

D R A F T

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

SYCAMORE GROVE PARK UPPER DRAINAGE B AND STOCK POND RESTORATION PROJECT



Prepared for
Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD)
4444 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

May 2007

URS

URS Corporation
1333 Broadway, Suite 800
Oakland, CA 94612

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4444 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
Contact: Mike Nicholson (925-373-5700)

May 2007

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Acronyms

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| BAAQMD | Bay Area Air Quality Management District |
| BMPs | Best Management Practices |
| CDFG | California Department of Fish and Game |
| CEQA | California Environmental Quality Act |
| CRLF | California red-legged frog |
| CTS | California tiger salamander |
| LARPD | Livermore Area Recreation and Park District |
| PM ₁₀ | Particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter |
| RMP | (Sycamore Grove) Resource Management Plan |
| RWQCB | Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| USACE | United States Army Corps of Engineers |
| USEPA | United States Environmental Protection Agency |

Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Prepared in Accordance with the
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
Pursuant to Division 13, Public Resources Code
SCH No. 2007042054

Project Proponent: Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD)

4444 East Avenue

Livermore, CA 94550

Project Title: Sycamore Grove Park Upper Drainage B and Stock Pond Restoration Project

Project Location: Sycamore Grove Park, established in 1974, is owned and managed by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD). The park is located within the planning area of the City of Livermore, just outside of its Urban Growth Boundary, in east-central Alameda County (Figure 1).

Lead Agency: Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD)

Description:

LARPD proposes to restore and enhance the Upper Drainage B and associated stock pond in Sycamore Grove Park. Restoration will include all of the following (Figures 2 and 3):

- Improvement of habitat conditions for the California red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander through removal of nonnative wildlife species and reduction of sediment accumulation through the installation of a sediment basin.
- Repair of the stock pond dam to prevent future dam failures and to enable bi-annual drainage of pond to control exotic wildlife species.
- Restoration of approximately 3.30 acres of Upper Drainage B above the stock pond through planting of native vegetation and recontouring of drainage features where downcutting has occurred.
- Relocation of a trail that currently passes through sensitive wetlands below the dam.
- Construction of a boardwalk at the stock pond.
- Development and posting of interpretive panels on the boardwalk to educate the general public about the stock pond, the surrounding riparian corridor and its resources.

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Determination:

An Initial Study has been prepared by LARPD. On the basis of this study it has been determined that the proposed project would not have a significant effect upon the environment for the following reasons:

- The proposed project would have no impact or less-than-significant impacts on Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Land Use Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic or Utilities and Service Systems.
- Potentially significant impacts would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels for Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Noise.

Mitigation Measures:

The proposed project will employ project design and construction practices as well as mitigation measures to minimize or avoid potential impacts to the environment. The mitigation measures are listed in the Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Appendix A). The following measures will be incorporated into the proposed project to avoid potentially significant impacts.

Air Quality. The following mitigation will be implemented to reduce potential air quality impacts to less than significant:

Mitigation Measure AIR 1: Apply the following control measures to minimize potential short-term impacts to air quality:

1. Active construction areas and unpaved access roads will be watered at least twice daily.
2. All trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials will be covered or be required to maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard.
3. All paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites will be swept daily (with water sweepers).

Biological Resources. The following mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce potential impacts to biological resources to less than significant:

Mitigation Measure BIO 1: To avoid impacts to the California red-legged frog (CRLF) and California tiger salamander (CTS), draining of the stock pond would occur during October at the end of the dry season. Pumps used to dewater the pond would be screened and monitored; any wildlife caught in the system will be captured and identified. Handling of wildlife will only take place when a biologist in possession of a United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit is present. Desirable species would be relocated, and exotic species would be removed. October is an optimum month to dewater the pond since California red-legged frogs, if present, have already metamorphosed into their frog life stage, can be identified more readily, and are less likely to be impacted by dewatering. Dredging of the stock pond and vegetation removal shall be implemented outside of the breeding season for these species (breeding season is November through March). Outside of the breeding season, CRLF and CTS may aestivate in small mammal burrows and fissures within grasslands upslope of Upper Drainage B and the stock pond. In order to minimize potential impacts to aestivating individuals, all construction-related activities shall be limited to existing roads and trails to the greatest extent feasible. All aestivation sites would be marked and avoided, where possible. LARPD shall

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initiate consultation with the USFWS prior to implementation of the proposed project in order to determine if additional mitigation will be required due to loss of suitable upland aestivation habitat for both the CRLF and CTS.

Raptors and Other Nesting Birds. Raptors and passerine birds are expected to nest in and adjacent to the project study area, including the long and short eared owls, the horned lark and the western burrowing owl. Nesting sites include trees, riparian corridors, streamside vegetation, shrubs, and open grasslands. Fish and Game Code Sections 3503 and 3503.5, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act protect raptors and passerines and their eggs and nests from incidental “take.” Disturbance due to construction could result in reproductive failure for raptors and songbirds within the project study area.

Mitigation Measure BIO 2: LARPD shall identify and protect active songbird and raptor nests during construction with appropriate buffers and avoidance. At a minimum, the following measures will be implemented to address potential impacts to nesting songbirds and raptors in the vicinity of the construction sites:

1. To the extent feasible, construction activities in or near active stream channels shall avoid the songbird and raptor nesting season between March 15 and August 15.
2. If construction must occur during this period, sites shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist to verify the presence or absence of nesting birds or raptors.

Mitigation Measure BIO 3: The western pond turtle, a state species of concern, was observed in the stock pond of Upper Drainage B in 2003 and 2005. Preconstruction surveys for individuals shall be performed by a qualified biologist prior to and during drainage of the stock pond. Individual western pond turtles, if found, will be returned to the pond after it is refilled.

Mitigation Measure BIO 4: The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be applied to minimize impacts to wetlands and other waters of the United States:

1. Ground disturbance associated with construction, including vehicle operation/parking and construction material storage, shall be prohibited within wetlands or within 50 feet of the edge of tributaries to Upper Drainage B.
2. Where working areas encroach on streams and wetlands, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) approved physical barriers adequate to prevent the flow or discharge of sediment into these systems shall be constructed and maintained between working areas and streams and wetlands. Discharge of sediment into streams shall be held to a minimum during construction of the barriers. Discharge will be contained through the use of RWQCB-approved measures that will keep sediment from entering jurisdictional waters beyond the project limits.
3. All dewatering systems shall be properly designed to prevent pumping soil fines with the discharged water. If soil fines are being pumped, the Contractor shall revise the dewatering operations to prevent discharge of material into waters of the United States.
4. All Contractors' vehicles will be parked, properly maintained and serviced off-site. Contractors' vehicles will be assessed prior to initiation of construction to verify proper condition for use to prevent oily or greasy substances from the Contractors' operations from entering or being placed where they will have the potential to enter or later drain to a stream, pond, or wetland.

