

**Morrill Zone Change and Use Permit (Z-23-01, UP-23-04)
Draft Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration**

County of Siskiyou
806 S. Main Street
Yreka, CA 96097



This document has been formatted to be accessible for screen readers and individuals with impaired vision; however, if there are elements in this document that you are unable to read, please contact the Siskiyou County Planning Department at (530) 841-2100.

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Introduction and Regulatory Guidance.....	1
1.2	Lead Agency.....	1
1.3	Purpose and Document Organization	2
1.4	Evaluation of Environmental Impacts	2
2.0	Project Information	5
	Table 1:Phase I Occupancy Numbers.....	8
	Table 2: Phase II Occupancy Numbers.....	11
	Table 3: Phase I and Phase II Combined Occupancy Numbers	11
	Table 4: Surrounding Property Owners (verified 2/4/2026)	14
2.1	Environmental factors potentially affected:	18
2.2	Determination:.....	19
3.0	Environmental Checklist	20
3.1	Aesthetics	20
3.2	Agriculture and Forestry Resources:.....	22
	Table 5: California Department of Water Resources Well Information	24
3.3	Air Quality	27
	Table 6: Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards.....	28
	Table 7: Siskiyou County Air Quality Data	29
3.4	Biological Resources	31
3.5	Cultural Resources	48
3.6	Energy	51
3.7	Geology and Soils.....	53
3.8	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	57
3.9	Hazards and Hazardous Materials.....	59
3.10	Hydrology and Water Quality	62
3.11	Land Use and Planning.....	67
3.12	Mineral Resources	72
3.13	Noise.....	73

3.14	Population and Housing	75
3.15	Public Services	76
3.16	Recreation.....	78
3.17	Transportation.....	79
3.18	Tribal Cultural Resources	81
3.19	Utilities and Service Systems.....	84
3.20	Wildfire.....	87
3.21	Mandatory Findings of Significance	90
4.0	References.....	91
4.1	Documents Referenced in Initial Study and/or Incorporated by Reference.....	91
5.0	Attachments	95
	A. Agricultural Soils Assessment Land Capability Analysis for Marble Mountain Kennels	
	B. Biological Resource Assessment	
	C. Preliminary Aquatic Resources Delineation Report	

List of Figures

Figure 1	General Site Location
Figure 2	Existing Site Plan
Figure 3	Existing Site Plan - Detail
Figure 4	Proposed Site Plan
Figure 5	Proposed Site Plan - Detail
Figure 6	Zoning
Figure 7	Adjacent Parcels
Figure 8	Siskiyou County Important Farmland 2020 - Marble Mountain Kennels
Figure 9	Biological Resource Assessment - Special Status Plant Species Occurrences
Figure 10	Proposed Structures in Relation to Species-Status Plant Species - Northwest Parcel
Figure 11	Proposed Structures in Relation to Special-Status Plant Species - Southeast Parcel
Figure 12	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory Map for Marble Mountain Kennels
Figure 13	Preliminary Aquatic Resources Map - Northwest Parcel
Figure 14	Proposed Structures in Relation to Wetlands - Northwest Parcel
Figure 15	Preliminary Aquatic Resources Map - Southeast Parcels
Figure 16	Proposed Structures in Relation to Wetlands - Southeast Parcels
Figure 17	FEMA Flood Map

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Introduction and Regulatory Guidance

This document is an Initial Study, with supporting environmental studies, which concludes that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is the appropriate CEQA document for the Morrill Zone Change (Z-23-01) and Use Permit (UP-23-04). This 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, California Code of 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 15063, an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if an initial study indicates that the proposed project under review may have a potentially significant impact on the environment that cannot be initially avoided or mitigated to a level that is less than significant. A negative declaration may be prepared if the lead agency also prepares a written statement describing the reasons why the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore why it does not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a negative declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

- a) *The initial study shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or*
- 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 negative declaration is 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.*

If revisions are adopted in the proposed project in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b), including the adoption of mitigation measures included in this document, a Mitigated Negative Declaration is prepared.

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 County of Siskiyou (County) is the lead agency for the proposed Morrill Zone Change and Use Permit (Z-23-01, UP-23-04).

1.3 Purpose and Document Organization

The purpose of this Initial Study is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Morrill Zone Change and Use Permit (Z-23-01, UP-23-04). This document is divided into the following sections:

1.0 Introduction: This section provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of the 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 designation, zoning district, identification of surrounding land uses, and identification of other public agencies whose review, approval, and/or permits may be required. Also listed in this section is a checklist of the environmental factors that are potentially affected by the project.

3.0 Environmental Checklist: This section describes the environmental setting and 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.

4.0 References: This section identifies documents, websites, people, and other sources consulted during the preparation of this Initial Study.

5.0 Attachments: This section contains attachments that are referenced within this document.

1.4 Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

Section 3.0, Environmental Checklist, is the analysis portion of this Initial Study. The section provides an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the project. There are twenty-one environmental issue subsections within Section 3.0, including CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance. The environmental issue subsections, numbered 1 through 21, consist of the following:

1. Aesthetics
2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources
3. Air Quality

4. Biological Resources
5. Cultural Resources
6. Energy
7. Geology and Soils
8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials
10. Hydrology and Water Quality
11. Land Use and Planning
12. Mineral Resources
13. Noise
14. Population and Housing
15. Public Services
16. Recreation
17. Transportation
18. Tribal Cultural Resources
19. Utilities and Service Systems
20. Wildfire
21. Mandatory Findings of Significance

Each environmental issue subsection is organized in the following manner:

The **Environmental Setting** summarizes the existing conditions at the regional, subregional, 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 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 that are specified after analysis would reduce the project-related impact to a less than significant level.

Potentially Significant Impact: An impact that is “potentially significant” but for which mitigation measures cannot be immediately suggested or the effectiveness of potential mitigation measures cannot be determined with certainty, because more in-depth analysis of the issue and potential impact is needed. In such cases, an EIR is required.

2.0 Project Information

1. **Project Title:** Morrill Zone Change and Use Permit (Z-23-01, UP-23-04)
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Planning Division
806 South Main Street
Yreka, CA 96097
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Rachel Jereb
530-841-2100
4. **Project Sponsor’s Name and Address:** Peter and Julie Morrill
1521 South Phillipe Lane
Montague, CA 96064
5. **Zoning:** Prime Agricultural (AG-1)
6. **General Plan Designation:** Building Foundation Limitations: High Shrink-Swell Behavior Soils, Prime Agricultural Soils

7. Project Location:

The project site is located at 1521 South Phillipe Lane, approximately 0.25 miles northwest of the intersection of South Phillipe Lane and Oberlin Road; T45N, R7W, Sec. 25, MDB&M (Latitude 41.7167°N, -122.5983°W; APN: 013-110-330, 013-110-340, 013-110-350 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: General Site Location

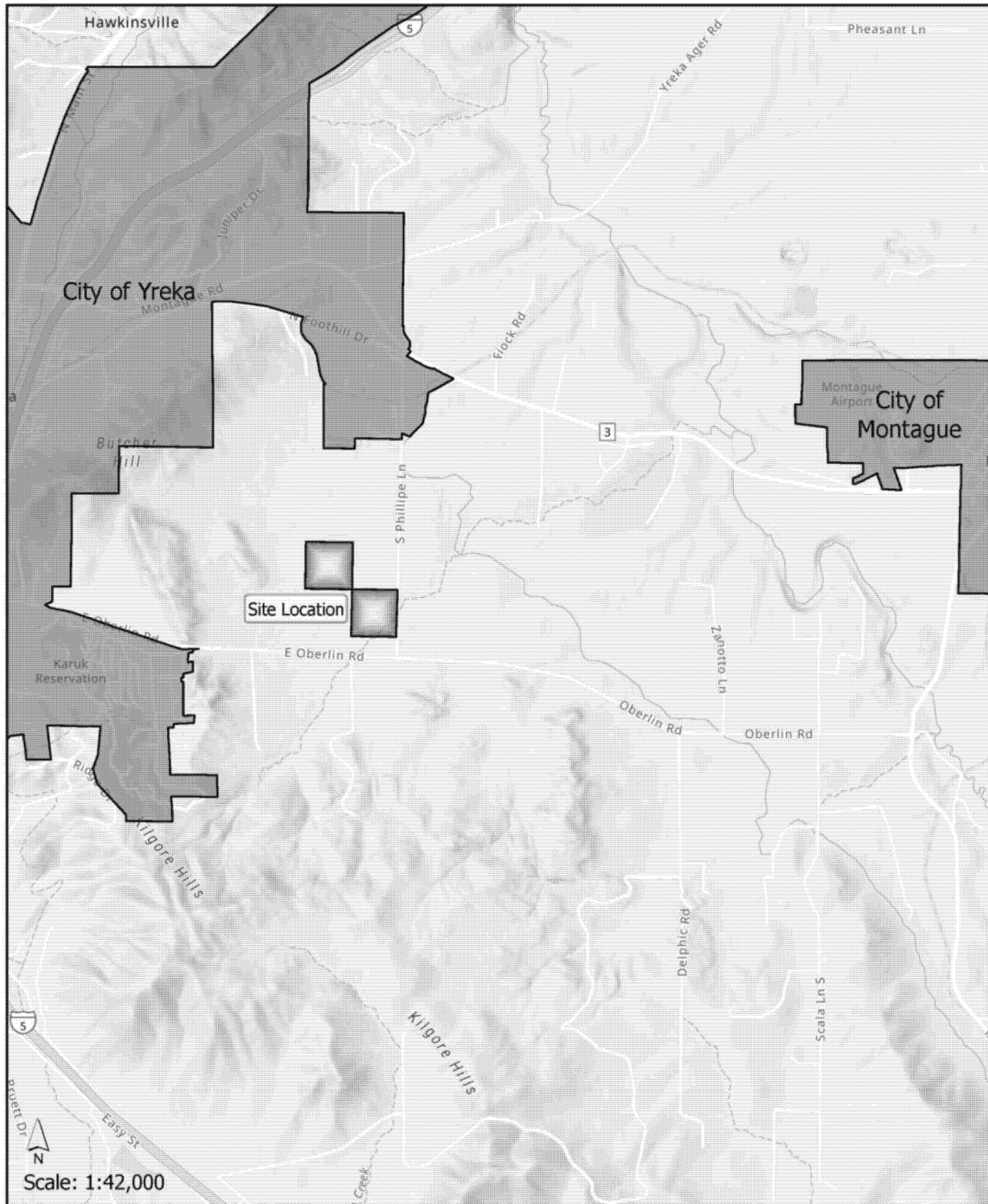


Figure 1
General Site Location
Marble Mountain Kennels, LLC
Yreka, California

8. Description of Project:

The proposed project is a zone change from Prime Agricultural (AG-1) to Non-Prime Agricultural (AG-2) and use permit to legalize a previously established commercial Labrador Retriever dog kennel. Commercial dog kennels are not allowed in the Prime Agricultural (AG-1) district; however, they are allowed in the Non-Prime Agricultural district with approval of a use permit. If this zone change and use permit project is approved, the proposed use permit will bring the illegal commercial dog kennel operation into compliance.

The project site is approximately 81.82 acres. Approximately 1.5 acres of APN: 013-110-340 is developed with residential uses, including a single-family dwelling, detached garage, and accessory structures. The detached garage has been partially converted to commercial kennel use under the Marble Mountain Kennel name. Fourteen outdoor runs are east of the single-family dwelling on the same parcel. The remainder of the project site (APN: 013-110-330, 013-110-350) is vacant.

APN 013-120-320 is approximately 40.92 acres in size and is currently undeveloped with the exception of a domestic groundwater well. It is accessed via an existing 60-foot non-exclusive easement for ingress, egress, and public utilities. A seasonal pond is on the southern portion of the parcel.

APN 013-110-330 is approximately 20.46 acres in size and is currently undeveloped with the exception of a domestic groundwater well. A seasonal pond is in the east half of the parcel.

APN 013-110-340 is approximately 20.44 acres in size and is currently developed with a single-family dwelling, detached garage that is being used for the unpermitted kennel, and the outdoor kennel area called, "Puppyville". Two seasonal ponds in the south and the northeast corner of the property.

The applicant is proposing two phases for the kennel business. **Phase I** proposes to continue to utilize the existing outdoor runs, which the applicant calls "Puppyville", and the detached garage. Water for this parcel is from an existing groundwater well. The parcel is served by an engineered sand filter for on-site sewage disposal. Entrance to Phase I of the project site is provided by an existing 14-foot-wide gravel driveway that leads to a large turn-around area in front of the single-family dwelling and garage. Parking is available in front of the house and detached garage. Fencing for Phase I is proposed to be the existing 3-foot barbless cable, with 4-foot improved pasture fencing on the eastern half (see Figure 2: Existing Site Plan and Figure 3: Existing Site Plan Detail).

APN: 013-110-340	Nursery & Garage	Outdoor Runs	Total
Dogs	20	30	50
Puppies	80	60	140
Employees	4	0	4
Customers	4	0	4
Vehicles	12	0	12

Table 1:Phase I Occupancy Numbers

Figure 2: Existing Site Plan






- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
|  | 3-ft. Barbless
Cable Fence |  | Sand Filter Sewage
Disposal System |
|  | 4-ft. Improved
Pasture Fence |  | Kennel
Structures |

Figure 2
Existing Site Plan
Marble Mountain Kennels, LLC
Yreka, California

Figure 3: Existing Site Plan - Detail





- | | |
|--|--|
|  3-ft. Barbless Cable Fence |  Sand Filter Sewage Disposal System |
|  4-ft. Improved Pasture Fence |  Kennel Structures |

Figure 3
Existing Site Plan - Detail
Marble Mountain Kennels, LLC
Yreka, California

Phase II proposes to construct a new 7,754 square foot kennel building, outdoor runs (“Puppyville”), and a training pavilion. The applicant is proposing Phase II on APN: 013-110-330 with APN: 013-110-350 as an alternate site for some or all of the proposed facilities. A caretaker’s residence is also proposed for APN: 013-110-350. Water for both Phase II parcels is from existing groundwater wells. Both parcels also have approved locations for alternative, engineered, on-site sewage disposal. Access to Phase II parcels is from 60-foot-wide non-exclusive easement for ingress, egress, and public utilities. A parking lot with eleven parking spaces is proposed for this phase. Included within the eleven proposed spaces is an accessible space with ramp access to the kennel and training pavilion. 3-foot barbless cable fencing is proposed for the perimeter of the Phase II parcels. 6-foot chain-link fencing is proposed around the play areas adjacent to the kennel.

APN: 013-110-330	Kennel	Outdoor Runs	Training Pavillion	Total
Dogs	48	30	24	102
Puppies	80	60	48	188
Employees	10	0	0	10
Customers	10	0	0	10
Vehicles	10	0	0	10

Table 2: Phase II Occupancy Numbers

The applicant requests that both Phase I and Phase II potentially be permitted to operate concurrently. Should that occur, the proposed maximum occupancy for both phases to concurrently operate is shown below.

