There was Council discussion regarding the desire to have a sign indicating appreciation for the work of the LDS church members.**

**Motion to approve the Cramer Monument bid was made by Councilman Boeger, seconded by Councilman Stiles**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed, 5-0**

29. Approval of Beale Air Force Base MOU

**Administrator Hickey explained that this is a potential opportunity to provide approximately 50-60% of the Base's power supply at a discount to their current price. WAPA provides the Base with a good base rate for the first 40-50%. The rest is based on spot market pricing which is fairly high. It would be a cost savings to the Base and an increase in funds to the City. The dollar amounts need to be negotiated and worked out. The MOU before Council would**

provide the framework for the two agencies to get together and further their discussions. There are no dollars attached to this MOU, it merely lays out some options where the Base and the City can work together.

**Motion to approve the Beale AFB MOU made by Councilman Boeger, seconded by Councilman Stiles**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Stiles, Fichter**

**Noes: Johnson**

**Motion passed, 4-1**

30. Bid Results – Chassis Mounted Combination Storm Drain Sewer Cleaner

**Bruce Nash stated that one bid was received and it was from Municipal Maintenance Equipment (MME) in the amount of \$336,116.03. He explained that the City has until December 31, 2010, to either modify the existing truck or buy a new one because of the diesel engine. There was \$362,775 in the approved 2010-2011 budget. Mr. Nash recommended approval of bid received from MME.**

**There was discussion regarding the vehicle warranty and whether or not the City had any other less expensive options.**

**Motion to approve the bid from MME was made by Councilman Boeger, seconded by Councilman Stiles**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed, 5-0**

31. Approval of Petty Cash Policy by Resolution No. 2010-R-038

**Administrator Hickey explained that the City had been operating its petty cash fund out of one of the cash drawers. The Finance Director Karin Helvey worked with staff to separate those funds and to establish formal procedures by means of a petty cash policy. The resolution will establish this policy including how much is to be kept in the petty cash drawer.**

**Finance Director Helvey recommended that \$500 be kept in the petty cash fund and explained the process for receiving petty cash and keeping the drawer replenished. These procedures will increase security and accountability.**

**Councilman Stiles suggested two changes to the policy: Section 4, #3 should be changed to say "The petty cash account will be balanced at the end of each day." Section 4, #4 should be changed to say, "The petty cash accounts will be replenished at least quarterly using the claims process."**

**Motion to approve Resolution No. 2010-R-038 made by Councilman Boeger, seconded by Councilman Stiles**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed, 5-0**

## **I. RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

32. Introduction and first reading of Ordinance No. 792-2010, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRIDLEY AMENDING TITLE 8 OF THE GRIDLEY MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE REGULATION BURN PERMITS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS BY AMENDING SECTION 8.12.040 BURNING PROHIBITED IN BUSINESS DISTRICT AND ADDING CHAPTER 8.12.045 SPECIAL"

**Administrator Hickey stated that staff was requested to bring forward an amendment to the current ordinance that would provide for under certain circumstances and conditions the possibility of issuing a burn permit for a special event to be held during the month of December.**

**Councilman Garner explained how this could be a draw to the downtown area not just for residents but eventually people from out of town would hear about it and want to be a part of it.**

**Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 792-2010 made by Councilman Garner, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson**

**Councilman Boeger then asked if there would be a fire truck on hand during the event.**

**Mike Brown answered that if someone chooses to have a ceremonial fire, it is their responsibility to control it.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Johnson**

**Noes: Boeger, Stiles**

**Abstain: Fichter**

**Motion died for lack of majority**

33. Introduction and first reading of Ordinance No. 793-2010, **“AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRIDLEY AMENDING TITLE 12 OF GRIDLEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO SPECIFY THAT THE CITY WILL SHARE THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING MANDATORY FRONTAGE IMPROVEMENTS, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES”** by reading of title only

**Administrator Hickey explained that the current City ordinance allows for a 50/50 cost share to homeowners living in their homes for the cost of curb, gutter and sidewalk. Rentals do not currently qualify for this program, which inhibits the continuation of curb, gutter and sidewalk in the instance a rental is next door to an owner occupied residence. This ordinance would allow for owners of rentals to enter the same type of contract, thus enhancing the City’s appearance by the installing of more curb, gutter and sidewalk.**

**Vice Mayor Johnson inquired as to whether or not this option is available to a homeowner who is doing permitted work and is required by the City to install curb, gutter and sidewalk.**

**Hickey explained that typically in that situation, the homeowner would pay for the improvements. However the door is not shut to them if they want to make a case, keeping in mind that the Council delegates a certain amount of dollars to this fund and once they’re gone they’re gone.**

**Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance 793-2010 made by Councilman Boeger, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed, 5-0**