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5. Asphalt or concrete shall not be placed in a stream, pond, or wetland.
6. All construction equipment shall be cleaned of potential noxious weed sources (mud, vegetation) before entry into the site and after entering a potentially infested area before moving on to another area, to help ensure noxious weeds from outside of the project area are not introduced into the project area. The contractor shall employ whatever cleaning methods are necessary (typically the use of a high-pressure water hose) to ensure that equipment is free of noxious weeds. Equipment shall be considered free of soil, seeds, and other such debris when a visual inspection does not disclose such material. Disassembly of equipment components or specialized inspection tools is not required. Equipment washing stations shall be placed in areas that afford easy containment and monitoring and that do not drain into sensitive (riparian, wetland, etc.) areas.
7. To further minimize the risk of introducing additional nonnative species into the project area, only native plant species appropriate for the project study area will be used in any erosion control or revegetation seed mix or stock. No dry-farmed straw will be used, and certified weed-free straw shall be required where erosion control straw is to be used. In addition, any hydroseed mulch used for revegetation activities must also be certified weed-free.
8. All temporary construction disturbance areas will be restored and revegetated. Temporary disturbance areas will be restored to the original topography and planted with an erosion control mix composed only of native species.

Mitigation Measure BIO 5: The proposed project will result in the fill of approximately 0.11 acres to wetlands and other waters for the United States. A Clean Water Act Section 404 nationwide permit shall be acquired prior to any fill activities or discharges within jurisdictional wetlands. To mitigate for loss of wetlands resulting from fill and discharge into jurisdictional wetlands, LARPD shall enhance wetlands at a 1:1 ratio at another location in Sycamore Grove Park, in consultation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Cultural Resources. The following mitigation measure will be implemented to reduce potential impacts to cultural resources to less than significant:

Mitigation Measure CUL 1: A qualified paleontologist will be contacted in the event that fossils are discovered during construction, in order to salvage finds and assess the need for further mitigation.

Geology and Soils. The following mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce potential impacts to geology and soils to less than significant:

Mitigation Measure GEO 1: Where head-cuts are most prevalent in Upper Drainage B, the slope will be lightly graded and filled with rock and engineered fabric. This will allow the water to escape while reducing the slope instability the head-cutting creates. Additionally, the slower water will reduce erosion, foster the development of under-story species and help to establish the new and existing over-story species.

Mitigation Measure GEO 2: The riparian corridor of Upper Drainage B will be revegetated with native plants. Over-story species that will be planted include oaks, willows, buckeye and cottonwood. New under-story species will consist of a variety of existing sedges, rushes, shrubs and willows. They will be planted in the fall, after the first rain, to ensure the ground has been saturated. Wood chips will be added to the base of each plant for greater water absorption, and protective netting shall be placed over it for at least 1 year. In the areas of the riparian corridor

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which are above the stock pond, irrigation of the new plants will be possible due to their close vicinity to a water tank. In the remaining areas, hand watering will be used for the first year of growth. After this first year, it is proposed to only selectively water those plants which appear to have the best success of survival. A 5-year monitoring program will be implemented to monitor vegetation establishment.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials. The proposed project involves the handling of hazardous materials through the operation and maintenance of equipment used for construction of the proposed project. However, BMPs will be implemented (see Mitigation Measure BIO 4) for the duration of project construction that will avoid and minimize the release of hazardous materials into the environment.

Hydrology and Water Quality. The BMPs proposed in Mitigation Measure BIO 4 will be implemented to reduce impacts to hydrology and water quality to a less-than-significant level.

Noise. The following practices will be implemented to reduce noise impacts to a less-than-significant level with mitigation:

Mitigation Measure NOI 1: At a minimum, the following measures will be implemented to avoid temporary construction-related noise impacts in the project vicinity:

1. Noise-generating construction-related activities, including truck traffic coming to and from the project site for any purpose, will be limited to daytime, weekday non-holiday hours from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., as specified in Livermore Municipal Code Section 9.36.08.
2. Construction equipment powered by internal combustion engines will be properly muffled and maintained.
3. Unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines will be prohibited.
4. All stationary noise-generating construction equipment (such as air compressors) will be shielded from existing nearby residences.
5. Wherever possible, quiet construction equipment, particularly air compressors, will be used.

Mike Nicholson, Ranger/Naturalist Supervisor
Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD)

Date Signed

Lead Agency

SECTION ONE

Project Description

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT LOCATION

Sycamore Grove Park, established in 1974, is owned and managed by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD). The park is located within the planning area of the City of Livermore, just outside of its Urban Growth Boundary, in east-central Alameda County (Figure 1). The park encompasses approximately 735 acres. The proposed project site is in the upper portion of the park, which was acquired in 1998 as a result of a transfer of density rights action taken by the City of Livermore. The “upper” (southern) portion of the park has been heavily grazed for over three generations. Consequently, many of the habitats have been severely compromised, resulting in invasive plant and animal species taking over both natural and human-made habitats.

LARPD proposes to restore and enhance Upper Drainage B and associated stock pond in Sycamore Grove Park. Restoration will include all of the following (Figures 2 and 3):

- Improvement of habitat conditions for the California red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander through removal of nonnative wildlife species and reduction of sediment accumulation through the installation of a sediment basin.
- Repair of the stock pond dam to prevent future dam failures and to enable bi-annual drainage of pond to control exotic wildlife species.
- Restoration of approximately 3.30 acres of Upper Drainage B above the stock pond through planting of native vegetation and recontouring of drainage features where downcutting has occurred.
- Relocation of a trail that currently passes through sensitive wetlands below the dam.
- Construction of a boardwalk at the stock pond.
- Development and posting of interpretive panels on the boardwalk to educate the general public about the stock pond, the surrounding riparian corridor, and its resources.

1.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objective of restoration and enhancement of the stock pond is to reduce sedimentation and to prevent overflow, flooding, and potential dam failure. Other related objectives include removing conditions that favor bullfrog and green sunfish while enhancing habitat for listed species including California red-legged frog (CRLF) and California tiger salamander (CTS).

1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is consistent with the Sycamore Grove Restoration Management Plan (RMP) (LARPD 2002), which lists the repair and restoration of the stock pond as one of the highest-priority items. The project proposes to rehabilitate the existing dam at the stock pond, reduce erosion upstream of the stock pond in Upper Drainage B, enhance habitat for sensitive and other native species and provide educational opportunities for park visitors to learn about biological resources in the park. The project activities proposed for the restoration and enhancement of the stock pond and Upper Drainage B are described below.