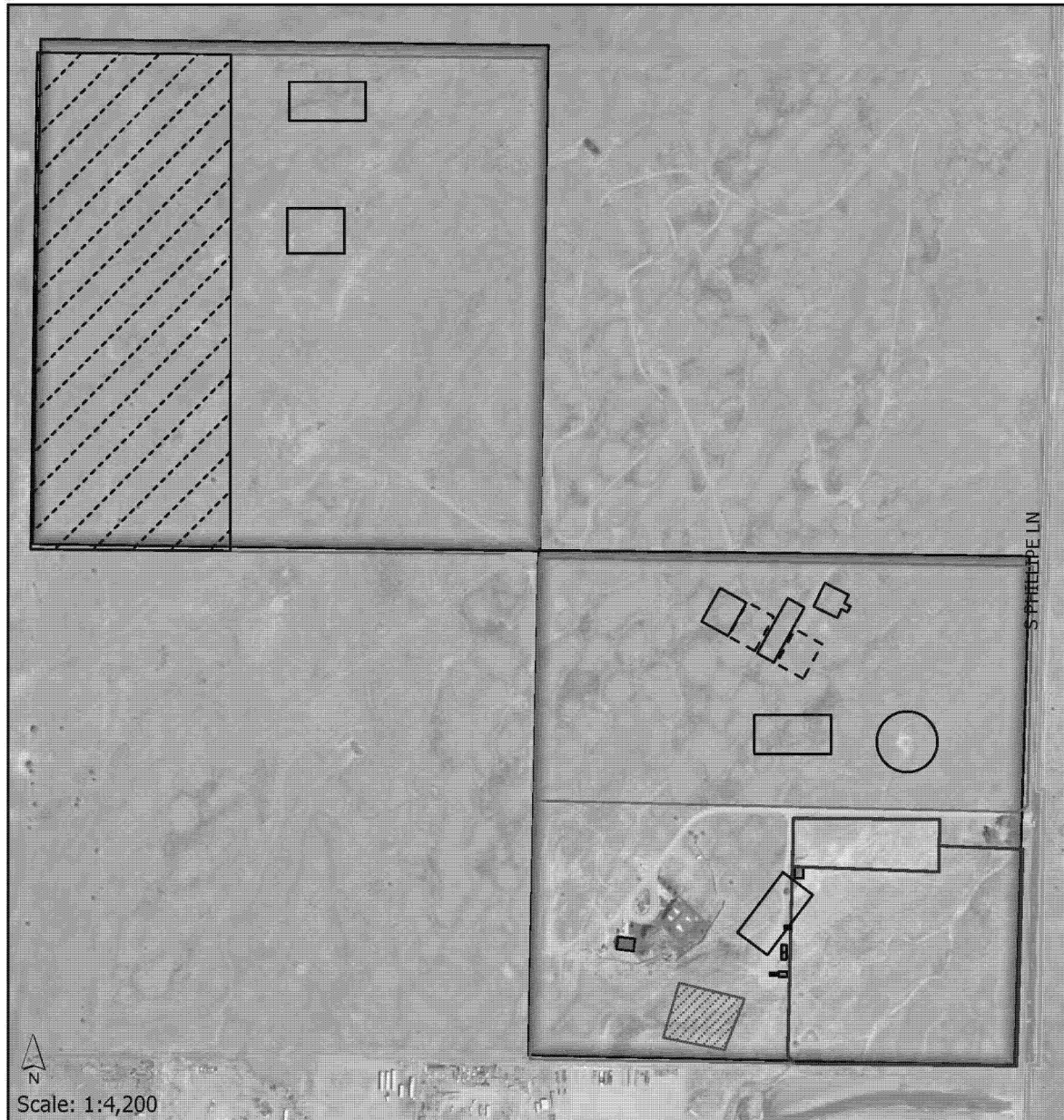
	Phase I		Phase II			Total
	Detached Garage	Outdoor Runs	Kennel	Outdoor Runs	Training Pavillion	
Dogs	30	30	48	20	24	152
Puppies	10	10	80	60	48	208
Employees	4	0	10	0	0	14
Customers	4	0	10	0	0	14
Vehicles	12	0	10	0	0	22

Table 3: Phase I and Phase II Combined Occupancy Numbers

The majority of the boarding dogs will be part of either the training program or a dog daycare program. The training program is proposed to take place in three areas: in the main kennel building training room, in the training pavilion, and outside training areas. The plan calls for the possible expansion of the existing natural ponds, which could potentially be used for gundog training sites. APN: 013-110-350 is proposed to be used as an upland hunting field for gundog training (hashed area in the northwest parcel) and a caretaker’s residence. Gundog training would involve the periodic use of shotguns. Fenced play areas adjacent to the main kennel building and the training pavilion will

also be used for exercising, training, and dog daycare operations (see Figure 4: Proposed Site Plan and Figure 5: Proposed Site Plan Detail).

Figure 4: Proposed Site Plan





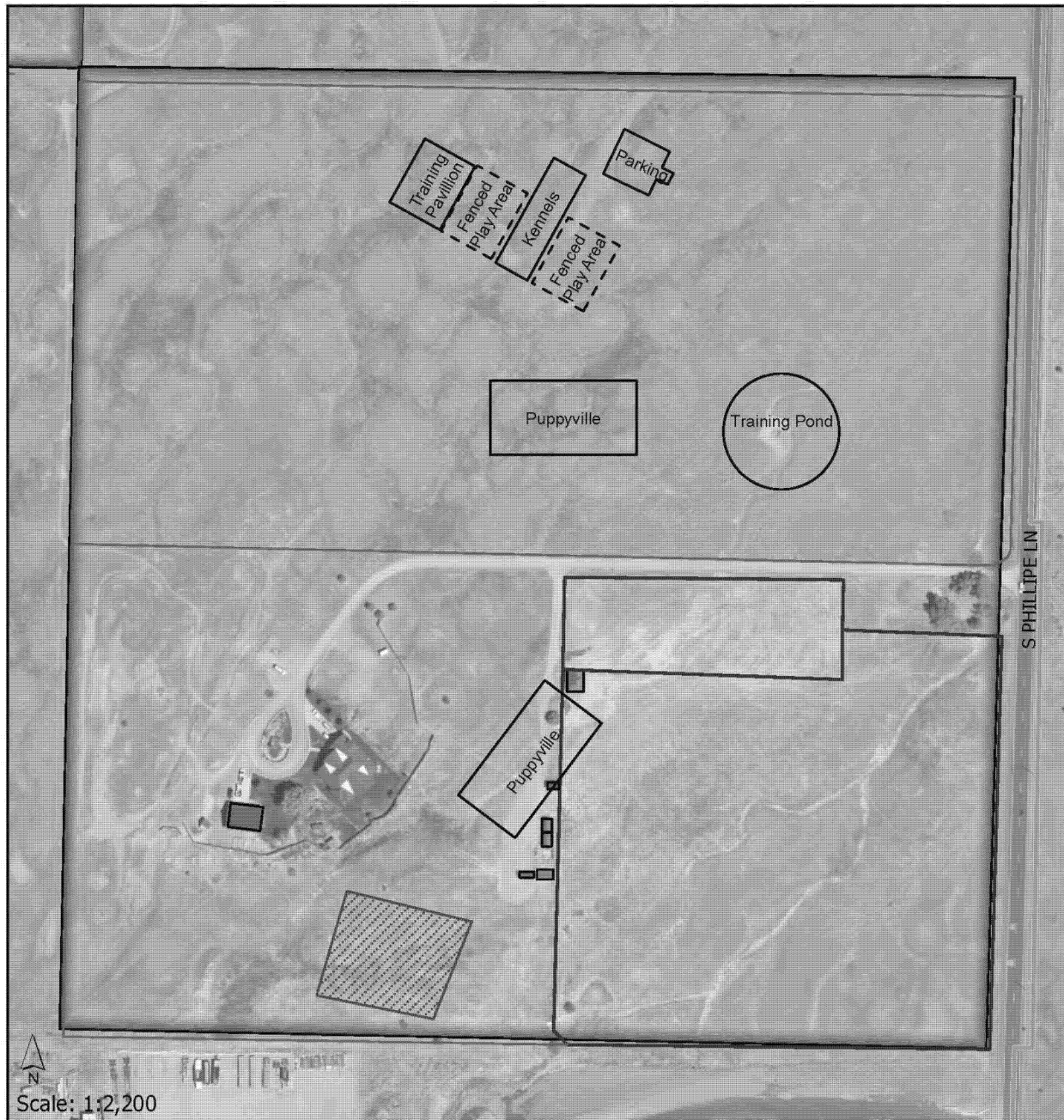
- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| — 3-ft. Barbless Cable Fence |  Sand Filter Sewage Disposal System |
| — 4-ft. Improved Pasture Fence |  Existing Kennel Structures |

Figure 4
Proposed Site Plan
Marble Mountain Kennels, LLC
Yreka, California

Figure 5: Proposed Site Plan - Detail







- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|  | 3-ft. Barbless Cable Fence |  | Sand Filter Sewage Disposal System |
|  | 4-ft. Improved Pasture Fence |  | Existing Kennel Structures |

Figure 5
Proposed Site Plan - Detail
Marble Mountain Kennels, LLC
Yreka, California

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting:

The 81-acre project site is located in an agricultural area with industrial properties directly to the south (see Figure 6). The agricultural uses are primarily dryland range with some irrigated pasture to the north. The industrial uses include contractors' yards, a sack lunch catering facility, mini-storage, a dog animal shelter, and a solid waste transfer station. The terrain is gently sloped to the northeast with very shallow hardpan that ponds during the winter and is arid in the dry season.

North: dryland range

South: industrial

East: dryland range

West: dryland range

The parcels surrounding the project site and a list of the corresponding landowners are shown in Figure 7 and Table 4.

APN	Property Owner	Mailing Address
013-450-150	Donald L. & Maryellen Baird Trust	3535 Oberlin Road, Montague, CA 96064-9372
013-450-200	Donald L. & Maryellen Baird Trust	3535 Oberlin Road, Montague, CA 96064-9372
013-450-220	Donald L. & Maryellen Baird Trust	3535 Oberlin Road, Montague, CA 96064-9372
013-450-230	Donald L. & Maryellen Baird Trust	3535 Oberlin Road, Montague, CA 96064-9372
013-110-210	E. C. Fiock & Sons	2725 Yreka Ager Road, Yreka, CA 96097-9492
013-110-320	Pete and Julie Morrill	1521 South Phillipe Lane, Montague, CA 96064-9338
013-110-360	Pete and Julie Morrill	1521 South Phillipe Lane, Montague, CA 96064-9338
013-110-380	City of Yreka	701 Fourth Street, Yreka, CA 96097-3302
013-120-320	Paul R. & Clara Goodwin	1625 Yreka Ager Road, Yreka, CA 96097-9448

Table 4: Surrounding Property Owners (verified 2/4/2026)

Figure 6: Zoning



Figure 6
Zoning
Marble Mountain Kennels, LLC
Yreka, California

Figure 7: Adjacent Parcels

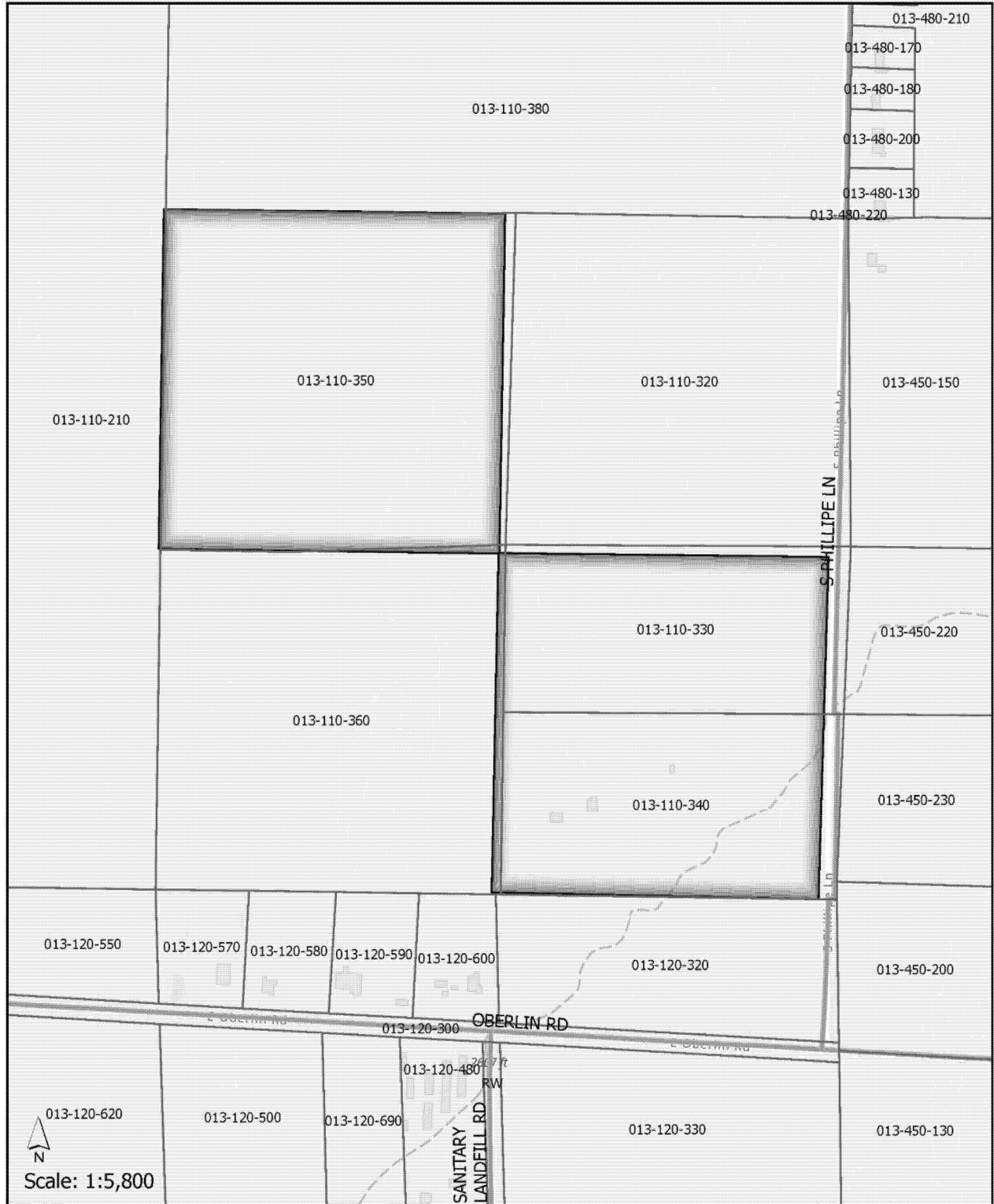


Figure 7
Adjacent Parcels
Marble Mountain Kennels, LLC
Yreka, California

10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required:

None.

11. Tribal Cultural Resources: Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

The County initiated Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) consultation through distribution of letters to the Native American tribes provided by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). All letters were sent via Certified Mail.

One letter that was sent to the name and address for Chairman Roy Hall of the Shasta Nation was returned as being unclaimed and unable to be forwarded. The provided phone number for Chairman Hall was called and resulted in no answer and no voice mail available for messages to be left. Community Development Director, Richard Dean, was able to contact Chairman Hall by calling Chairman Hall's personal cell phone. Mr. Dean gave a brief verbal description of the project and explained that staff had been unable to provide formal notification. Chairman Hall requested that the formal project notification be sent via US Postal Service First-Class Mail instead of Certified Mail, which staff did.

No requests for consultation were received from Native American tribes during the review period.

12. List of Responsible and Trustee Agencies:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Department of Transportation
County of Siskiyou

2.1 Environmental factors potentially affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

2.2 Determination:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project **could not** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **Negative Declaration** will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project **could** have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **Mitigated Negative Declaration** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **may** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **Environmental Impact Report** is required.
- I find that the proposed project **may** have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **Environmental Impact Report** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project **could** have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier **EIR** or **Negative Declaration** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier **EIR** or **Negative Declaration**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Lead Agency

Title

3.0 Environmental Checklist

3.1 Aesthetics

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<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"/>

Setting:

The project site is located adjacent and west of South Phillippe Road (County Road No. 7J05), approximately one mile east of the city of Yreka. It is predominately surrounded by privately held land, with the exception of the parcel directly north, which is owned by the city of Yreka. Prominent nearby topographic features visible from the project site include Mount Shasta to the southeast, Butcher Hill to the west, Paradise Craggy to the north, and Goosenest to the east.