## **J. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilman Stiles reported on his recent attendance at the NCPA conference.**

**Mayor Fichter reported on the Butte EDC meeting where they discussed “Healthy Cities”. She also had the privilege of meeting and visiting with the City’s first lady Mayor, Doris Long. Mayor Fichter also attended the Butte County Air Quality meeting and two days of the California Downtown Association event in Sacramento.**

**At 8:20 p.m., Council convened to the regular scheduled meeting of the RDA**

## **K. AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR**

34. Agency minutes dated July 7<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Motion to approve Consent Calendar made by Vice Mayor Johnson, seconded by Councilman Garner**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes: Garner, Boeger, Johnson, Stiles, Fichter**

**Motion passed, 5-0**

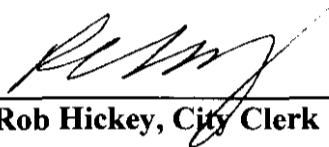
**L. AGENCY CONSIDERATION**

35. Industrial Park Update – Verbal report

**There were no updates to report**

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

**At 8:23 Council reconvened and adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.**



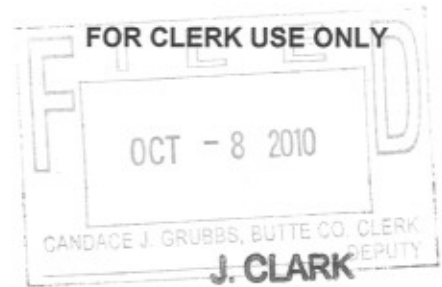
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**Rob Hickey, City Clerk**

**Declaration of Fees Due**  
**(California Fish and Game Code Section 711.4)**

**NAME AND ADDRESS OF LEAD AGENCY/APPLICANT:**

City of Gridley  
Rob Hickey, City Administrator  
685 Kentucky Street  
Gridley, CA 95948



**PROJECT:** East Gridley Road Solar Array Project

**FILING NO.**

**CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:**

1. **NOTICE OF EXEMPTION/STATEMENT OF EXEMPTION**
  - A. Statutorily or Categorically Exempt  
\$50.00 (Fifty Dollars) Butte County Clerk Filing Fee
  - B. DeMinimus Impact Finding – Certificate of Fee Exemption Required  
\$50.00 (Fifty Dollars) Butte County Clerk Filing Fee
  
2. **NOTICE OF DETERMINATION – FEE REQUIRED**
  - A. Negative Declaration  
\$2,010.25 (Two Thousand and Ten Dollars) State Filing Fee  
\$50.00 (Fifty Dollars) Butte County Clerk's Filing Fee
  - B. Environmental Impact Report  
\$2,768.25.00 (Twenty seven hundred sixty eight Dollars and twenty five cents) State Filing Fee  
\$50.00 (Fifty Dollars) Butte County Clerk's Filing Fee
  
3.  **OTHER (Specify) General Rule Exception**  
\$50.00 (Fifty Dollars) Butte County Clerk's Filing Fee

TWO COPIES OF THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED WITH ALL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE BUTTE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE.  
ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING ANY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS WITH THE BUTTE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE.  
THREE COPIES OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR FILING PURPOSES.  
THE \$25.00 HANDLING FEE IS REQUIRED PER FILING IN ADDITION TO THE FILING FEE SPECIFIED IN FISH AND GAME CODE SECTION 711.4(D).

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO COUNTY OF BUTTE.

Notice of Determination

Form C

To:

Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St.
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of: Butte
Address: 25 County Center Dr.
Oroville, CA 95965

From:

Public Agency: City of Gridley
Address: 685 Kentucky Street
Gridley, CA 95948
Contact: Andrea Redamonti
Phone: 530 846 3633

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Address:
Contact:
Phone:

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2010082046

Project Title: East Gridley Solar Array Project

Project Location (include county): east bank of the Feather River south of East Gridley Road, a portion of APN 024-220-023, Butte County

Project Description:

The proposed project is a photovoltaic solar array facility that will be located on a portion of a 13-acre parcel adjacent to the City's WWTP. The solar array facility will be 750 KW DC in size and will produce approximately 1,590,000 kwh of energy per year. The project will be tied to the City's existing electrical grid system and is intended to serve the WWTP.

This is to advise that the City of Gridley has approved the above described project on February 16, 2010 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:
(Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

- 1. The project [ ] will [X] will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. [ ] An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. [X] A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [X] were [ ] were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [X] was [ ] was not adopted for this project.
4. A statement of Overriding Considerations [ ] was [X] was not adopted for this project.
5. Findings [X] were [ ] were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at: Gridley Planning Department, 685 Kentucky Street, Gridley, CA 95948

Signature (Public Agency) Andrea Redamonti Title Community Development Director

Date 10/04/10 Date Received for filing at OPR

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.