SECTION ONE

Project Description

Drain and Dredge Stock Pond

The stock pond will be drained using pumps, and a portion of the existing cattail stand will be removed. Built-up sediment will be dredged and, if it is clean, removed to an approved off-site upland area in the park. The spoils will be placed at an approved off-site location. Pumps will be screened and monitored; any wildlife caught in the system will be captured and identified. Desirable species will be relocated, and exotic species will be removed. After the pond is drained, biologists and LARPD staff members and volunteers trained in amphibian identification will collect and count bullfrog larvae. At least one biologist with a 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit under the federal Endangered Species Act will be available at all times. Adult bullfrogs will be eliminated using tools approved by LARPD and included in the permit. Staff will continue to monitor and sample the excluded pond area for reinfestation by bullfrogs. This phase of the project will occur in October, since CRLF, if present, will have already metamorphosed into their frog life stage, can be identified more readily, and are less likely to be impacted by dewatering. Bullfrogs take approximately 1.5 years to metamorphose; therefore, they are more likely to be present in their larval stage of development.

Construct Sediment Basin

To reduce future accumulation of sediment in the stock pond, a sediment catch basin will be constructed within Upper Drainage B. A 3-foot-wide section of rock will be placed within the channel of the intermittent stream of Upper Drainage B. Water will pool behind the rock dam, where sediment will be allowed to settle out. The sediment basin will be cleaned periodically by hand. The basin will be constructed outside of the known breeding season for the CTS and CRLF, which is November through March.

Rebuild Dam

The dam to the stock pond is badly eroded and has the potential to fail. Erosion is occurring at the toe of the downstream side slope near the middle section of the dam. The dam will be reconstructed and a weir will be installed within the dam, allowing park staff to control the water level within the pond. The ability to periodically drain the pond will, in turn, allow staff to better control nonnative species, benefiting potential CRLF and CTS use. The slope of the dam outfall will be expanded into a larger footprint to spread the weight of the water more evenly and to reinforce the dam. The minimum crest width of the dam will be at least 15 feet to allow service vehicle passage (such as ranger patrol and maintenance vehicles), and the existing downstream embankment will be reconstructed for slope stabilization with a 3:1 slope. Approximately 0.11 acres of wetlands and waters of the United States will be filled to rebuild the dam.

Relocate Trail

A publicly accessible trail currently runs through the vulnerable wetlands below the pond. When the dam is rebuilt, the trail will be moved upslope of the existing trail through an area dominated by nonnative grassland and will cross the dam rather than traverse the wetlands. The area where the trail will be abandoned is relatively small and, therefore, will be regraded to match the natural slope of the surrounding land, revegetated with native wetland species and monitored to

SECTION ONE

Project Description

assess conditions. A total of 2,540 square feet of trail will be removed and rerouted out of existing wetlands.

Recontour Portions of Upper Drainage B

The streambed above the stock pond has been assessed in the RMP, and the potential for increasing erosion through head-cuts and resulting high sediment loads was determined to be high. Recontouring portions of Upper Drainage B to create a more gradual streambed gradient could substantially reduce head-cuts and sediment transport.

Restore Native Plants in Upper Drainage B

The restoration of the riparian corridor of Upper Drainage B will be further achieved through revegetation with native species. The conceptual restoration plan is included in Figure 3. Plants will be planted in the fall, after the first rain, to ensure the ground has been saturated. Wood chips will be added to the base of each plant for greater water absorption, and protective netting will be placed over it for at least 1 year. A water tank will be temporarily installed at a high point above Drainage B, which will be used to irrigate plantings that are downslope of the tank (Figure 3). In the remaining areas, hand watering will be used for the first year of growth. Access to the restoration areas will be by foot, and installations will be accomplished through the use of hand tools. After the first year, it is proposed to selectively water plants that appear to have the best potential for survival. The monitoring program will continue for 5 years to ensure habitat establishment.

Add Boardwalk to Stock Pond

Once the restoration work is completed, a boardwalk will be constructed that will lead from the new trail out into the open water of the pond. This new trail and boardwalk will improve the rangers' ability to visually assess pond conditions and allow adaptation of management accordingly, while also allowing the public greater access and opportunity for nature observation and appreciation.

Add Public Education Panels

Interpretive or educational panels are proposed to be installed at the stock pond along the new trail on the dam. These panels will offer basic information regarding the stock pond, the surrounding riparian corridor and its resources, and will serve as an educational tool for the public.

1.4 REQUIRED APPROVALS

- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) 401 Certification
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permit
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit under the federal Endangered Species Act

SECTION ONE

Project Description

1.5 CONSISTENCY WITH GENERAL PLAN, ZONING, AND APPLICABLE LAND USE CONTROLS

Sycamore Grove Park and the project study area are located within unincorporated lands of Alameda County that are zoned as open space.

SECTION TWO**Initial Study/Determination**

This Initial Study complies with Section 21064.5 of the California Public Resources Code (CEQA) and Article 6 of the CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations 15000 et seq.). The following Initial Study Checklist Form, subsequent Environmental Checklist, and evaluation of potential environmental effects were completed in accordance with Section 15063(d) of the CEQA Guidelines to determine if the proposed project could have any potentially significant effect on the physical environment, and if so, what mitigation measures would be imposed to reduce such impacts to a level that is less than significant.

An explanation is provided for all determinations. A “No Impact” or “Less-Than-Significant Impact” determination indicates that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the physical environment for the specific environmental category.

INITIAL STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

Project Title:	Sycamore Grove Park Upper Drainage B and Stock Pond Restoration Project
Lead Agency's Name and Address:	Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD), 4444 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550
Lead Agency Contacts:	Mike Nicholson, LARPD Ranger/Naturalist Supervisor, and Alison Bissell, City of Livermore Assistant Planner
Project Location:	Sycamore Grove Park, Livermore, CA
General Plan Land Use Designation	Parks and Open Space
Zoning	Parks and Open Space
Description:	Restoration and habitat enhancement for California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander
Agencies Whose Approval Is Required: CDFG, RWQCB, USACE and USFWS	
Surrounding Land Uses: Open Space, Rangeland, Residential	

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The proposed project has the potential to significantly affect air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and noise in the project area and vicinity. However, mitigation for these impacts will result in a less-than significant impact. The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

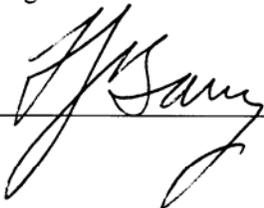
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <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/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

SECTION TWO**Initial Study/Determination****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 Environmental Impact Report (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.