There are no officially designated state scenic highways in the project vicinity, however, State Route 3, approximately one mile north of the project site, is eligible for designation as a State Scenic Highway (Caltrans, 2025). Additionally, that portion of State Route 3 is identified in the Scenic Highways Element of the Siskiyou County General Plan as a scenic highway.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** This project will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. State Route 3 is the nearest scenic highway identified in the Scenic Highways Element of the Siskiyou County General Plan. The project site is not visible from State Highway 3. The existing single-family dwelling and accessory structures are approximately 900 feet from South Phillippe Lane. The proposed kennel building and caretaker's residence are proposed approximately 700 feet and 1,900 feet from South Phillippe Lane and would have a less than significant impact on any potential scenic vista due to the distance from the South Phillippe Lane. Additionally, the project site is not readily visible from Oberlin Road due to the Industrial use of the adjacent parcels.
- b) **No Impact.** Although there are no state scenic highways in the project vicinity, State Route 3 (approximately one mile to the north) is designated as a scenic highway in the Siskiyou County General Plan. However, the project site is not within or visible from State Route 3. Therefore, the proposed project would not damage scenic resources along a locally designated or state-designated scenic highway. Additionally, there are no trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within the project site.
- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project site is in a non-urbanized area that is publicly visible from South Phillippe Lane and partially publicly visible from Oberlin Road. The parcels to the south are currently developed with Industrial uses, including contractors' yards, a mini-storage facility, a dog animal shelter, and a solid waste transfer station. Therefore, the proposed kennel facilities and caretaker's dwelling is not likely to degrade the existing visual character or quality of the public views of the site and its surroundings.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** This project does not propose to create new sources of substantial light or glare which will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. The project site is within the rural/suburban transition zone for light pollution from the Yreka urban area. Low to moderate levels of ambient lighting are predominately from the Industrial development to the south and from vehicle headlights on Oberlin Road and South Phillippe Lane. No new exterior lighting is proposed with this project. Additionally, Siskiyou County Code Section 10-6.5602 requires that "exposed sources of light, glare, or heat shall be shielded so as not to be directed outside their premises." Compliance with County Code Section 10-6.5602 further ensures that potential impacts associated with light or glare will remain less than significant impact.

3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources:

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California 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 Resource Board. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) defines and classifies Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. In order to be considered Prime Farmland, property must have "... been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the Important Farmland Map date" and, "the soil must meet the physical and chemical criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance as determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)."

Many factors are considered in qualifying soils as Prime Farmland including Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil data and USDA Land-Capability Classification information. The land-capability classification system divides soils into capability classes and subclasses based on agricultural usability. Land-capability classes are ranked I through VIII based on soil quality, with limitations increasing with each successive ranking. Land-capability subclasses are ranked 'e', 'w', 's', and 'c', representing the following (USDA, 1961):

- 'e' ranking - soils prone to erosion
- 'w' ranking - soils prone to excessive wetness
- 's' ranking - soils prone to root-zone limitations
- 'c' ranking - soils with climatic limitations to use

NRCS soil data and USDA land-capability rankings were used to characterize the soils on APNs 013-110-350, 013-110-330, and 013-11-340. No irrigation is available on the parcels. The topography is relatively flat. Ephemeral drainages transect the properties, form a confluence to the northeast, and become a tributary of the Shasta River. NRCS data divide the soils on these parcels into two mapping units, 219 and 220. Unit 219 consists of Salisbury gravelly clay loam with 0 to 5 percent slopes. Unit 220 is Salisbury gravelly clay loam with 5 to 9 percent slopes.

Salisbury gravelly clay loam is classified as IIIe. Soils in the IIIe category have 'severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require special conservation practices, or both' and are 'where the susceptibility and past erosion damage are the major soil factors for placing soils in this subclass'. A typical soil profile is gravelly clay loam from 0 to 4 inches, gravelly clay, gravelly clay loam from 4 to 24 inches, indurated soil from 4 to 24 inches, and stratified sand to stony sand from 24 to 32 inches in depth. The indurated layer forms duripan at 20 to 40 inches in depth, restricting vertical water movement. Deep ripping may improve drainage from the pit clay soil, but ripping would alter the local hydrologic system and would influence the ephemeral drainages found on-site. This is the only soil type found on the subject parcels.

The project site was additionally analyzed by Sidney Davis, a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) and Certified Professional Soil Classifier (CPSC) (**see Attachment A**). They confirmed that the project site consisted of Salisbury gravelly clay loam, which is classified as IIIe. However, they noted that there are additional limitations for water interference in low lying areas and shallow or stony where there is limited rooting for dry pasture. If the low-lying areas are only six to eight inches above the duripan, the classification would be reduced to IV. As part of the report, the project site was additionally analyzed utilizing the Revised Storie Index Rating. The revised system analyzes the soil profile group (Factor A), surface texture (Factor B), slope (Factor C), and drainage, alkalinity, fertility, acidity, erosion, and microrelief (Factor X) (O'Geen et. al., 2008). Using this methodology, the project site soils were classified with a value of 15, which is "very poor" for irrigated agriculture.

In order for property to be considered Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, irrigated crops must have been grown on the property within the four years prior to the most recent Important Farmland Map update. The last update in the area was published in the Siskiyou County Important Farmland 2020 map (FMMP, 2020). No irrigated crops were grown on any of the parcels in the four years prior to soil mapping.

Under the FMMP, these parcels are considered Farmland of Local Importance as they do not meet the conditions required for classification as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance by the FMMP.

Under the Siskiyou County General Plan Land Use and Circulation Element, "all Class I, II and III soils, and the soils that become Class III under irrigation, with the exception of Class III soils determined to be non-irrigable, are defined as prime agricultural land." The minimum parcel size for prime agricultural land is 40 acres under the General Plan.

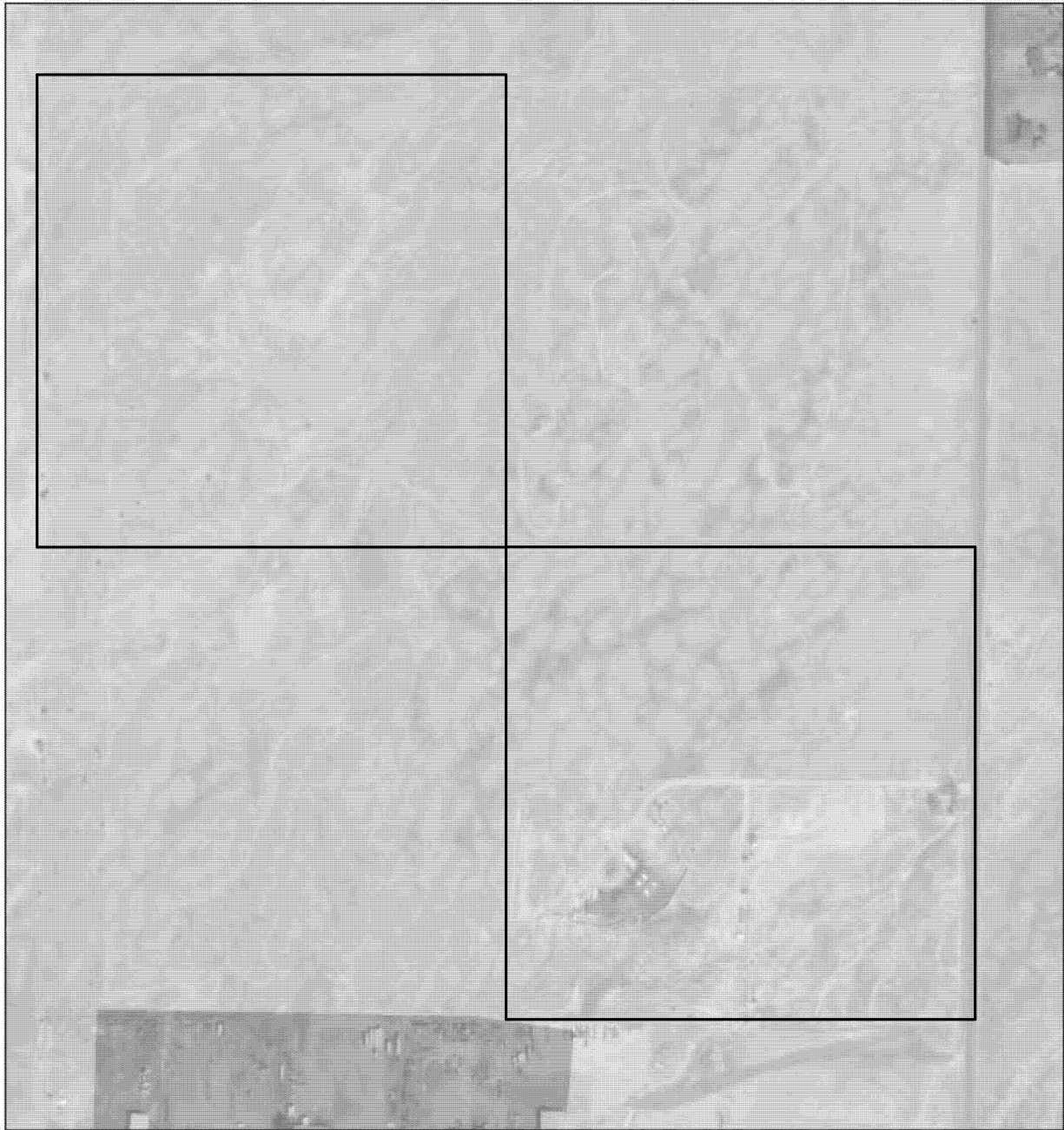
The Siskiyou County General Plan currently classifies the subject property as prime agricultural land based on the Class III soils. As noted earlier, the soils on this parcel have severe limitations on crop cultivation. They are prone to poor drainage, are often wet, and are easily impacted by erosion.

An evaluation of the local water table height has also been completed. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) actively monitors five wells within five miles of the project site. Groundwater level shows seasonal variation but is stable over time at all five locations. The average depth to water at these five sites ranges from 5.4 to 28 feet below ground surface. The height of the local water table likely contributes to poor soil drainage in the area. The table below summarizes the five DWR-monitored wells.

Site Code ID	Distance from Site (miles)	Use	Status	Total Depth (feet)	Depth to Water (feet)	Years of Record
417220N1225928W001	0.3	Residential	Active	105	12.1	1990-2025
417096N1225453W001	2.5	Residential	Active	178	28	2013-2024
417258N1225337W001	3.2	Residential	Active	45	5.4	1990-2025
416774N1225301W001	4.1	Residential	Active	113	23.7	1953-2025
417258N1225083W001	4.4	Residential	Active	70	18.7	2004-2025

Table 5: California Department of Water Resources Well Information

Figure 8: Siskiyou County Important Farmland 2020 - Marble Mountain Kennels

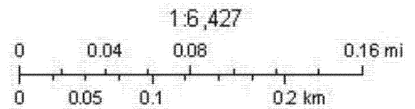


2/5/2026

2020

- Farmland of Local Importance
- Urban and Built-Up Land
- World Imagery
- Low Resolution 15m Imagery

- High Resolution 60cm Imagery
- High Resolution 30cm Imagery
- Citations
- 1.2m Resolution Metadata



Visitor, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, Division of Land Resource Protection, California Department of Conservation

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not 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. As shown on the 2020 Siskiyou County Important Farmland map in Figure 9, the project site is designated as “Farmland of Local Importance.” As a result, the proposed project would not convert Farmland to non-agricultural use.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project is on property zoned Prime Agricultural. As part of the proposed project, the zoning would be changed to Non-Prime Agricultural. The site is not under a Williamson Act contract.
- c) **No Impact.** The proposed project does not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g)), because the project site and surrounding area do not contain forest land. The project site is not zoned for forest land or timberland, nor is it adjacent to land that is zoned for forest land or timberland. This project is located in the Shasta Valley, a non-forested region. Therefore, a less than significant impact is anticipated.
- d) **No Impact.** This project will not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use because it does not contain forest land.
- e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** This project will not involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The proposed rezone from Prime Agricultural (AG-1) to Non-Prime Agricultural (AG-2) to better suit the soil limitations on the property and the proposed land use permit to legalize the unpermitted kennel on the property would not be likely to convert Farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, a less than significant impact is anticipated.

3.3 Air Quality

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:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Along with Modoc and Lassen counties, Siskiyou County is located in a region known as the Northeast Plateau Air Basin (NEPAB). Regulatory oversight of the air basin is divided among local air districts responsible for implementing local and state air quality programs. The local air quality district with regulatory oversight of the project area is the Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District (SCAPCD). Within the SCAPCD, the primary sources of air pollution are wildfires, managed burning and disposal, wood burning stoves, unpaved road dust, farming operations, and motor vehicles.

As noted above, the SCAPCD is the local air quality agency with jurisdiction over the project area. The SCAPCD adopts and enforces controls on stationary sources of air pollutants through its permit and inspection programs and regulates agricultural and non-agricultural burning. Other SCAPCD responsibilities include monitoring air quality, preparing air quality plans, and responding to citizen air quality complaints.

Ambient Air Quality Standards

Air quality standards are set at both the federal and state levels of government. The federal Clean Air Act requires that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establish ambient air quality standards for six criteria air pollutants: ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. The California Clean Air Act also sets ambient air quality standards. The state standards are generally more

stringent than the federal standards, and they include other pollutants as well as those regulated by the federal standards. When concentrations of criteria pollutants are below the allowed standards for an area, that area is considered to be in attainment of the standards.

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California	Federal Primary	Federal Secondary
Ozone	1 Hour	0.09 ppm	--	--
	8 Hour	0.07 ppm	0.07 ppm	0.07 ppm
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	24 Hour	50 µg/m	150 µg/m	150 µg/m
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 µg/m	--	--
Fine Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	24 Hour	--	35 µg/m	35 µg/m
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 µg/m	9.0 µg/m	15 µg/m
Carbon Monoxide	1 Hour	20 ppm	35 ppm	35 ppm
	8 Hour	9 ppm	9 ppm	9 ppm
Nitrogen Dioxide	1 Hour	0.18 ppm	100 ppb	100 ppb
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.03 ppm	53 ppb	53 ppb
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	1 Hour	0.25 ppm	75 ppb	--
	3 Hour	--	--	0.5 ppm
	24 Hour	0.04 ppm	0.14 ppm	--
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	--	0.03 ppm	--
Lead	30 Day	1.5 µg/m	--	--
	Calendar Quarter	--	1.5 µg/m	1.5 µg/m
	Rolling 3-Month Average	--	0.15 µg/m	0.15 µg/m
Visibility-Reducing Particles	8 Hour	(¹)	--	--
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 µg/m	--	--
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm	--	--
Vinyl Chloride	24 Hour	0.01 ppm	--	--

Table 6: Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards
Source: California Air Resources Board, 2024

Air Quality Monitoring

Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) are the only contaminants that receive continuous monitoring in Siskiyou County. The closest air quality monitoring station is located approximately 2 miles west of the project site in the city of Yreka (EPA Site

¹ In 1989, the Air Resources Board converted the general statewide 10-mile visibility standard to an instrument equivalent, which is "extinction of 0.23 per kilometer."

#060932001). The table below shows the results of monitoring efforts from 2022 – 2024 at the Yreka monitoring station.