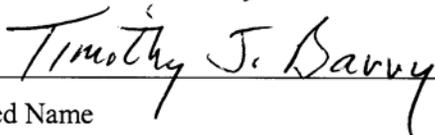
Signature



Date

4-4-07

Printed Name



SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.1 AESTHETICS**

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?				✓
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				✓
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				✓
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a, b, c, and d): No Impact. The proposed project will have no adverse impacts on the aesthetics of the project area, as the goal of the proposed project is preservation and promotion of the park's existing biological resources. The proposed project will result in enhancement of the appearance of the project area through the planting of native species. In addition, the existing visual character and quality of the project site will be improved through realignment of existing trails that currently pass through low wet areas to drier portions of the project site, improving accessibility and trail conditions.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

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 maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				✓
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				✓
c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a, b, and c): No Impact. Sycamore Grove Park is designated as parkland and open space. No agricultural lands exist on the project site. There are no Farmlands of State Importance or Williamson Act contracts within the project area.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.3 AIR QUALITY**

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

DISCUSSION:

a, c, d, and e): No Impact. The proposed project will not prevent or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan, result in an increase of any air criteria pollutant for which the region is in nonattainment, expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations or create odors.

b) Less-Than-Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. Project construction will result in emissions from construction equipment and fugitive dust from soil excavation.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) has established significance thresholds for air pollutant emissions to assist agencies in determining whether a project may have a significant air quality impact (BAAQMD 1999). Construction-related emissions are generally short-term in duration but may still cause adverse air quality impacts. Particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM₁₀) is the pollutant of greatest concern during construction. Construction equipment also emits carbon monoxide and the precursors to ozone (nitrogen oxides and reactive organic compounds). However, these emissions are included in the emission inventory developed by the BAAQMD that is the basis for regional air quality plans, and are not expected to impede attainment or maintenance of ozone and carbon monoxide standards in the Bay Area (BAAQMD 1999).

PM₁₀ emissions can result from a variety of construction activities, including excavation, grading, demolition, vehicle travel on paved and unpaved surfaces, and vehicle and equipment exhaust. Construction emissions of PM₁₀ can vary greatly depending on the level of activity, the

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specific operations taking place, the equipment being operated, local soils, weather conditions, and other factors. Despite this variability in emissions, experience has shown that a number of feasible control measures can be reasonably implemented to significantly reduce PM₁₀ emissions from construction. The BAAQMD's approach to CEQA analyses of construction impacts is to emphasize implementation of effective and comprehensive control measures rather than detailed quantification of emissions (BAAQMD 1999).

The BAAQMD has identified a set of feasible PM₁₀ control measures for construction activities that are provided in the *BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines* (BAAQMD 1999) (see Appendix B). All of the appropriate control measures from the guidelines will be implemented for the proposed project; therefore, air pollutant emissions from construction activities will be considered a less-than-significant impact by the BAAQMD.

Mitigation Measures

AIR 1: Apply the following control measures to minimize potential short-term impacts to air quality:

1. Active construction areas and unpaved access roads will be watered at least twice daily.
2. All trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials will be covered or be required to maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard.
3. All paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites will be swept daily (with water sweepers).

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		✓		
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			✓	
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		✓		
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?		✓		
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				✓
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?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a): Less-Than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The project site is known to support populations of CRLF (*Rana aurora draytonii*; federally threatened, California species of concern) and western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*; California species of concern) (LARPD 2003 and 2005). In addition, the project site supports suitable habitat for CTS (*Ambystoma californiense*; federally threatened, California species of concern).

Several additional sensitive wildlife species have moderate to high potential to occur within the project area because the site supports highly suitable habitat and the species are known from the

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immediate vicinity. The species include short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*; California species of concern) and long-eared owl (*Asio otus*; California species of concern), California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*; California species of concern) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*; California species of concern).

Suitable habitat for several special-status plants occurs in the project area. However, focused botanical surveys in March through June and September of 2001 identified no federally or state-listed endangered or threatened plants or other special-status species within the project study area (LARPD 2002). Implementation of the proposed project will benefit native plant species within the project area through direct enhancement of the park's native plant communities.

Implementation of the proposed project could result in short-term potentially significant impacts to wildlife identified as candidate, sensitive or special-status species. Potential impacts include displacement and possible mortality to special-status wildlife during construction-related activities.

b): Less-Than-Significant Impact. The proposed project will result in a net benefit to sensitive riparian habitat in the project area. Native plant cover will be increased, and erosion within Upper Drainage B will be substantially reduced through recontouring of the stream channel. Temporary, construction-related impacts from increased sediments associated with construction of the proposed project would be less than significant, as these actions will in the long term serve to stabilize stream banks, reduce erosion and prevent dam failure.

c): Less-Than-Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed project will result in permanent impacts to approximately 0.11 acres of federally protected wetlands and other waters of the United States resulting from the construction of the stock pond dam (0.11 acre), boardwalk (<0.001 acre) and sediment basin (<0.001 acre), as well as through the recontouring of the upper reach of Upper Drainage B (<0.001 acre). There is also a potential for discharge of fill material into waters of the United States during construction of the proposed project.

d): Less-Than-Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed project could temporarily impact the movements of migratory or resident wildlife species during project construction by obstructing access to suitable habitat in the project area.

e): Less-Than-Significant Impact. The proposed project does not conflict with any local ordinances or policies regarding biological resources.

f): No Impact. The project site is not located in an area covered by an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Mitigation Measures:

Implementation of the following mitigation measures will ensure that potential short-term impacts to special-status wildlife species would be reduced to a less-than-significant level:

BIO 1: To avoid impacts to the CRLF and CTS, draining of the stock pond would occur during October at the end of the dry season. Pumps used to dewater the pond will be screened and monitored; any wildlife caught in the system will be captured and identified. Handling of wildlife will be conducted only when a biologist in possession of a USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit is present. Desirable

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species would be relocated, and exotic species would be removed. October is an optimum month to dewater the pond since California red-legged frogs, if present, have already metamorphosed into their frog life stage, can be identified more readily, and are less likely to be impacted by dewatering. Dredging of the stock pond and vegetation removal shall be implemented outside of the breeding season for these species (breeding season is November through March). Outside of the breeding season, CRLF and CTS may aestivate in small mammal burrows and fissures within grasslands upslope of Upper Drainage B and the stock pond. In order to minimize potential impacts to aestivating individuals, all construction-related activities shall be limited to existing roads and trails to the greatest extent feasible. All aestivation sites would be marked and avoided, where possible. LARPD shall initiate consultation with the USFWS prior to implementation of the proposed project in order to determine if additional mitigation will be required due to loss of suitable upland aestivation habitat for both the CRLF and CTS.

- BIO 2:** LARPD shall identify and protect active songbird and raptor nests during construction with appropriate buffers and avoidance. At a minimum, the following measures will be implemented to address potential impacts to nesting songbirds and raptors in the vicinity of the construction sites:
1. To the extent feasible, construction activities in or near active stream channels shall avoid the songbird and raptor nesting season between March 15 and August 15.
 2. If construction must occur during this period, sites shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist to verify the presence or absence of nesting birds or raptors.

- BIO 3:** The western pond turtle, a federal and state species of concern, was observed in the stock pond of Upper Drainage B in 2003 and 2005. Preconstruction surveys for individuals shall be performed by a qualified biologist prior to and during drainage of the stock pond. Individual western pond turtles, if found, will be returned to the pond after it is refilled.

Implementation of the following mitigation measures will ensure that potential short-term and permanent impacts to wetlands would be reduced to a less-than-significant level:

- BIO 4:** The following BMPs shall be applied to minimize impacts to wetlands and other waters of the United States:
1. Ground disturbance associated with construction, including vehicle operation/parking and construction material storage, shall be prohibited within wetlands or within 50 feet of the edge of tributaries to Upper Drainage B.
 2. Where working areas encroach on streams and wetlands, RWQCB-approved physical barriers adequate to prevent the flow or discharge of sediment into these systems shall be constructed and maintained between working areas and streams and wetlands. Discharge of sediment into streams shall be held to a minimum during construction of the barriers. Discharge will be contained through the use of RWQCB-approved

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measures that will keep sediment from entering jurisdictional waters beyond the project limits.

3. All dewatering systems shall be properly designed to prevent pumping soil fines with the discharged water. If soil fines are being pumped, the Contractor shall revise the dewatering operations to prevent discharge of material into waters of the United States.
4. All Contractors' vehicles will be parked, properly maintained and serviced off-site. Contractors' vehicles will be assessed prior to initiation of construction to verify proper condition for use to prevent oily or greasy substances originating from the Contractor's operations from entering or being placed where they will have the potential to enter or later drain to a stream, pond, or wetland.
5. Asphalt or concrete shall not be placed in a stream, pond, or wetland.
6. All construction equipment shall be cleaned of potential noxious weed sources (mud, vegetation) before entry into the site and after entering a potentially infested area before moving on to another area, to help ensure noxious weeds from outside of the project area are not introduced into the project area. The contractor shall employ whatever cleaning methods are necessary (typically the use of a high-pressure water hose) to ensure that equipment is free of noxious weeds. Equipment shall be considered free of soil, seeds, and other such debris when a visual inspection does not disclose such material. Disassembly of equipment components or specialized inspection tools is not required. Equipment washing stations shall be placed in areas that afford easy containment and monitoring and that do not drain into sensitive (riparian, wetland, etc.) areas.
7. To further minimize the risk of introducing additional nonnative species into the project area, only native plant species appropriate for the project study area will be used in any erosion control or revegetation seed mix or stock. No dry-farmed straw will be used, and certified weed-free straw shall be required where erosion control straw is to be used. In addition, any hydroseed mulch used for revegetation activities must also be certified weed-free.
8. All temporary construction disturbance areas will be restored and revegetated. Temporary disturbance areas will be restored to the original topography and planted with an erosion control mix composed only of native species.

BIO 5: The proposed project will result in the fill of approximately 0.11 acres to wetlands and other waters for the United States. A Clean Water Act Section 404 nationwide permit shall be acquired prior to any fill activities or discharges within jurisdictional wetlands. To mitigate for loss of wetlands resulting from fill and discharge into jurisdictional wetlands, LARPD shall enhance wetlands at a 1:1 ratio at another location in Sycamore Grove Park, in consultation with the USACE.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****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?				✓
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?				✓
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			✓	
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a, b): No Impact. A cultural resource assessment of the study area and the entirety of Sycamore Grove Park was conducted through archival investigations and field surveys, and documented in two reports: *Preliminary Historical Overview of Sycamore Grove Park* (Holman and Associates 2001a), and *Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of Sycamore Grove Park* (Holman and Associates 2001b). Sycamore Grove's cultural resources date to the historic period, notably the early 1870's when the Dos Mesas Winery and Olivina Winery were established. However, no historic or prehistoric resources were identified in the project study area.

c): Less-Than-Significant Impact. The project area is positioned on two geologic formations with a high potential to contain paleontological resources, such as freshwater mollusks and extinct Pleistocene vertebrate fossils (Jones and Stokes 2004). The proposed project requires a limited amount of surface excavation, primarily associated with removal of sediments within the stock pond that have collected over the recent past and for rehabilitation of the existing dam.

d): No Impact. No human remains are known to occur within the project study area.

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measures will ensure that impacts to paleontological resources would be reduced to a less-than-significant level:

CUL 1: A qualified paleontologist will be contacted in the event that fossils are discovered during construction, in order to salvage finds and assess the need for further mitigation.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Pub. 42.				✓
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?		✓		
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				✓
iv. Landslides?		✓		
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		✓		
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?		✓		
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?			✓	
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a, i): No Impact. No known or potentially active faults pass through the project site (Parikh 2006).

a, ii): Less-Than-Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. The potential for ground surface rupture due to faulting at the site is considered low. Based on available geological and seismic data, the possibility for the site to experience strong ground shaking is moderate to high (Parikh 2006). However, rehabilitation of the existing dam will reduce the risk of dam failure from seismic shaking.

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a, iii): No Impact. The liquefaction potential of the subsurface soil materials at the project site is generally considered relatively low to moderate (Parikh 2006).

a, iv, b, and c): Less-than-Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. The streambed of Upper Drainage B above the stock pond was assessed in the RMP (LARPD 2002). The risk of increasing head-cuts and deposition of high sediment loads was determined to be high. The proposed project will reduce erosion, channel incising and the potential for landslides by recontouring portions of the stream channel and planting native species along the banks of Upper Drainage B.

d): Less-Than-Significant Impact. Soils in and around the existing dam are classified as low-plasticity clays, with a Plasticity Index in the range of 10 to 20. These soils would likely be classified as having a moderate expansion potential, but any volume change behavior would not be expected to have a significant impact on the existing or modified earth dam structure.

e): No Impact. The proposed project does not require a septic or wastewater disposal system.