Pollutant	Standard	Year		
		2022	2023	2024
Ozone (O₃)				
Maximum 1-Hour Concentration (ppm)		0.087	0.070	0.075
Maximum 8-Hour Concentration (ppm)		0.071	0.066	0.067
Number of Days Exceeding State 1-Hour Standard	> 0.09 ppm	0	0	0
Number of Days Exceeding State/Federal 8-Hour Standard	> 0.07 ppm	1	0	0
Ultra-Fine Particulates (PM_{2.5})				
Maximum 24-Hour Concentration (µg/m ³)		302.5	235.1	32.4
Estimated No. of Days Exceeding Federal 24-Hour Standard	> 35 µg/m ³	15	15	0

Table 7: Siskiyou County Air Quality Data
 Source: California Air Resources Board (CARB),

Monitored Air Pollutants

Ozone is a gas comprising three oxygen atoms. It occurs both in the earth’s upper atmosphere and at ground level. Ozone can be either beneficial or detrimental to human health, depending on its concentration and where it is located. Beneficial ozone occurs naturally in the earth’s upper atmosphere, where it acts to filter out the sun’s harmful ultraviolet rays. Detrimental ozone occurs at ground level and is created when cars, industry, and other sources emit pollutants that react chemically in the presence of sunlight. Ozone exposure can result in irritation of the respiratory system, decreased lung function, aggravated asthma, and possible lung damage with persistent exposure.

PM2.5 (i.e., suspended particulate matter less than 2.5 microns) is a major air pollutant consisting of tiny solid or liquid particles. The size of the particles (about 0.0001 inches or less) allows them to easily enter the lungs where they may be deposited. PM2.5 is typically formed in the atmosphere from primary gaseous emissions that include sulfates emitted by power plants and industrial facilities and nitrates emitted by power plants, automobiles, and other types of combustion sources, including wildfires. The chemical composition of fine particles highly depends on location, time of year, and weather conditions. Inhalation of PM2.5 can cause persistent coughing, phlegm, wheezing, and other physical discomfort. Long-term exposure may increase the rate of respiratory and cardiovascular illness.

As shown in Table 7 above, Siskiyou County has not been identified as having significant air quality problems and is considered to be in attainment or unclassified for

all federal and state air quality standards. As a result, the County is not subject to an air quality attainment or maintenance plan.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **No Impact.** Siskiyou County is classified as being in attainment or unclassified for all federal and state air quality standards and, as a result, is not subject to an air quality plan.
- b) **No Impact.** This project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard because Siskiyou County is classified as being in attainment or unclassified for all federal and state air quality standards.
- c) **Less Than Significant.** Sensitive receptors are generally defined as facilities that house or attract groups of children, the elderly, persons with illnesses, and others who are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollutants. Schools, hospitals, residential areas, and senior care facilities are examples of sensitive receptors. The nearest school is Delphic Elementary School, which is approximately 1.6 miles east of the project site. The nearest hospital is Fairchild Medical Center, which is approximately 2.2 miles west of the project site. Although there is a single-family dwelling on the project site, the nearest non-affiliated residence is approximately 0.25 miles northeast of the project site. The nearest residential area is the Campbell Tracks subdivision, which is approximately 0.75 miles west of the project site. The nearest senior care facility is the Sierra Vista Retirement Center, which is approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the project site. In addition to the project's lack of proximity to sensitive receptors, the future development of the project site with a kennel building and accessory structures is unlikely to result in substantial pollutant concentrations. As such, the project's potential impact on sensitive receptors is considered less than significant.
- d) **Less Than Significant.** This project is unlikely to result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people. A maximum of 360 dogs is proposed with this project (152 adult dogs and 208 puppies). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that a typical dog excretes three-quarters of a pound of waste per day or 274 pounds per year (EPA, 2005). That would result in 98,640 pounds of dog feces per year should the maximum number of dogs be on-site. Although the amount of dog waste generated is likely to result in odors, the surrounding area is sparsely populated and would therefore not be likely to affect a substantial number of people.

3.4 Biological Resources

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US 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 US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

Setting:

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) document species that may be rare, threatened or endangered. Federally listed species are fully protected under the mandates of the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). "Take" of listed species incidental to otherwise lawful activity may be authorized by either the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), depending upon the species.

Under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), CDFW has the responsibility for maintaining a list of threatened and endangered species. CDFW also maintains lists of

“candidate species” and “species of special concern” which serve as “watch lists.” State-listed species are fully protected under the mandates of CESA. “Take” of protected species incidental to otherwise lawful management activities may be authorized under Section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code of California.

Under Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code, it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders of Falconiformes or Strigiformes (raptors) or to take, possess or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

The Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code Sections 1900-1913) prohibits the taking, possessing, or sale within the state of any rare, threatened or endangered plants as defined by the CDFW. Project impacts on these species would not be considered significant unless the species are known to have a high potential to occur within the area of disturbance associated with the project.

Special Status Species

Special-status species are commonly characterized as species that are at potential risk or actual risk to their persistence in a given area or across their native habitat (locally, regionally, or nationally) and are identified by a state and/or federal resource agency as such. These agencies include governmental agencies such as CDFW, USFWS, or private organizations such as the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). The degree to which a species is at risk of extinction is the limiting factor on a species’ status designation. Risk factors to a species’ persistence or population’s persistence include habitat loss, increased mortality factors (take, electrocution, etc.), invasive species, and environmental toxins. In the context of environmental review, special-status species are defined by the following codes:

- 1) Listed, proposed, or candidates for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 17.11 – listed; 61 Federal Register [FR] 7591, February 28, 1996 candidates);
- 2) Listed or proposed for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish and Game Code [FGC] 1992 Section 2050 et seq.; 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 670.1 et seq.);
- 3) Designated as Species of Special Concern by the CDFW;
- 4) Designated as Fully Protected by the CDFW (FGC Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, 5515); and
- 5) Species that meet the definition of rare or endangered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (14 CCR Section 15380) including CNPS List Rank 1B and 2.

CDFW Early Consultation

Prior to development of the Initial Study, County staff contacted CDFW for the purpose of early consultation, and on May 23, 2023, CDFW submitted comments regarding the potential for four special-status species to occur within the project vicinity. The species are: Yreka Phlox (*Phlox hirsute*), woolly balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza hirsuta*), Peck's lomatium (*Lomatium peckianum*), and Franklin's bumble bee (*Bombus franklini*). Due to the number of special-status species potentially occurring in the project vicinity, CDFW recommended that an evaluation of the potential for special-status species to occur on the project site be completed. In addition, CDFW recommended that an aquatic delineation of all wetlands, lakes, streams, and any associated riparian habitats be performed.

In response to CDFW's early consultation comments, Quercus Consultants, Inc. completed a Biological Resource Assessment in September of 2023 (**see Attachment B**). The biological assessment evaluated the project's potential to adversely impact biological resources within and adjacent to the project site. The report included an assessment of special-status plant species that have the potential to occur on the project site. Nineteen species were identified with the potential to occur in the project vicinity as determined through a review of CDFW, USFWS, and CNPD databases. Nine of the species were eliminated from consideration due to the low or no potential to occur in the study area, including Yreka phlox (*Phlox hirsute*), which was previously identified by CDFW as potentially occurring on the project site. The following ten plant species have moderate or high potential were considered as part of the biological analysis:

- Woolly balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza lanata*)
- Green's mariposa lily (*Calochortus greenei*)
- Single flowered mariposa lily (*Calochortus monanthus*)
- Ashland thistle (*Cirsium ciliolatum*)
- Alkali hymenoxys (*Hymenoxys lemmonii*)
- Peck's lomatium (*Lomatium peckianum*)
- Brittle prickly pear (*Opuntia fragilis*)
- Shasta orthocarpus (*Orthocarpus pachystachyus*)
- Pendulous bullrush (*Scirpus pendulus*)
- Siskiyou clover (*Trifolium siskiyouense*)

The review of the previously mentioned databases also identified twenty-two species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, insects, and crustaceans for consideration of this analysis. Sixteen of the identified species were determined to have low or no potential occur in the study area and were eliminated from further consideration. The following special-status species were determined to have moderate potential to occur:

- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*)
- Greater sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis*)

- Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*)
- Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

From the identified special-status plant and animal species that had moderate potential to occur, only Woolly balsamroot and Peck's lomatium were found on-site.

Figure 9: Biological Resource Assessment - Special Status Plant Species Occurrences

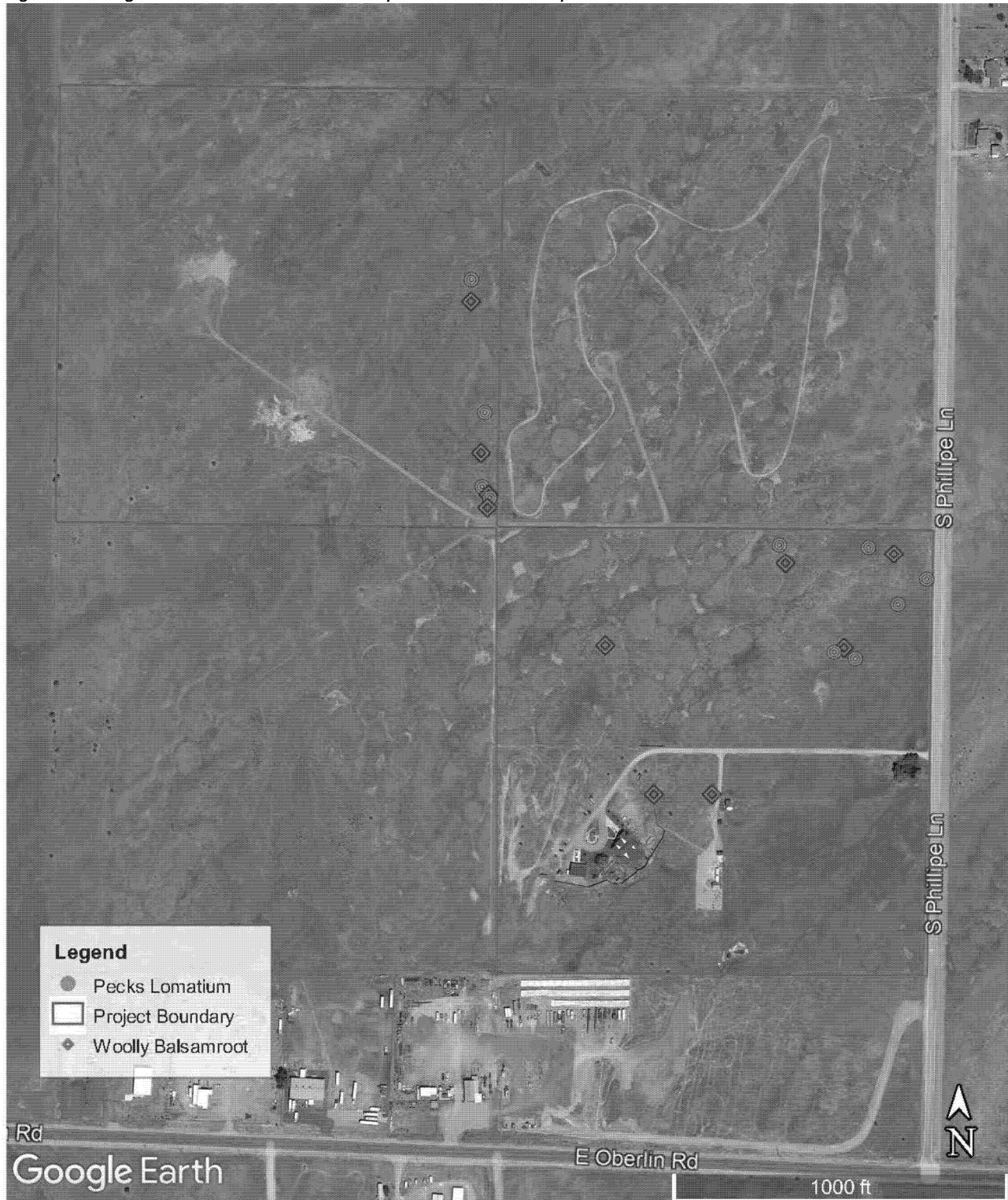


Figure 10: Proposed Structures in Relation to Species-Status Plant Species - Northwest Parcel



Figure 11: Proposed Structures in Relation to Special-Status Plant Species - Southeast Parcel



Wetlands

In response to CDFW's early consultation comments, Quercus Consultants, Inc. completed a Preliminary Aquatic Resources Delineation Report in September of 2023 (see **Attachment C**). The report determined that four man-made ponds and multiple seasonal drainages occur on the project site. The ponds have emergent wetland habitat with cattail (*Typha latifolia*), calico-flower (*Downingia yina*), willows (*Salix* spp.), and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). Seasonal wetland depressions were also identified throughout the subject area. The study found that, even following a relatively wet winter, there was not any surface water present at the time of the site visits on May 30 and 31, 2023. However, due to a hardpan, restrictive clay layer that was present within six inches of the ground surface, the ground appeared to hold water for durations long enough to establish aquatic habitats. The dominant plant species found in those depressions included calico-flower (*Downingia yina*), Pacific popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys tenellus*), narrow leaves onion (*Allium amplexans*), pincushion plant (*Navarretia intertexa*), toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*), and annual hair grass (*Deschampsia danthonioides*). The report noted that utilizing the existing infrastructure should not have any change in the direct or indirect impacts on the aquatic ecosystems and recommended a 50-foot buffer from aquatic features to any new development and expansion of land uses.

Upon review of the Biological Resources Assessment and Preliminary Aquatic Resources Delineation Report, CDFW submitted comments that many of the original comments remain relevant, including those related to reporting detections of special status species to the California Natural Diversity Database, avoiding impacts to nesting birds and wetland habitat, and requirements for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Figure 12: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory Map for Marble Mountain Kennels

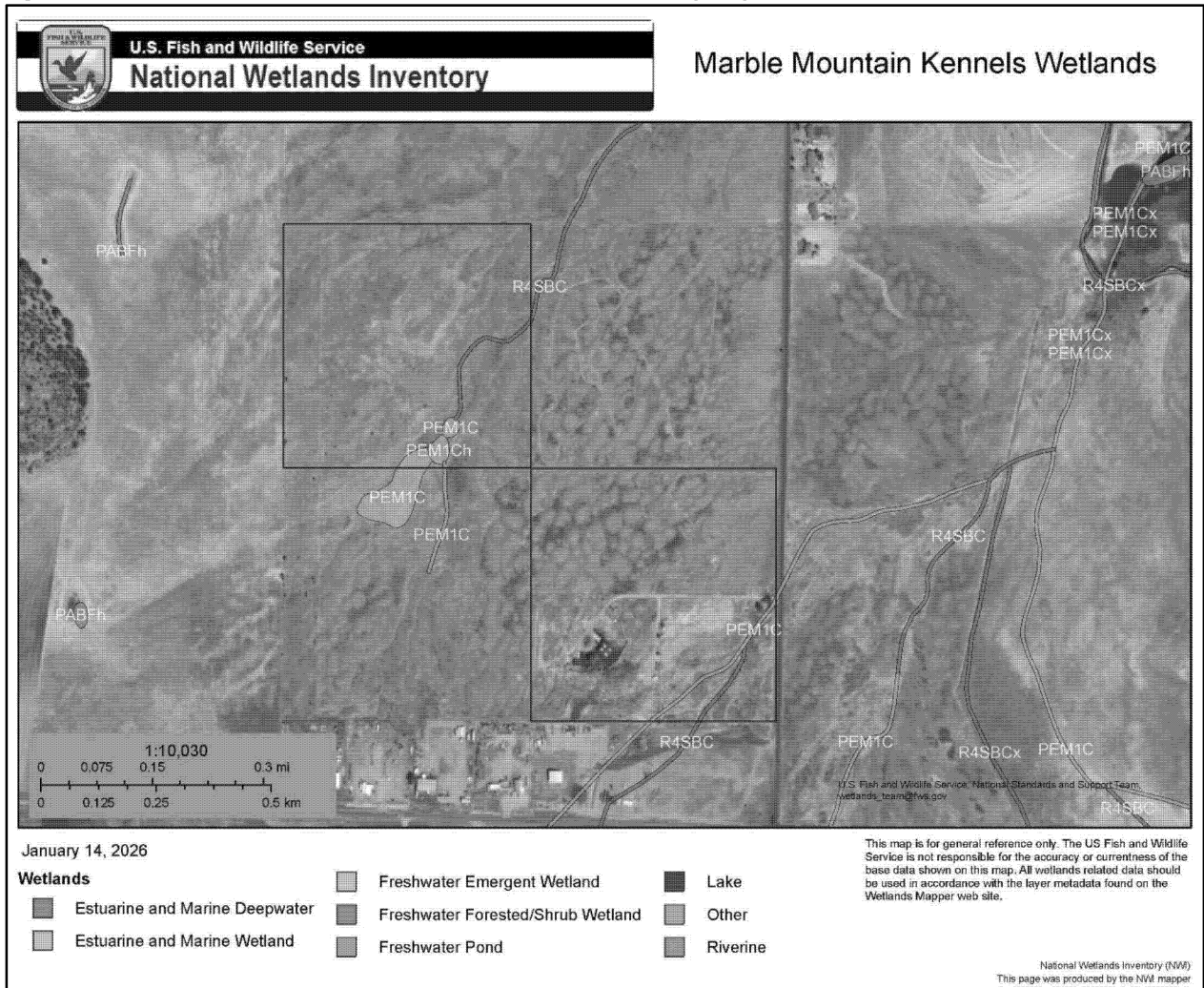


Figure 13: Preliminary Aquatic Resources Map - Northwest Parcel



Figure 14: Proposed Structures in Relation to Wetlands - Northwest Parcel



The northwest parcel of the project area is proposed to have an upland hunting field for gundog training (depicted with hatched fill on western 1/3 of the parcel), "Puppyville", and caretaker's residence. One seasonal wetland is within the proposed location for "Puppyville" and two seasonal wetlands are within fifty feet.