Mitigation Measures:

Implementation of the following mitigation measures will ensure that potential landslides and erosion will be reduced to less than significant in the project area:

- GEO 1:** Where head-cuts are most prevalent in Upper Drainage B, the slope will be lightly graded and filled with rock and engineered fabric. This will allow the water to escape while reducing the slope instability the head-cutting creates. Additionally, the slower water will reduce erosion, foster the development of under-story species and help to establish the new and existing over-story species.
- GEO 2:** The riparian corridor of Upper Drainage B will revegetated with native plants. Over-story species that will be planted include oaks, willows, buckeye and cottonwood. New under-story species will consist of a variety of existing sedges, rushes, shrubs and willows (Figure 3). They will be planted in the fall, after the first rain, to ensure the ground has been saturated. Wood chips will be added to the base of each plant for greater water absorption, and protective netting shall be placed over it for at least 1 year. In the areas of the riparian corridor that are above the stock pond, irrigation of the new plants will be possible due to their close vicinity to a water tank. In the remaining areas, hand watering will be used for the first year of growth. After this first year, it is proposed to only selectively water those plants which appear to have the best success of survival. A 5-year monitoring program will be implemented to monitor vegetation establishment.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.7 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?		✓		
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?		✓		
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				✓
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 create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.				✓
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
f. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a, b): Less-Than-Significant impact With Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed project involves the handling of hazardous materials through the operation and maintenance of construction equipment for the proposed project. However, BMPs will be implemented (see

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Mitigation Measure BIO-4) for the duration of project construction that will avoid and minimize the release of hazardous materials into the environment.

c): No Impact. No schools are located within ½ mile of the project area.

d): No Impact. The proposed project is not located on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites.

e): No Impact. The only airport in the vicinity of the project area is the Livermore Municipal Airport, located over 5 miles from the project area.

f): No Impact. There is no private airstrip in the vicinity of the project area.

g): No Impact. The proposed project will not impair the implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

h): No Impact. The proposed project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.8 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?		✓		
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				✓
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site?		✓		
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off-site?				✓
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				✓
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				✓
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				✓
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				✓
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				✓
j. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				✓

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DISCUSSION:

a, c): Less-Than-Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. Runoff or drainage patterns within the project study area will be altered as a result of recontouring of eroded portions of Upper Drainage B, construction of a sediment basin, and repair of the stock pond dam. Temporary, construction-related impacts from increased sediments associated with construction of the proposed project would be less than significant, as these actions will in the long-term serve to stabilize stream banks, reduce erosion, and prevent dam failure. Construction work will be performed prior to the onset of the rainy season. Any residual impacts will be mitigated by LARPD as it pursues the regulatory permitting process for erosion control efforts, e.g., the CDFG Section 1601 Streambed Alteration Permit, RWQCB 401 Certification, and UASCE 404 nationwide permit. In addition, BMPs (see Mitigation Measure BIO-4 in Section 3.4) employed during project construction would minimize any soil erosion and siltation.

b): No Impact. The proposed project will not deplete or interfere with groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge.

d): No Impact. The proposed project will not increase the amount of impervious surface area or increase surface runoff.

e, f): No Impact. The proposed project will not result in an increase in runoff or substantially degrade water quality. As a result of the proposed project, water passing through the project area and eventually downstream into Arroyo Del Valle will not contain additional pollutants or runoff from the surrounding landscape.

g–i): No Impact. The project site is not within a 100-year floodplain; therefore, no impact would occur with regard to housing or structures placed in a 100-year floodplain.

j): No Impact. Lake Del Valle is located southeast of the project site. Although seiches are known to have occurred during earthquakes, none have been recorded in the Bay Area; therefore it is not anticipated that the project site would be inundated by seiches in the future. Livermore is an inland area and is not subject to any threat of tsunamis.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.9 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?				✓
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.				✓
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a): No Impact. The proposed project is located within an open space district containing no housing. Therefore, the proposed project would not physically divide an established community.

b): No Impact. The proposed project is within the South Livermore Specific Plan and is consistent with the planning guidelines for this area.

c): No Impact. The project site is not located within an area covered by a Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan.

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3.10 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?				✓
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?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a, b): No Impact. No mineral resources are located in the vicinity of the project area.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.11 NOISE**

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				✓
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				✓
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				✓
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		✓		
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓
f. For a project located within the vicinity or a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a–c): No Impact. The proposed project will not result in a permanent increase in noise levels at or in the vicinity of the project site.

d): Less-Than-Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. Project-related construction will result in short-term increases in noise levels in the project area.

e, f): No Impact. The proposed project is not located near an existing airport and is not within an area covered by an existing airport land use plan.

Mitigation Measures:

The following practices will be implemented to reduce noise impacts to a less-than-significant level with mitigation:

NOI 1: At a minimum, the following measures will be implemented to avoid temporary construction-related noise impacts in the project vicinity:

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1. Noise-generating construction-related activities, including truck traffic coming to and from the project site for any purpose, will be limited to daytime, weekday non-holiday hours from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., as specified in Livermore Municipal Code Section 9.36.08.
2. Construction equipment powered by internal combustion engines will be properly muffled and maintained.
3. Unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines will be prohibited.
4. All stationary noise-generating construction equipment (such as air compressors) will be shielded from existing nearby residences.
5. Wherever possible, quiet construction equipment, particularly air compressors, will be used.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.12 POPULATION AND HOUSING**

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				✓
b. Displace substantial amounts of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a): No Impact. The proposed project is consistent with the South Livermore Valley Specific Plan land use and zoning designations. No increase in population is associated with implementation of the proposed project.

b, c): No Impact. The proposed project will not displace people or necessitate the construction of housing.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.13 PUBLIC SERVICES**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:				
a. Fire Protection?				✓
b. Police Protection?				✓
c. Schools?				✓
d. Parks?				✓
e. Other public facilities?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a–e): No Impact. The proposed project is not anticipated to increase visitor use of the park; therefore, no service increases are required for the proposed project.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.14 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 facilities would occur or be accelerated?				✓
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?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a and b): No Impact. The proposed project will not induce population growth or result in any demographic changes in the community. Therefore, it would not increase the use of existing parks or require the construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities. The proposed project does not include the construction of recreational facilities.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.15 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC**

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?				✓
b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				✓
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				✓
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				✓
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?				✓
f. Result in inadequate parking capacity?				✓
g. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a–d): No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project is not expected to generate significant increases in traffic in and around Sycamore Grove Park.

e): No Impact. The proposed project will not interfere with emergency access.

f): No Impact. Additional parking will not be required for the proposed project.

g): No Impact. The proposed project will not generate any conflicts with traffic policies or regulations of Alameda County or the City of Livermore.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.16 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				✓
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				✓
c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				✓
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				✓
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				✓
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				✓
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a–e): No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project will not require a wastewater treatment facility or generate wastewater, require the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or require additional entitlements for water supply.

f, g): No Impact. The proposed project will not generate solid waste that will be placed in a landfill. Excess dirt or dredge material generated through the project will be disposed of at an approved location within the park.

SECTION THREE**Environmental Review Checklist****3.17 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 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 wildlife community, reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened plant or wildlife, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		✓		
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)?				✓
c. Does the project have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				✓

DISCUSSION:

a): Less-Than-Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed project will have a long-term beneficial impact to sensitive species through improvement of habitat and water quality within and adjacent to the project area. Short-term impacts will be minimized through avoidance and minimization measures, as well as through mitigation. For these reasons, temporary impacts will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

b): No Impact. The proposed project will have no cumulatively considerable impacts.

c): No Impact. The proposed project will have no direct or indirect impact on human beings.

SECTION FOUR**References**

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD 1999). Assessing the Air Quality Impacts of Projects and Plans. Prepared by the Planning and Research Division of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.
- Holman and Associates. 2001a. Preliminary Historic Overview of Sycamore Grove Park, Livermore, Alameda County, California, with Discussion of Standing Resources and Potential Archaeological Resources, and Their Possible Significance.
- Holman and Associates. 2001b. Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of Sycamore Grove Park, Livermore, Alameda County, California.
- Jones and Stokes. 2004. Final Environmental Impact Report, Altamont Pipeline Project, Livermore, CA. Prepared for Zone 7 Water Resources Management Agency.
- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD). Sycamore Grove Park and Veterans Park Resource Management Plan. November 2002
- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD). December 2003. Bullfrog Control Project.
- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD). December 2005. Bullfrog Control Project for Sycamore Grove Park.
- Parikh Consultants, INC. September 2006. Geotechnical Investigation Report. Prepared for: Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD).