Figure 15: Preliminary Aquatic Resources Map - Southeast Parcels



Figure 16: Proposed Structures in Relation to Wetlands - Southeast Parcels



The southern half of the southeast parcels of the project area are developed with a single-family dwelling, garage that is used as a kennel, and "Puppyville". The northern half is proposed to be developed with kennels, a parking area, a training pavilion, two fenced play areas, and "Puppyville". Four seasonal wetlands are located within the areas planned for development and seven seasonal wetlands are within fifty feet.

Discussion of Impacts:

a) Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

Special-Status Plants: Two special-status plant species have been identified as occurring in the project vicinity, including woolly balsamroot and Peck's lomatium.

The Biological Resource Assessment prepared for the project evaluated the project's potential impact on both of the special-status plant species found on the subject property and recommended a fifty-foot buffer of the woolly balsamroot populations near the house and driveway. Those two populations account for greater than fifty percent of the woolly balsamroot plants within the study area. Therefore, a fifty-foot buffer from the woolly balsamroot population near the house and driveway has been incorporated herein below as mitigation measure **MM 4.1**. Two invasive weeds species were found within the subject area, star thistle and dyers woad. If these plants are to be removed during construction, it was recommended measures be taken to not spread the seed. To that end, invasive seed disposal methods have been incorporated herein below as mitigation measure **MM 4.2**.

Special Status Wildlife: A number of special-status wildlife species have been identified as potentially occurring in the project vicinity, including western pond turtle, greater sandhill crane, golden eagle, Swainson's hawk, and monarch butterfly. The field survey determined that the potential for the western pond turtle was low and was removed from the list. The vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) was not on the original list of species that has a moderate potential to occur but was included subsequent to the site visit as the seasonal aquatic features on the project site may be conducive to holding seasonal surface water long enough to be considered potential habitat for this species. Impact significance to Species of Special Concern was also included as part of the biological study and identified the American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) as having a moderate potential to occur. However, none of the identified species were observed during the site visits.

The Biological Resource Assessment prepared for the project evaluated the project's potential impact on each of the special-status wildlife species noted above. While the subject property provides suitable foraging habitat for the avian special-status species, the suitable nesting habitat is noted as being limited to solitary juniper trees or bushes for Swainson's hawks. Trees on the property are primarily limited to the already developed parcel (APN: 013-110-340) and no trees in the areas proposed for kennel development. Existing kennel operations were noted as being unlikely to impact Swainson's hawks as no nests were observed during field surveys and they are generally tolerant of regular, ongoing human activities around nest sites. Therefore, impacts to nesting birds would be less than significant.

Monarch butterfly habitat exists on the project site with two species of milkweed being observed during field surveys. Due to the minimal number of milkweed plants, project construction activities and kennel operations were found to be unlikely to have significant impacts to monarch butterflies.

The vernal pool fairy shrimp has the potential to occur in the seasonal wetland depressions that were found in the study area. Development of the project site would potentially impact five out of the seventy-five mapped aquatic resources. Due to the limited number of aquatic resources that would potentially be impacted, the project's effect on vernal pool fairy shrimp would be less than significant. However, to protect aquatic resources from contamination and to prevent disease transmission, mitigation measure **MM 4.3** has been added which requires dog waste to be immediately bagged and regularly disposed of in an approved manner.

Suitable habitat for American badgers includes friable soils suitable for excavating dens and foraging. While no dens or other evidence of badger occupation were observed, the existence of ground squirrel burrows indicates suitable habitat as badgers prey on burrowing rodents, including ground squirrels and pocket gophers. American badgers were noted as being somewhat tolerant of human disturbance and therefore may be tolerant of kennel operations. However, no evidence of badger occupation was observed. Additionally, in a subsequent follow-up and upon review of the Agricultural Soils Assessment, Land Capability Analysis for the project, which noted the depth to duripan at approximately twenty-four inches, Melanie Findling, President and CEO of Quercus Consultant, Inc. determined that depth of soils to be insufficient to support badger denning. Therefore, no significant impacts to badger populations are expected.

The project site was not found to be within any mapped areas for mule deer range. The nearest critical range is approximately 2.5 miles west of the project site, on the western side of the city of Yreka. Therefore, the project would not have any impact on the migration of deer in the region.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** No development is proposed within the Freshwater Emergent Wetland and Riverine habitat identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Wetlands Inventory as being within the project site. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.
- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** No direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other disruption of state or federally protected wetlands is proposed as part of this project. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project does not propose to 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, therefore there will be a less than significant impact.

- e) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.
- f) **No Impact.** No habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plans, or other local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans affect the proposed project.

Mitigation Measures:

- MM 4.1** Development is restricted within fifty feet (50') of the two populations of woolly balsamroot adjacent to the existing house and driveway on APN: 013-110-340.
- Timing/Implementation: Prior to ground disturbance and/or construction activities associated with a Building permit for development of the site for kennel operations.
- Enforcement/Monitoring: Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Planning Division
- MM 4.2** Any star thistle or dyers woad removed during development of the site for kennel operations is to be disposed of in an approved manner. Approved disposal methods include being placed in a waste container to later be burned or taken to the Oberlin Road Transfer Station. Plants may also be placed in a black trash bag and set in the sun for one month, after which they should no longer be viable.
- Timing/Implementation: Prior to ground disturbance and/or construction activities associated with a Building permit for development of the site for kennel operations.
- Enforcement/Monitoring: Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Planning Division
- MM 4.3** All solid animal waste that is generated on-site shall be double-bagged in leak and puncture-proof containers and disposed of at the Oberlin Road Transfer Station.
- Timing/Implementation: Solid animal waste shall be collected from all areas containing dogs first thing in the morning and throughout the day as needed. Collected solid animal waste is to be disposed of at the Oberlin Road Transfer Station every seven days or less.
- Enforcement/Monitoring: Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Environmental Health Division
Siskiyou County Animal Control Department

3.5 Cultural Resources

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

At the request of the county, the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) provided a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project location. They additionally completed a search of the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File. The list of tribes included the Karuk Tribe, the Shasta Indian Nation, and the Shasta Nation.

In December 2025, all the listed tribes were sent a letter via Certified Mail with notification of the project and the opportunity to consult pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (2014). The purpose of AB 52 consultation is to engage tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area to avoid impacts to tribal cultural resources. No tribes responded requesting consultation.

The result of the Sacred Land Files search was negative. Additionally, the applicant of a prior project that was located on the subject property (TPM-05-13) consulted with David Vann, a Registered Professional Archaeologist. As part of the research for the Archaeological Survey Report that he prepared, Mr. Vann conducted literature research, consulted with representatives of tribes in the area, and conducted a field survey of the site. The report concluded that no sensitive cultural or historic resources were observed during the field survey and the project would have no impact on cultural or historic resources.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** No known historical resources have been identified on the project site for which the project would cause a substantial adverse change. However, it is still possible that ground disturbance associated with future development of the project site could uncover

previously unrecorded historic resources. Therefore, to ensure that impacts to previously unrecorded historic resources remain less than significant, mitigation measure **MM 5-1** is provided below.

- b) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** No known archaeological or tribal cultural resources have been identified on the project site for which the project would cause a substantial adverse change. However, it is still possible that ground disturbance associated with future development of the project site could uncover previously unrecorded archaeological or tribal cultural resources. Therefore, to ensure that impacts to previously unrecorded resources remain less than significant, mitigation measure **MM 5-1** is provided below.
- c) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** There is no record of historic or contemporary burial sites within the project site. Regardless, there is a possibility for an unanticipated and accidental discovery of human remains during ground-disturbing project-related activities. Therefore, mitigation measure **MM 5.2** is provided below to address the potential discovery of any unrecorded or previously unknown resources and reduce this potential impact to a level that is considered less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

MM 5.1 If, during ground disturbance associated with development of the site for kennel operations, cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric sites, historic features, isolated artifacts, and features such as concentration of shell or glass) are discovered, all work shall cease in the area of the find, the Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Planning Division shall be immediately be 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 county shall consider mitigation recommendations presented by a professional archaeologist and implement a measure or measures that the county deems feasible and appropriate. Such measures may include avoidance, preservation in place, excavation, documentation, curation, data recovery, or other appropriate measures.

Timing/Implementation: During ground disturbance activities associated with development of the site for kennel operations.

Enforcement/Monitoring: Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Planning Division

MM 5.2 If, during ground disturbance associated with development of the site, human remains are discovered, all work shall cease in the area of the find, the Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Planning Division shall be immediately notified, and the County Coroner must be notified, according to Section 7050.5 of the California 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 California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5(d) and (e) shall be followed.

Timing/Implementation: During ground disturbance activities associated with development of the site for kennel operations.

Enforcement/Monitoring: Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Planning Division

3.6 Energy

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

State and local agencies regulate the use and consumption of energy through various methods and programs. As a result of the passage of Assembly Bill 32 (the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), which seeks to reduce the effects of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, a majority of the state regulations are intended to reduce energy use and GHG emissions. These include, among others, California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 6—Energy Efficiency Standards, and the California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 11— California Green Building Standards (CALGreen).

At the local level, the County’s Building Division enforces the applicable requirements of the Energy Efficiency Standards and Green Building Standards in Title 24. In addition, the Energy Element of the Siskiyou County General Plan (1993) contains various implementation measures that have been adopted for the purpose of avoiding or reducing energy impacts associated with development and/or to encourage efficient energy use in the County.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project would rezone approximately 80 acres from AG-1 to AG-2 to facilitate the use of the property for a dog kennel. The limited number of residences and the single 7,764 square foot conditioned kennel space that would be entitled or conditionally entitled by approval of this project would result in a less than significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation.

- b) **No Impact.** The project would rezone approximately 80 acres from AG-1 to AG-2 to facilitate the use of the property for a dog kennel. The limited number of residences and the single 7,764 square foot conditioned kennel space that would be entitled or conditionally entitled by approval of this project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

3.7 Geology and Soils

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

As indicated on the 2010 Fault Activity Map of California (DOC 2019), there are a number of faults in the region. The closest of these include the Greenhorn Fault and Soap Creek Ridge Fault to the west, and the Mallethead Fault to the southwest. Although these faults are not necessarily inactive, they have shown no evidence of displacement during Quaternary time (the most recent 1.6 million years). The nearest

potentially active fault (i.e., a fault along which displacement has occurred within the past 200 years) is the Meiss Lake Fault in the Cedar Mountain fault system, located roughly 28 miles east of the project site.

The Seismic Safety and Safety Element of the Siskiyou County General Plan states that over a 120-year period, nine or ten earthquakes capable of “considerable damage” have occurred in the region. No deaths have been reported from these quakes and building damage was considered minor or unreported. Regardless, Siskiyou County, like much of California, is located in an area with potential for major damage from earthquakes corresponding to intensity VII on the Modified Mercalli Scale.

According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which classifies soils throughout the United States, project site soils are classified as #219 – Salisbury gravelly clay loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes and #220 – Salisbury gravelly clay loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes. This soil type is well drained with high runoff potential. The project site is relatively level to slightly sloped, and while the Salisbury gravelly clay loam has the potential for erosion, the duripan is noted as being within 4-24 inches from the soil surface. Any development on the property is subject to the California Building Code, which addresses necessary construction techniques to accommodate soils that are considered expansive.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) The project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death.
 - i. **Less Than Significant Impact.** There are no known active or potentially active faults within or adjacent to the project site. The closest mapped potentially active faults to the project area lie approximately 28 miles to the east. The California Geologic Survey does not identify the project site as being an area affected by this fault or any other Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone.
 - ii. **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project site is located in a potentially seismically active area and, as a result, any structures that may be developed in the future would likely be subject to future seismic activity. However, any future development resulting from the project would be required to be designed to meet all California Building Code seismic design standards required prior to building permit issuance.
 - iii. **Less Than Significant Impact.** Liquefaction occurs when loose sand and silt that is saturated with water behaves like a liquid when shaken by an earthquake. Liquefaction can result in the following types of seismic-related ground failure:

- Loss of bearing strength – soils liquefy and lose the ability to support structures
- Lateral spreading – soils slide down gentle slopes or toward stream banks
- Flow failures – soils move down steep slopes with large displacement
- Ground oscillation – surface soils, riding on a buried liquefied layer, are thrown back and forth by shaking
- Flotation – floating of light buried structures to the surface
- Settlement – settling of ground surface as soils reconsolidate
- Subsidence – compaction of soil and sediment

Three factors are required for liquefaction to occur: (1) loose, granular sediment; (2) saturation of the sediment by groundwater; and (3) strong shaking. Impacts associated with liquefaction are unlikely given the well-drained soils on the project site and low incidence of seismic activity in the region.

- iv. **Less Than Significant Impact.** Landslides are not known to occur in the project site as the slopes are relatively level. The areas closest to the project site with steeper slopes consist of Hilt-Rock outcrop complex, 2 to 50 percent slopes to the west and Rock outcrop to the south with 9 to 50 percent slopes. Both types of soil are well drained to excessively drained and are unlikely to result in landslides.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Erosion is the process by which soil material is detached and transported from one location to another by wind or water. Erosion occurs naturally in most systems but is often accelerated by human activities that disturb soil and vegetation. The rate at which natural and accelerated erosion occur is largely a function of climate, soil cover, slope conditions, and inherent soil properties. According to the NRCS, Salisbury gravelly clay loam identified in the project site exhibits the potential for erosion unless close-growing plant cover is maintained. However, because any development is subject to California Building Code regulations, which has provisions for erosion control as they relate to any new development, and as no clearing of the existing vegetation is proposed as part of this project, the potential for substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil is less than significant.
- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project site is not 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. Therefore, the impact is less than significant.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Expansive or shrink-swell soils are soils that swell when subjected to moisture and shrink when dry. Expansive soils typically contain clay minerals that attract and absorb water, greatly increasing the volume

of the soil. This increase in volume can cause damage to foundations, structures, and roadways. The Salisbury gravelly clay loam identified on the project site has shrink-swell potential; however, project-specific recommendations required prior to building permit issuance and standard procedures required by the California Building Code would reduce any potential impact associated with shrink-swell soils to a level that is considered less than significant.

- e) **No Impact.** The Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Environmental Health Division has reviewed the project and approved on-site sewage disposal areas for subject property. APN: 013-110-340, which is already developed with a single-family dwelling, is also developed with an engineered sand filter as means for on-site sewage disposal (PN 04-159). APN: 013-110-330, which is proposed to be developed with a kennel and “Puppyville” has an approved septic area identified for alternative, engineered on-site sewage disposal. APN: 013-110-350, which is proposed to be developed with an alternative location for “Puppyville” and a caretaker’s dwelling has an approved septic area identified for alternative, engineered on-site sewage disposal.
- f) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.** No known unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic features exist at the project site. Nevertheless, unanticipated and accidental discoveries of paleontological resources are possible during future development of the project site. Therefore, in order to ensure that potential impacts to paleontological resources remain less than significant, mitigation measure **MM 7.1** is provided below.

Mitigation Measures:

MM 7.1 If, during ground disturbance activities associated with development of the site, paleontological resources (e.g., fossils) are discovered, all work shall cease in the area of the find, the Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Planning Division shall be immediately notified, and a qualified paleontologist shall be retained to determine the significance of the discovery. The county shall consider the mitigation recommendations presented by a professional paleontologist and implement a measure or measures that the county deems feasible and appropriate. Such measures may include avoidance, preservation in place, excavation, documentation, curation, data recovery, or other appropriate measures.

Timing/Implementation: During ground disturbance activities associated with development of the site.

Enforcement/Monitoring: Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Planning Division

3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<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 gasses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are released as byproducts of fossil fuel combustion, waste disposal, energy use, land use changes, and other human activities. This release of gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and chlorofluorocarbons, creates a blanket around the earth that allows light to pass through but traps heat at the surface, preventing its escape into space. While this is a naturally occurring process known as the greenhouse effect, human activities have accelerated the generation of GHGs beyond natural levels. The overabundance of GHGs in the atmosphere has led to an unexpected warming of the earth and has the potential to severely impact the earth’s climate system and environment.

Each GHG differs in its ability to absorb heat in the atmosphere based on the lifetime, or persistence, of the gas molecule in the atmosphere. CH₄ traps over 25 times more heat per molecule than CO₂, and N₂O absorbs 298 times more heat per molecule than CO₂ (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] 2013, 2014). Often, estimates of GHG emissions are presented in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e). Expressing GHG emissions in carbon dioxide equivalents takes the contribution of all GHG emissions to the greenhouse effect and converts them to a single unit equivalent to the effect that would occur if only CO₂ were being emitted.

In California, major polluting entities are required to report their annual GHG emissions under the Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MRR). A “major polluting entity” is defined as an industrial source that emits more than 10,000 metric tons of CO₂e. The MRR program captures approximately 80 percent of the GHG emissions included in the State’s GHG inventory (CARB 2023).

With adoption of Assembly Bill (AB) 32, AB 1279, Senate Bill (SB) 32 and SB 97, the State of California established GHG reduction targets and has determined that GHG emissions as they relate to global climate change are a source of adverse

environmental impacts. However, neither the State of California nor the County of Siskiyou have established significance criteria for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated by a proposed project. Indeed, many regulatory agencies are sorting through suggested thresholds and/or making project-by-project analyses. This approach is consistent with that suggested by the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research technical advisory entitled *CEQA and Climate Change: Addressing Climate Change through the California Environmental Quality Act Review* (OPR 2008):

In the absence of regulatory standards for GHG emissions or other specific data to clearly define what constitutes a 'significant project,' individual lead agencies may undertake a project-by-project analysis, consistent with available guidance and current CEQA practice.

The impact that GHG emissions have on global climate change does not depend on whether the emissions were generated by stationary, mobile, or area sources, or whether they were generated in one region or another. Thus, consistency with the state's requirements for GHG emissions reductions is the best metric for determining whether the proposed project would contribute to global warming. In the case of the proposed project, if the project substantially impairs the state's ability to conform to the mandate to reduce GHG emissions to forty percent below the 1990 levels by the year 2030, then the impact of the project would be considered significant.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Although few studies exist as to the amount of greenhouse gasses produced by dogs, an October 2025 study from the University of Live Sciences in Lublin, Poland found that the CO_{2e} for a single dog to be significantly less than that of single traditional livestock animal. Additionally, future development of the property with the buildings proposed as part of the expanded kennel use would be required to meet California Building Code Energy Efficiency Standards and Green Building Standards in Title 24 and would result in relatively minor greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed project to legalize the existing unpermitted kennel operation and to allow for expansion of the kennel use with the development of a new kennel building would not substantially impair the state's ability to conform to the mandate to reduce GHG emissions to forty percent below the 1990 levels by the year 2030. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact as it would not generate enough greenhouse gas emissions to have a significant impact on the environment.
- b) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not conflict with any adopted plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 Section 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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

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 in Health and Safety Code Section 25501 as “a material listed in paragraph (2) 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, or a material specified in an ordinance adopted pursuant to paragraph (3)”.

Most hazardous material regulation and enforcement in Siskiyou County is managed by the Siskiyou Community Development Department - Environmental Health Division, which refers large cases of hazardous materials contamination or violations to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). When issues of hazardous materials arise, it is not at all uncommon for other agencies to become involved, such as the Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District and both the federal and state Occupational Safety and Health Administrations (OSHA).

Under Government Code Section 65962.5, both DTSC and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) are required to maintain lists of sites known to have hazardous substances present in the environment. Both agencies maintain up-to-date lists on their websites. A search of the DTSC and SWRCB lists did not identify any hazardous waste violations in the vicinity of the project site.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Because the proposed zoning of the project site is AG-2, and because the AG-2 zoning district does not permit intensive industries that routinely transport, use, or dispose of hazardous materials, the project is not anticipated to result in the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. Although permitted uses in the AG-2 zoning district, such as tree, vine, row, and field crops, as well as livestock farming and animal husbandry sometimes include the use of chemicals, it is considered to be a minor and infrequent component of those uses. Additionally, those are uses that are already entitled as part of the project site's existing AG-1 zoning district. The use of chemicals, such as those used to sanitize the kennels, is likewise considered to be a minor and infrequent component of that use. Therefore, the project's potential to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials is less than significant.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** See Response 3.9(a). Although unlikely, a potential accidental release of hazardous materials could occur during farming, livestock husbandry, and kennel use of the property. Any such release would likely be minor spillages and there is nothing specific to the project that would indicate a greater likelihood for an accidental release of hazardous materials than already exists on the property. As such, potential impacts are considered less than significant.
- c) **No Impact.** The project is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The nearest school is Delphic Elementary School, which is more than one and one-half miles east of the project site.

- d) **No Impact.** According to the DRSC Envirostor database and SWRCB GeoTracker database, which were reviewed on January 26, 2026, the project site has not been identified as a hazardous material spill site, nor is it located adjacent to such a site.
- e) **No Impact.** The project site is not within any compatibility zones for the Siskiyou County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). Additionally, Montague-Yreka Rohrer Field, which is the nearest airport to the project site, is more than 2.3 miles northeast.
- f) **No Impact.** There is nothing about the proposed project that would substantially interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan.
- g) **Less Than Significant Impact.** There is the potential for wildland fires in the region given the relatively dry summer climate. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the project site is located in a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. However, it is not located within any known historical fire perimeters. The closest wildfire known to have occurred in the project vicinity was in 2001 and known as the Mini Fire. It burned 10.75 acres and was stopped approximately 660 feet south of the project site. Although the project site is located in an area potentially impacted by wildfires, there is nothing about the proposed rezone or kennel use permit that would exacerbate wildfire risks. Further, any future residential or commercial development that occurs on the project site will be required to comply with Fire Safe Regulations adopted by the State to increase fire safety. As a result, potential impacts associated with wildfires are considered less than significant.

3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<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 or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) 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"/>
iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulates the quality of California’s water resources, with oversight provided by nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) around the state. RWQCB boundaries are based on watersheds, while water quality requirements are based on the unique differences in climate, topography, geology, and hydrology for each watershed. Each RWQCB makes critical water quality decisions for its region, including setting standards, issuing waste discharge requirements, determining compliance with those requirements, and taking appropriate enforcement actions. The project site is located within Region 1, which is overseen by the North Coast RWQCB.

One of the duties of each RWQCB is the development of a basin plan, or water quality control plan, for the hydrologic area over which it has jurisdiction. Basin plans are comprehensive in scope, contain a brief description of the region, describe known water quality and quantity issues, and identify current and potential beneficial uses of waters in the region. The water quality objectives contained in a basin plan are prescribed for the purposes of protecting the beneficial uses. The “Implementation Plans” section of a basin plan describes the measures, including specific prohibitions, action plans, and policies, that form the basis for the control of water quality in the region.

According to the North Coast Basin Plan (2025), the Shasta River mainstem in the vicinity of the project site was listed for temperature and dissolved oxygen. As the Shasta River is a tributary to the Klamath River, to address this, the Klamath River and Lost River Implementation Plan established Total Maximum Daily Loads for nutrient and organic matter, dissolved oxygen, and temperature, as well as a set of Actions that are enforced through Memorandums of Understanding with other governmental agencies, including the County of Siskiyou.

As part of the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), local agencies are required to develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) that assess and project future groundwater conditions and provide management and monitoring activities. The project site is within the Shasta Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

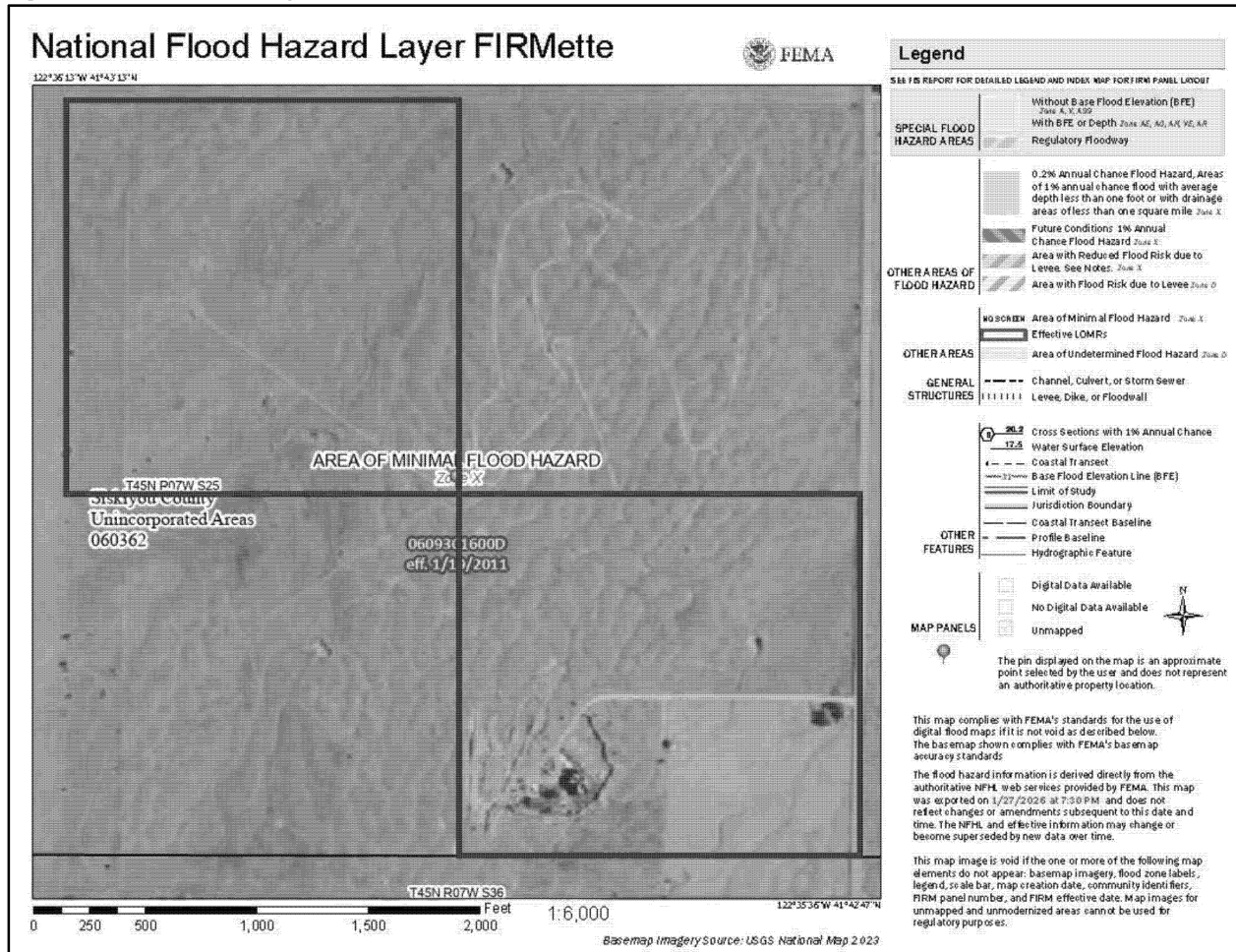
The only RWQCB mapped hydrologic features on the project site are the seasonal creeks which are part of the Shasta River Hydrologic Area. As the Shasta River is a tributary to the Klamath River, these seasonal creeks are also part of the Klamath River Hydrologic Unit. The seasonal creeks are only listed with impairments due to temperature.

Most precipitation falls over a roughly eight-month period from October until May, with most snowfall occurring from December and January. The area receives an average of 18.52 inches of total annual precipitation and 18.2 inches of total average snowfall. The least amount of precipitation occurs during the summer, with July and August each receiving an average of 0.43 inches (Western Regional Climate Center 2026).

With no municipal sewer and water infrastructure located in the vicinity of the project site, water and wastewater disposal services are provided on-site for each parcel with individual wells and sewage disposal systems, both of which require permits from the Siskiyou County Community Development Department - Environmental Health Division. The Siskiyou County Environmental Health Division has previously evaluated the site and approved on-site sewage disposal areas or systems for the parcels.

As mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Mapping program, the project site is within Zone X, which is an area of minimal flood hazard (FIRM Map 06093C1600D).

Figure 17: FEMA Flood Map



Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project would not impact water quality standards and/or waste discharge requirements. Should the project site be developed with the proposed kennel and caretaker's dwelling, it is anticipated that some grading will be necessary to prepare the sites. Projects that result in a land disturbance of one acre or more, or that disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain a Construction Activities Storm Water General Permit from the SWRCB. If a Storm Water General Permit is required, the property owner(s) will need to prepare a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) that is subject to RWQCB review and approval and that includes best management practices (BMPs) designed to reduce or eliminate erosion and runoff into waterways. BMPs typically include the use of straw wattles, covering of stockpiled materials, revegetation that includes hydroseeding, silt fences, and other physical means of slowing stormwater flow from graded areas in order to allow sediment to settle before entering stream channels. The methods used vary depending on the circumstances of construction.

While it is not clear whether a Storm Water General Permit will be required given the kennel use of the property is already occurring and given the relatively small footprint of the proposed structures, BMPs are still required as part of California construction codes. As a result, potential impacts to water quality are considered less than significant.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with ground water recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. As mentioned in Section 3.2 of this study, DWR actively monitors five wells within five miles of the project site, and while groundwater level shows seasonal variation, it is stable over time at all five locations.

No public water provider serves the project site. Water is provided by existing domestic wells, and no new wells are proposed as part of this project. All water taken from the wells is currently used on-site for the landscaping, residence, and existing commercial kennel. Any future development of the project site for kennel use is not expected to result in a substantial change in on-site water use. Additionally, commercial kennel development will be required to meet California construction codes, which include the requirement for water detention basins. As a result, a less than significant impact is anticipated.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The existing drainage pattern of the site or area will not be substantially altered, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces. No development is proposed on or adjacent to the seasonal drainages identified on the Preliminary

Aquatic Resources Delineation Report. Therefore, a less than significant impact is anticipated.

- i. **Less Than Significant Impact.** See Responses 3.10(a) and 3.10(c), above. No alteration of the existing drainage pattern of the site or area is proposed. As such, the project will not result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site
 - ii. **Less Than Significant Impact.** See Responses 3.10(a) and 3.10(c)(i), above. No alteration of the existing drainage pattern of the site or area is proposed. The development of a new kennel building and associated facilities would add impervious surface to the project site. However, California construction codes require that commercial buildings and facilities, such as for the proposed kennel, include water detention basins to prevent flooding by retain stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces. Therefore, the project will not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite.
 - iii. **No Impact.** See Responses 3.10(a) and 3.10(c)(ii), above. The proposed project will not 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 as there are no existing or planned stormwater drainage systems in the project vicinity and no runoff, polluted or otherwise, is anticipated to be produced as part of this project. Therefore, there will be no impact.
 - iv. **No Impact.** See Responses 3.10(a) and 3.10(c)(iii), above. The project site is identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Mapping program, as being within Zone X, which is an area of minimal flood hazard. Therefore, the project will not impede or redirect flood flows.
- d) **No Impact.** This project is not within a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone.
- e) **No Impact.** There is no development or change in land use that would be likely to result from the project that has the potential to conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

3.11 Land Use and Planning

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to conflict with any land use plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Siskiyou County General Plan

The basis for land use planning in the unincorporated areas of Siskiyou County, which includes the project site, is the Siskiyou County General Plan. The Land Use Element of the General Plan provides the primary guidance on issues related to land use and land use intensity. The Land Use Element provides designations for land within the County and outlines goals and policies concerning development and use of that land.

The primary goal of the Land Use Element of the Siskiyou County General Plan is to allow the physical environment to determine the appropriate future land use pattern that will develop in the County. This is contrary to conventional planning practice in which one master land use map indicates future land use patterns based primarily on social, political, and economic factors. Its focus is for future development to occur in areas that are easiest to develop without entailing great public service costs, that have the least negative environmental effect, and that do not displace or endanger the county's critical natural resources.

The technique used for the development of the Land Use Element involved preparation of a series of overlay maps identifying development constraint areas. Constraints take the form of both natural, physical barriers or problems and those culturally imposed on the basis of resource protection. The combination of overlay maps provides a visual display of tones representing physical constraints in a particular geographic area in terms of the perceived effect of development. In identifying an absence of physical constraints, it also indicates where development may proceed without encountering known physical problems.

The Land-Use Element of the Siskiyou County General Plan identifies the project site as being located within the following mapped areas: Building Foundation Limitations: High

Shrink Swell Behavior Soils, Prime Agricultural Soils. The following are the applicable policies established for development within the mapped resource and natural hazard areas:

- Policy 8 Enforce building construction standards (Uniform Building Code) and public works requirements.
- Policy 34 All Class I, II, and III soils, and the soils that become Class III under irrigation, with the exception of Class III soils determined to be non-irrigable, are defined as prime agricultural land.
- Policy 35 The minimum parcel size on prime agricultural land shall be 40 acres.

The permitted density will not create erosion or sedimentation problems.
- Policy 36 In commercial agricultural areas mapped as prime agricultural land but proven not to be prime agricultural land or land clearly committed to urbanization, but not within a city or service district sphere of influence, the minimum parcel size shall be 10-20 acres, depending on distance from major agricultural areas.

The permitted density will not create erosion or sedimentation problems.

A minimum parcel size of 20 acres is required in areas that are adjacent to or in close proximity to major commercial agricultural operations.

The intent of this policy is to allow a higher density on land that is not capable of being productive for agriculture, and at the same time retaining a residential density in the major agricultural areas of the county that is compatible with agricultural interests.
- Policy 37 Only agricultural uses are permitted on prime agricultural land.
- Policy 38 In commercial agricultural areas mapped as prime agricultural land but proven not to be prime agricultural land, single family residential, light commercial, light industrial, open space, non-profit and non-organizational in nature recreational uses, commercial/recreational uses, and public or quasi-public uses may be permitted.

Policy 39 Proof that mapped prime agricultural soils are in fact not prime can only be done by providing the following information:

- a. Submission of a soils test prepared by a California Certified Soil Scientist.
- b. Submission of well logs that specifically demonstrate there is not enough water available for irrigation purposes.
- c. A letter from the applicable irrigation district stating that they will not and cannot provide water.
- d. Any other factual, documented information that the area is not and has not been capable of supplying enough water for irrigation.
- e. If an on-site field inspection by the Planning Department reveals that the land is not prime agricultural land, the data itemized in a, b, c, and d above may not be required; i.e., obvious mapping errors.
- f. Submission of past financial records or statements that the agricultural operation is not economically feasible are not in any way considered to be adequate proof that the land is not prime.

Policy 40 All development proposals within an irrigation district shall conform to all rules, regulations, and policies of the applicable irrigation district. The intent of this policy is not to permit district regulation of land use or density – it is intended to prohibit any interference of the district’s functions, such as keeping checks and irrigation ditches free and clear of any disturbance.

Composite Overall Policies

In addition to the policies noted above, the following composite policies have been determined to be applicable to the proposed project:

Policy 41.3 (b) All light commercial, light industrial, multiple family residential, and commercial/recreational, public, and quasi-public uses must provide or have direct access to a public road capable of accommodating the traffic that could be generated from the proposed use.

Policy 41.3(e) All proposed uses of the land shall be clearly compatible with the surrounding and planned uses of the area.

Policy 41.3(f) All proposed uses of the land may only be allowed if they clearly will not be disruptive or destroy the intent of protecting each mapped resource.

Policy 41.5 All development will be designed so that every proposed use and every individual parcel of land created is a buildable site, and will not create erosion, runoff, access, or fire hazard or any other resource or environmentally related problems.

Policy 41.6 There shall be a demonstration to the satisfaction of the Siskiyou County Health Department and/or the California Regional Water Quality Control Board that sewage disposal from all proposed development will not contaminate ground water.

Policy 41.8 All proposed development shall be accompanied by evidence acceptable to the Siskiyou County Health Department as to the adequacy of on-site sewage disposal or the ability to connect into an existing city or existing Community Services District with adequate capacity to accommodate the proposed development. In these cases the minimum parcel sizes and uses of the land permitted for all development will be the maximum density and lands uses permitted that will meet minimum water quality and quantity requirements, and the requirements of the county's flood plain management ordinance.

Policy 41.9 Buildable, safe access must exist to all proposed uses of land. The access must also be adequate to accommodate the immediate and cumulative traffic impacts of the proposed development.

Policy 41.12 All significant historic and prehistoric places and features when identified shall be preserved and protected in accordance with accepted professional practices.

Policy 41.13 All rare and endangered plant species identified and recognized by state and federal government shall be preserved and protected in accordance with accepted professional practices.

Policy 41.18 Conformance with all policies in the Land Use Element shall be provided, documented, and demonstrated before the County may make a decision on any proposed development.

Siskiyou County Code

In concert with the General Plan, the Siskiyou County Code establishes zoning districts within the County and specifies allowable uses and development standards for each

district. Under state law, each jurisdiction's zoning must be consistent with its general plan. The proposed zoning of the project site is Non-Prime Agricultural (AG-2). Pursuant to Section 10-6.4902 of the Siskiyou County Code, uses permitted in the Non-Prime Agricultural zoning district include: farm labor housing; single-family dwellings or mobile homes in lieu thereof, incidental and necessary for agricultural pursuits; accessory uses incidental to agriculture; agricultural uses, including, but not limited to tree, vine, row, and field crops, growing and harvesting of trees, and livestock farming and animal husbandry, but not including dairies, commercial feed lots, or commercial poultry, and hog raising operations; wholesale nurseries with retail sales incidental thereto, greenhouses, fish farms, frog farms, and roadside stands for sales of agricultural products from the premises; one guest house; and one second dwelling unit per legal lot subject to the limitations as set forth in the General Provisions section of this code.

Pursuant to Section 10-6.4903 of the Siskiyou County Code, subject to obtaining a use permit, uses conditionally permitted include: churches, schools, parks, playgrounds, and public utility and public and quasi-public buildings and uses to the extent such are necessary to serve the AG-2 District; private airports and landing fields; dairies, commercial poultry operations, commercial feed lots, and hog farms; golf courses; kennels and animal hospitals; guest ranches and public stables; agricultural enterprises, including, but not limited to agricultural sheds and warehouses; processing, storage, or sale of agricultural products and supplies; and the repair, storage, maintenance, and servicing of agricultural supplies and equipment; home occupations; in addition to the uses listed above, the uses listed in Article 15, General Provisions, may also be permitted, subject to the issuance of a use permit; and continued operation of the Yreka Landfill, and any expansion or modification of municipal solid waste activities at the Yreka Landfill.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **No Impact.** The project is located between the city of Yreka and city of Montague in an agricultural and industrial area and would not physically divide an established community.
- b) **No Impact.** The project proposes to rezone land mapped as prime agricultural soils in the General Plan. However, as discussed in Section 3.2 of this document, the soils have been determined to *not* be prime agricultural soils by a Certified Soil Scientist. Any future development of the project site is required to comply with California construction codes. Therefore, the project will not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

3.12 Mineral Resources

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

Setting:

Historically, mining was responsible for the establishment of several communities within Siskiyou County, including nearby Yreka. Although mining still takes place, there are no active mines in the project vicinity.

The State Mining and Geology Board has the responsibility to inventory and classify mineral resources and could designate such mineral resources as having a statewide or regional significance. If this designation occurs, the local agency must adopt a management plan for such identified resources. At this time, there are no plans to assess local mineral resources for the project area or Siskiyou County.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Although mining has occurred in many locations throughout Siskiyou County, the project site is not known to contain any mineral resources that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Therefore, a less than significant impact is anticipated.
- b) **No Impact.** There are no locally important mineral resource recovery sites delineated in the Siskiyou County General Plan.

3.13 Noise

Would the project result in:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or of applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip area or and airport land use plan, 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"/>

Setting:

The Siskiyou County General Plan Noise Element identifies land use compatibility standards for exterior community noise for a variety of land use categories for project planning purposes. For commercial land uses, an exterior noise level of 65 Ldn (Day-Night Level) is identified as being “acceptable” requiring no special noise insulation or noise abatement features unless the proposed development is itself considered a source of incompatible noise for a nearby land use. As a kennel has the potential to be a source of noise due to barking dogs, the adjacent land uses were also identified. South of the project site are parcels zoned and used for light industry. Current uses include contractor’s yards and a catering company that specializes in sack lunches. All other surrounding parcels are zoned for agricultural uses with the nearest sensitive receptor being a single-family dwelling that is more than one-quarter mile northeast of the proposed kennel building (APN: 013-450-150). Residential uses have an “acceptable” exterior noise level of 60 Ldn. The outdoor noise level planning criteria identified in the Noise Element are intended to “assure that a 45 Ldn indoor level will be achieved by the noise attenuation of regular construction materials.

The project site is located along S. Phillippe Lane, which is classified as a minor collector, and north of Oberlin Road, which is classified as an urban collector. Additional potential sources of noise existing in the area include Custom Crushing Industries, Inc., which is a concrete and asphalt recycling facility, and Oberlin Road Transfer Station, which is a solid waste transfer station owned and operated by the county. Both the

recycling facility and the transfer station are directly south of the project site and south of Oberlin Road.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project would rezone approximately eighty acres from AG-1 to AG-2 in order to facilitate a use permit to legalize an existing dog kennel (Phase I) and allow for its expansion with a new kennel building (Phase II). The primary noise is currently generated by dogs already on the project site from the existing kennel use. Additional noise would be temporarily generated by vehicles and equipment as part of development of the proposed kennel building and accessory structures on the project site. However, as the nearest sensitive receptor is more than one-quarter mile northeast of the proposed kennel building, it is not anticipated that additional noise associated with expansion of the kennel use would exceed 60 Ldn at that distance. Therefore, it is anticipated that there would be a less than significant impact.
- b) **No Impact.** See Response 3.13(a). The project would not generate excessive groundborne vibration or noise.
- c) **No Impact.** There are no airports within two miles of the project site. The closest public airport to the project site is Montague-Yreka Rohrer Field, approximately 2.3 miles to the northeast.

3.14 Population and Housing

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The project site is between the established communities of Yreka and Montague. The project site is in an area of sparse residential development. Surrounding parcels are zoned for agricultural or industrial uses.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project proposes the potential development of a single residential dwelling as a caretaker’s dwelling. The existing AG-1 and proposed AG-2 zoning districts both allow for the development of single-family dwellings. Additionally, the kennel employs a limited number of individuals, and it is anticipated that those employees would continue to come from the local area. Therefore, the project is not likely to induce substantial unplanned population growth and a less than significant impact is anticipated.
- b) **No Impact.** No displacement of any existing people or housing are proposed as part of this project. Therefore, no construction of replacement housing elsewhere is needed. A single residence exists on the project site and is not proposed to be removed as part of this project. As such, no impact is anticipated.

3.15 Public Services

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Fire Protection

Fire protection services for the project site and immediate vicinity are provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The nearest CAL FIRE station that is staffed year-round is located at 1809 Fairlane Road in Yreka, approximately 3.6 road miles from the project site. The project site is also served through automatic aid agreements by the Yreka Fire Department and the Montague Fire Department, which are approximately 3.9 and 4.9 miles from the project site, respectively.

Police Protection

Police protection services are provided by the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department. The nearest Sheriff's Department substation is located at 305 Butte Street in Yreka, approximately 3.7 miles from the project site.

Schools

The area is served by the Yreka Union Elementary School District for kindergarten through 8th grade at one of four schools in the city of Yreka. The Yreka Union High

School District offers classes in grades 9 through 12 at one of three schools, which are also in the city of Yreka. The district also has an adult educational center.

Parks

Recreational opportunities for both youth and adults are varied in the project area. Organized recreational sports are offered by local organizations for both youth and adults. Additionally, the project site is located between the cities of Yreka and Montague, which have multiple parks, recreational facilities at area schools, and the Klamath National Forest, which provides opportunities for a wide variety of active and passive recreational activities.

Other Public Facilities

Other local public facilities found in the project vicinity include the Shasta Valley Wildlife Area, owned and administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, owned and administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The possible development of the project site with a new kennel and associated facilities, including a caretaker's dwelling, is not anticipated to result in a substantial impact to fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities.

3.16 Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Recreation opportunities for both youth and adults are varied in the project area, as noted in Section 3.15, Public Services above.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Any minor increase in population as a result of this project would have a less than significant impact on recreational facilities and would not cause substantial physical deterioration of the facilities to occur or be accelerated.
- b) **No Impact.** See Response 4.16(a). The project does not include or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

3.17 Transportation

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The project site is located adjacent to South Phillippe Lane, a county-maintained roadway that is classified as a minor collector. No new roads are being proposed as part of this project. The project vicinity is near the Siskiyou County Siskiyou Transit and General Express (STAGE) public transportation system, with the nearest stop to the project site being approximately 2 miles away, at the corner of Campbell Avenue and Yellowhammer Street, in the city of Yreka. However, dedicated bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is limited.

The Siskiyou County Local Transportation Commission updated the regional transportation plan in 2021. Within the plan, Phillippe Lane is identified within the “Roadway Projects – Long Term” table as to be reconstructed in 2031 or later. The plan also analyzed the historic and existing average annual daily traffic (AADT) for both Oberlin Road and Phillippe Lane. Between 2014 and 2018, Oberlin Road ranged from a low of 6300 to a high of 7100 AADT. The most recent AADT being 6900. Phillippe Lane ranged from a low of 1150 to a high of 2150 AADT. The most recent AADT being 2100.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant.** Phase I of this project proposes to legalize the existing kennel use of the property. The number of vehicles that are listed for that phase are twelve vehicles. Phase II of the project proposes moving the existing kennel operation to a new kennel facility and reduces the number of vehicles to ten. Phase III of the project proposes that the facilities in both Phase I and Phase II be used as emergency housing for pets due to fire evacuations. In that situation,

the number of total vehicles is proposed to be increased back to the original twelve vehicles. It is not anticipated that the project would have a significant impact or conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

- b) **Less Than Significant.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b) identifies criteria for analyzing transportation impacts. Section 15064.3(b)(1) is specific to land use projects, such as the zone change and use permit proposed for this project. It is noted within that section that projects “that decrease vehicle miles traveled in the project area compared to existing conditions should be presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact.” As this project is not proposing an increase in existing traffic with the legalization and expansion of the kennel use and facilities, and as a caretaker’s dwelling is also proposed, which would decrease vehicle miles compared to a caretaker that lives off-site, this project is anticipated to have a less than significant impact.
- c) **No Impact.** No incompatible uses or sharp curves or dangerous intersections are proposed as geometric design features that would substantially increase hazards. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.
- d) **No Impact.** The project would not result in inadequate emergency access as South Phillipe Lane provides adequate access to the site. Additionally, as part of any building permit application for the kennel, CAL FIRE requirements for emergency access and egress, signing and building numbering, and fuel modification and standards would be enforced. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

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

Setting:

On January 1, 2015, Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21074, which defines a “tribal cultural resource”, became effective. PRC Section 21074 states the following:

a) “Tribal cultural resources” are either of the following:

1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:

A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.

B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.

2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section

5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native

b) A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of subdivision (a) is a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape.

c) A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a “nonunique archaeological resource” as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms with the criteria of subdivision (a).

Consultation with California Native American Tribe(s)

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 requires that prior to the release of a CEQA document for a project, an agency begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project if: (1) the California Native American tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe and (2) the California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification, and requests the consultation.

As discussed in Section 4.5, Cultural Resources, the NAHC provided a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project location. In December 2025, all the listed tribes were sent a letter via Certified Mail with notification of the project and the opportunity to consult pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (2014). The list of tribes included the Karuk Tribe, the Shasta Indian Nation, and the Shasta Nation. No tribes responded requesting consultation.

As part of the county’s request, the NAHC completed a search of the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File. The result of the Sacred Land Files search was negative. Additionally, as part of a prior project on the subject property (TPM-05-13), David Vann, a Registered Professional Archaeologist prepared an Archaeological Survey Report. Mr. Vann conducted literature research, consulted with representatives of tribes in the area, and conducted a field survey of the site. The report concluded that no sensitive cultural or historic resources were observed during the field survey.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significant of a tribal cultural resource as there are no sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, or objects on the project site. Therefore, a less than significant impact is anticipated.

- i. **No Impact.** The project site is not listed or known to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or in local register of historical resources. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.
- ii. **No Impact.** There is no evidence of a resource determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, including any that would have significant to a California Native American tribe. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Water Service

Potable water for future development on the project site would be provided by existing individual on-site water wells. Public water service is not available to serve the project site.

Wastewater

All of the subject parcel included in the project have been approved or developed with on-site sewage disposal systems in accordance with Siskiyou County Environmental Health requirements. Public sewage disposal service is not available to serve the project site.

Storm Drainage

Given the low density of development in the project vicinity, storm drainage facilities are non-existent. Proposed parcel configurations are large enough to accommodate stormwater runoff from future development.

Solid Waste

The Siskiyou County General Services Department manages solid waste transfer stations throughout the county. The closest transfer station is the Oberlin Road Transfer Station, a medium volume transfer/processing facility, which is approximately one-half mile south of the project site.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project proposes to develop the project site with a new kennel and caretaker's dwelling. The parcels involved with this project have all been developed with individual on-site water wells and sewage disposal systems or approved locations. New sewage disposal systems would have to be developed in the approved location if full build-out of the proposed project occurs. The sewage disposal systems would be required to meet Siskiyou County Community Development Department – Environmental Health Division requirements in order to be approved. California building code regulations include requirements for storm water retention basins for commercial buildings and facilities, such as those proposed for the new kennel building. The storm water retention basins would be required to meet standards to mitigate any potential environmental effects. Natural gas is not available throughout the majority of Siskiyou County, including at the project site. No telecommunication facilities are proposed as part of this project. None of the above-mentioned utilities and service systems are likely to cause significant environmental effects due to their construction or relocation. Therefore, a less than significant impact is anticipated.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** See Response 3.19(a). The project would be served by approved individual on-site water wells. As noted in Section 3.2 – Agriculture and Forestry Resources of this document, the DWR actively monitors five wells within five miles of the project site. Groundwater level shows seasonal variation but is stable over time at all five locations. Therefore, it is anticipated that there will be sufficient water supply available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years and there will be a less than significant impact.
- c) **No Impact.** See Response 4.19(a). The project is currently served by an individual approved on-site sewage disposal system and approved locations for future individual on-site sewage disposal systems have been identified for each parcel that is part of this project. Therefore, there is no impact as there is not a wastewater treatment provider.

- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Solid waste from this project will be disposed of at the Oberlin Road Transfer Station and is not anticipated to be in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of the local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. Therefore, there will be a less than significant impact.
- e) **No Impact.** The project will comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

3.20 Wildfire

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The risk of wildfire is related to a variety of parameters, including fuel loading (vegetation), fire weather (winds, temperatures, humidity levels and fuel moisture contents), and topography (degree of slope). Steep slopes contribute to fire hazard by intensifying the effects of wind and making fire suppression difficult. Fuels such as grass are highly flammable because they have a high surface-area-to-mass ratio and require less heat to reach the ignition point, while fuels such as trees have a lower surface-area-to-mass ratio and require more heat to reach the ignition point.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) designates locations around the State based on the severity of fire hazard present, as well as whether fire suppression and prevention are the responsibility of a state or local agency at that location. CAL FIRE is responsible for fire suppression and prevention within State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) and non-state or federal agencies are responsible for fire suppression and prevention within Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs). CAL FIRE has designated the project site as being within an SRA High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2024).

CAL FIRE additionally designates areas within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The three classes are: Wildland Urban Interface – dense housing adjacent to vegetation that can burn in a wildfire, Wildland Urban Intermix – housing development interspersed in an area dominated by wildland vegetation subject to wildfire, and Wildfire Influence Zone – wildfire susceptible vegetation up to 1.5 miles from Wildland Urban Interface or Wildland Urban Intermix. CAL FIRE has designated the project site as being within the Wildfire Influence Zone (CAL FIRE 2025).

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) is a collaboration of national and state wildland fire entities that provides support to on-the-ground wildland firefighting efforts as well as developing wildland fire policy and serving as a support center for wildland fire and other emergency incidents throughout the nation. As part of those efforts, NIFC produces an annual Wildfire Suppression Difficulty Index 97th Percentile map. The map provides a rating of the relative difficulty in performing fire control work under regionally appropriate fuel moisture and 20 mile-per-hour uphill winds. The ratings range from the lowest difficulty (0-10) up to highest difficulty (>100). The majority of the project site is classified as lowest difficulty, with a portion of the southeast of the project site within the 10-20 percentile. A small portion of the property that is immediately northeast of the existing dwelling is classified within the 20-40 percentile.

As noted in Section 3.9(g), the project site is not located within any known historical fire perimeters. The closest wildfire known to have occurred in the project vicinity was in 2001 and known as the Mini Fire. It burned 10.75 acres and was stopped approximately 660 feet south of the project site.

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **No Impact.** Siskiyou County does not have an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. However, the draft Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and the draft General Plan Safety Element do contain emergency response plans and/or emergency evacuation plans. The proposed project would not substantially impair the emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans within either of those documents. As such, the project would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan and there is no impact.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** See Responses 3.9(g) and 3.20(a). Although the project site is located in an area potentially affected by wildfires and wildfire smoke, there is nothing about the proposed rezone and use permit that would exacerbate wildfire risks or expose a greater number of people to fire risks than is currently possible without the project. Moreover, NIFC classifies the majority of the project site as being with the lowest difficulty for fire control work under 20 mile-per-hour uphill winds. Additionally, any future development would be required to comply with applicable California construction codes and CAL FIRE

regulations to reduce the impact of a potential fire. As a result, potential impacts associated with wildfires are considered less than significant.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project site is already developed with roadways and underground electric utility lines. Any future development is anticipated to connect to and extend from the existing roadways, underground electric utilities, and other existing infrastructure. Therefore, it is anticipated that the extension of the existing facilities will have a less than significant impact.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project is located on relatively flat land with well established seasonal drainages. Any development that is associated with this project would be required to comply with California constructions codes, which includes the requirement for commercial structures, such as the proposed kennel building and associated facilities, to be developed with storm water retention basins. Therefore, the likelihood of this project to expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes is less than significant.

3.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion of Impacts:

- a) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** While potentially significant environmental impacts have been identified in the analyses contained herein, including potential impacts to special-status species, all potential impacts have been reduced to a level that is considered less than significant as a result of the mitigation measures that have been incorporated above.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** There are no project-related impacts that, in conjunction with other approved or pending projects in the region, have the potential to result in cumulatively considerable impacts on the physical environment.
- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project would not result in adverse impacts on human being either directly or indirectly.

4.0 References

4.1 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.

California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2024. "Table of Ambient Air Quality Standards." https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/AAQS%20Table_ADA_FINAL_07222024.pdf

———. 2024. "Top 4 Measurements and Days Above the Standard." <http://www.arb.ca.gov/adam/>. Website accessed December 16, 2025.

California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2010. California Geological Survey. "2010 Fault Activity Map of California." <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam/>. Accessed January 22, 2026.

———. 2025. California Geological Survey. "Alquist-Priolo Fault Hazard Zones". https://maps-cnra-cadoc.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/29d2f0e222924896833b69ff1b6d2ca3_0/explorer. Accessed January 22, 2026.

———. 2025. California Geological Survey. "SMARA Mineral Land Classification." <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/mineral-land-classification-smara>. Accessed January 28, 2026.

———. California Geological Survey. "Tsunami Hazard Area Map." https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/ts_evacuation/. Accessed January 27, 2026.

———. Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. 2020 "Siskiyou County Important Farmland." <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp>. Accessed December 3, 2025.

California Department of Education. California School Directory. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/SchoolDirectory/>. Accessed January 29, 2026.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). 2024. "Find your Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSV)."

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/5065c998b4b0462f9ec3c6c226c610a9>. Accessed January 26, 2026.

———. 2025. “Historical Fire Perimeters.” <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-resource-assessment-program/fire-perimeters>. Accessed January 26, 2026.

———. 2023. “State Responsibility Area (SRA) Viewer.” <https://hub-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com/apps/CALFIRE-Forestry::state-responsibility-area-sra-viewer/explore>. Accessed January 28, 2026.

———. 2025. Wildland Urban Interface. <https://gis.data.ca.gov/datasets/CALFIRE-Forestry::wildland-urban-interface/about>. Accessed February 4, 2026.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2026. “Envirostor Database.” <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>. Accessed January 26, 2026.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). “California State Scenic Highways.” <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>. Accessed December 17, 2025.

California Department of Water Resources. 2022. SGMA Portal. “GSP 2022 1-004 Shasta Valley.” <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/preview/90>. Accessed January 27, 2026.

———. Water Data Library (WDL) Station Map. <https://wdl.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/Map.aspx>. Accessed December 11, 2025.

California North Coast Regional Water Board. 2025. “North Coast Basin Plan Web App.” <https://gispublic.waterboards.ca.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3c441d71e7034227b776cae2f32c8d28>. Accessed January 27, 2026.

———. 2025. “Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region.” https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/260122/June_2025_Basin_Plan_2026Update.pdf. Accessed January 27, 2026.

California Office of Planning and Research (OPR). 2008. CEQA and Climate Change: Addressing Climate Change through the California Environmental Quality Act Review. <https://lci.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/20210720-june08-ceqa.pdf>. Accessed January 26, 2026.

California State Parks. 2004. California Historical Resources. <https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/ListedResources/?view=county&criteria=47>. Accessed January 29, 2026.

- California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2025. "GeoTracker Database." <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>. Accessed January 26, 2026.
- DeTar, Lena, Donnett, Uri, Doyle, Erin, et al. "The Association of Shelter Veterinarian's Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters: Second Edition – December 2022." *Journal of Shelter Medicine and Community Animal Health*. Vol 1, No. S1 <http://dx.doi.org/10.56771/ASVguidelines.2022>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 2011. Flood Insurance Rate Map, Map No. 06093C1600D. <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>. Accessed January 27, 2026.
- Krawczyk, Antonina, Nowakowicz-Debek, Bożena, Chmielowiec-Korzeniowska, Anna, Bis-Wencel, Hanna. "Environmental Pawprint of Dogs as a Contributor to Climate Change." *Animals* 2025, 15, 3152. <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/15/21/3152>. Accessed January 26, 2026.
- National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). 2026. Wildfire Suppression Difficulty Index 97th Percentile (2025). <https://data-nifc.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/17104b8eab1e48ccb442414e6a6ef576/explore>. Accessed February 4, 2026.
- O'Geen, Anthony Toby, Southard, Susan B., & Southard, Randal J. "A Revised Storie Index for Use with Digital Soils Information." Publication 8335, 2008. University of California, Division of Agriculture and National Resources. <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8335.pdf>. Accessed December 11, 2025.
- Siskiyou County. 2025. Emergency Services. "Local Hazard Mitigation Plan" (draft). <https://www.siskiyoucounty.gov/emergencyservices/page/local-hazard-mitigation-plan>. Accessed February 4, 2026.
- . 2021. Local Transportation Commission. "2021 Regional Transportation Plan." <https://siskiyoucoltc.org/planning-documents/regional-transportation-plan/>. Accessed January 29, 2026.
- . 2001. *Siskiyou County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*.
- . 2025. "Siskiyou County Code – Article 49. – Non-Prime Agricultural District (AG-2)." https://library.municode.com/ca/siskiyou_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT10PLZO_CH6ZO_ART49NIMAGDIAG. Accessed January 28, 2026.

- . 2025. *Siskiyou County General Plan, 2025 Safety Element (draft)*
https://www.siskiyoucounty.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning/page/2601/safety_element_2025_06_11.jp.pdf. Accessed February 4, 2026.
- . 1980. *Siskiyou County General Plan, Land Use & Circulation Element*.
- . 1997. *Siskiyou County General Plan, Land Use Policies*.
https://www.siskiyoucounty.gov/sites/default/files/pln_gp_landusepolicies19970910.pdf. Accessed January 28, 2026.
- . 1978. *Siskiyou County General Plan, Noise Element*.
https://www.siskiyoucounty.gov/sites/default/files/pln_gp_noiselement.pdf.
 Accessed January 28, 2026.
- . 1974. *Siskiyou County General Plan, Scenic Highways Element*.
https://www.siskiyoucounty.gov/sites/default/files/pln_gp_scenichighwayselement.pdf. Accessed December 2, 2025.
- . 2025. *Siskiyou Transit and General Express (STAGE)*.
<https://www.siskiyoucounty.gov/stage>. Accessed January 29, 2026.
- Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). 2024. *Fire Protection Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update*.
- United States Department of Agriculture. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Soil Survey Staff. Web Soil Survey.
<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>. Accessed December 3, 2025.
- . 1961. Soil Conservation Service (SCS). *Land-Capability Classification*. Agriculture Handbook No. 210.
- United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2025. “Criteria Air Pollutants.”
<https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants>. Accessed December 16, 2025.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). National Wetlands Inventory.
<https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>. Accessed January 14, 2026.
- Western Regional Climate Center. 2016. Yreka, California – Period of Record Monthly Climate Summary (1893 – 2016). <https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliRECTM.pl?ca9866>. Accessed January 27, 2026.