Figures

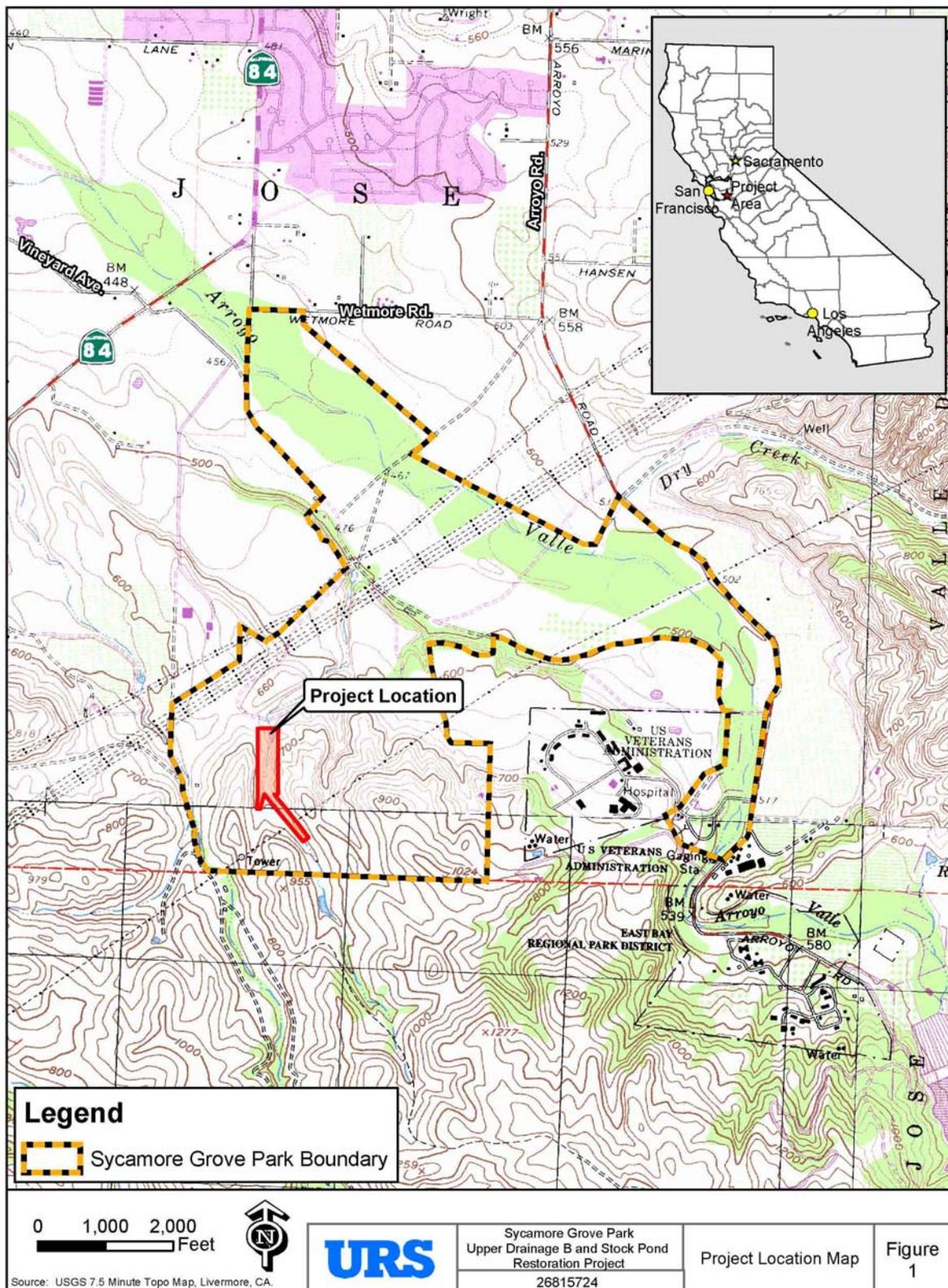


Figure 1 Project Location Map

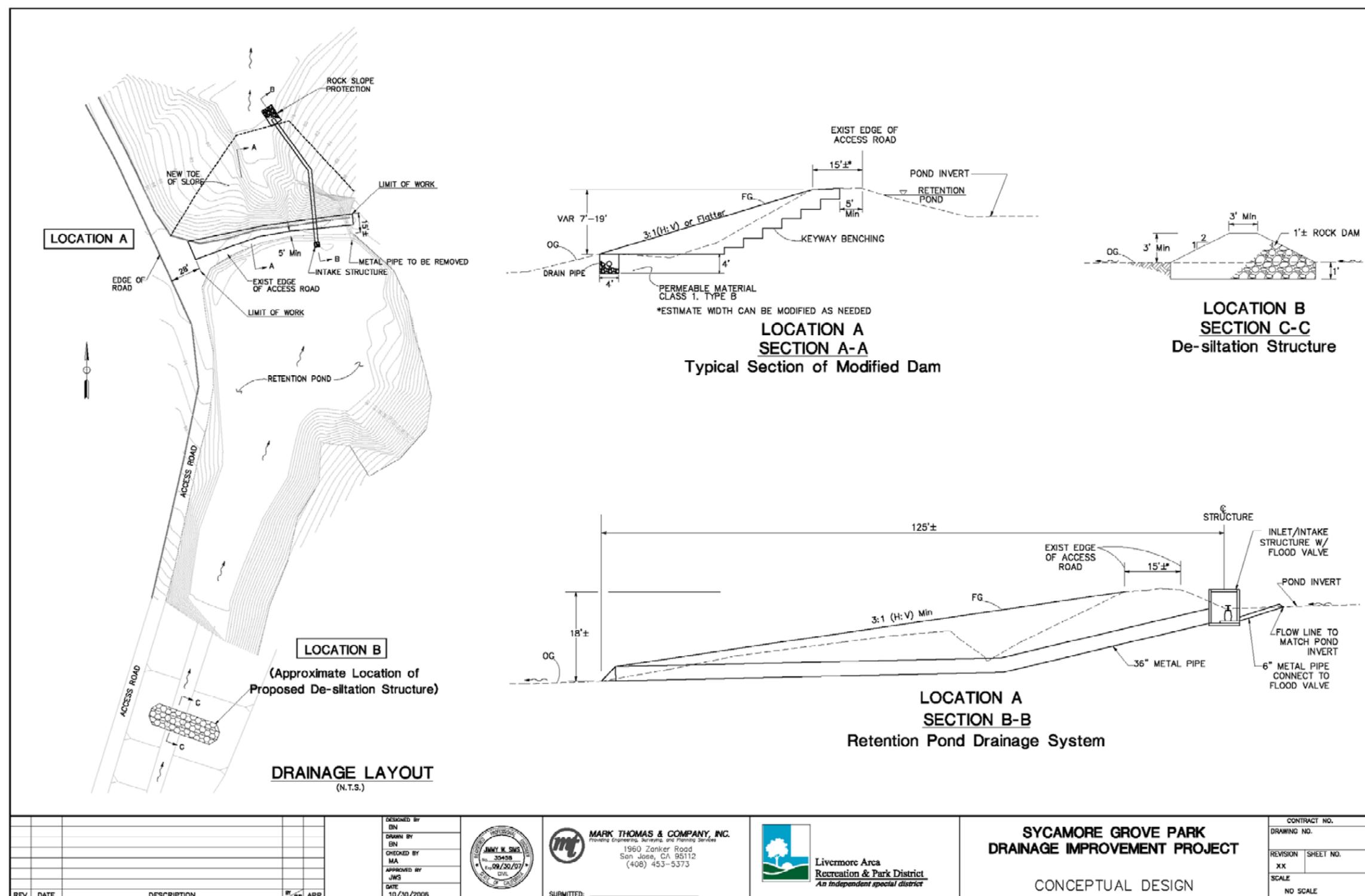


Figure 2 Project Layout Plan

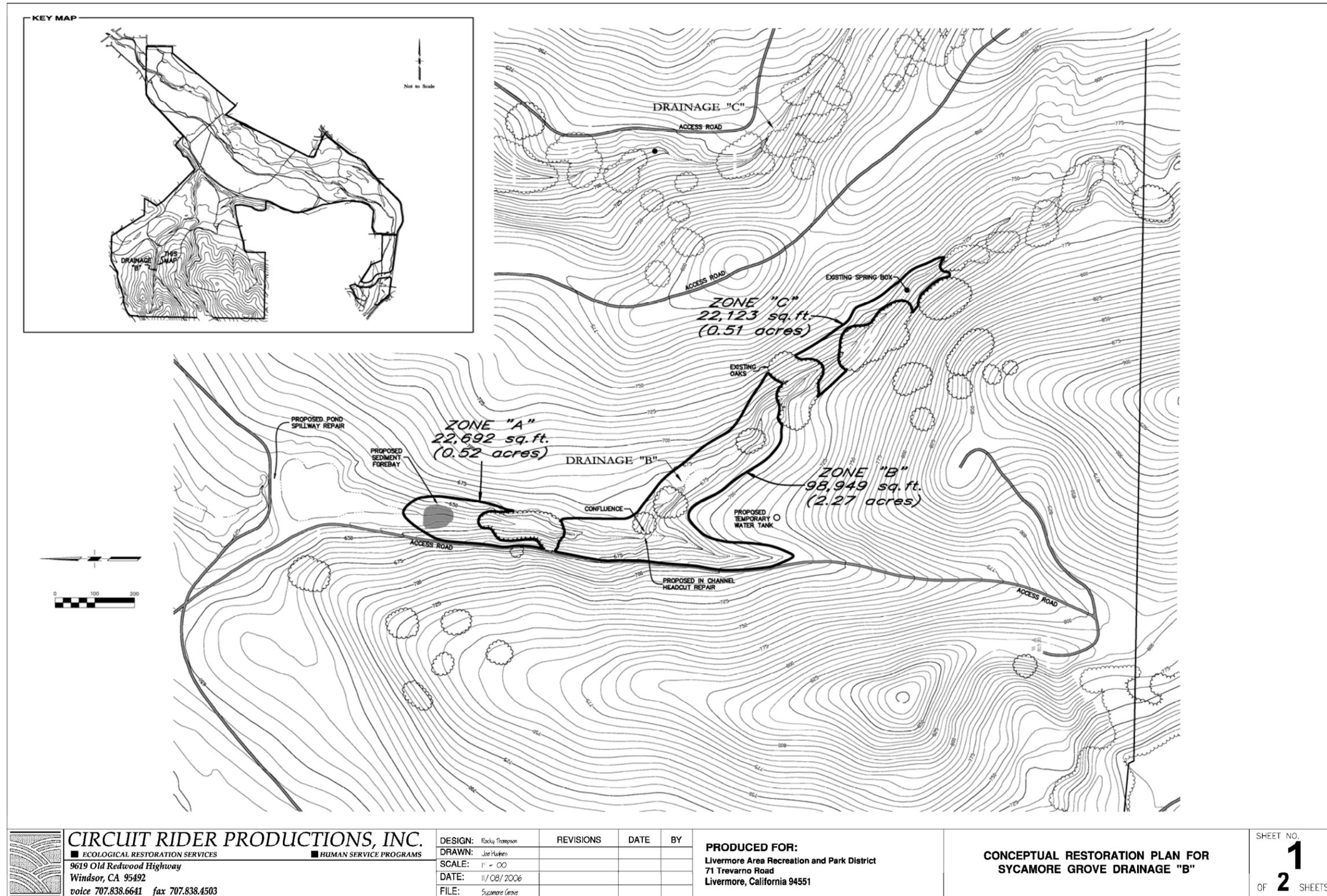


Figure 3 Conceptual Restoration Plan for Upper Drainage B (Sheet 1 of 2)

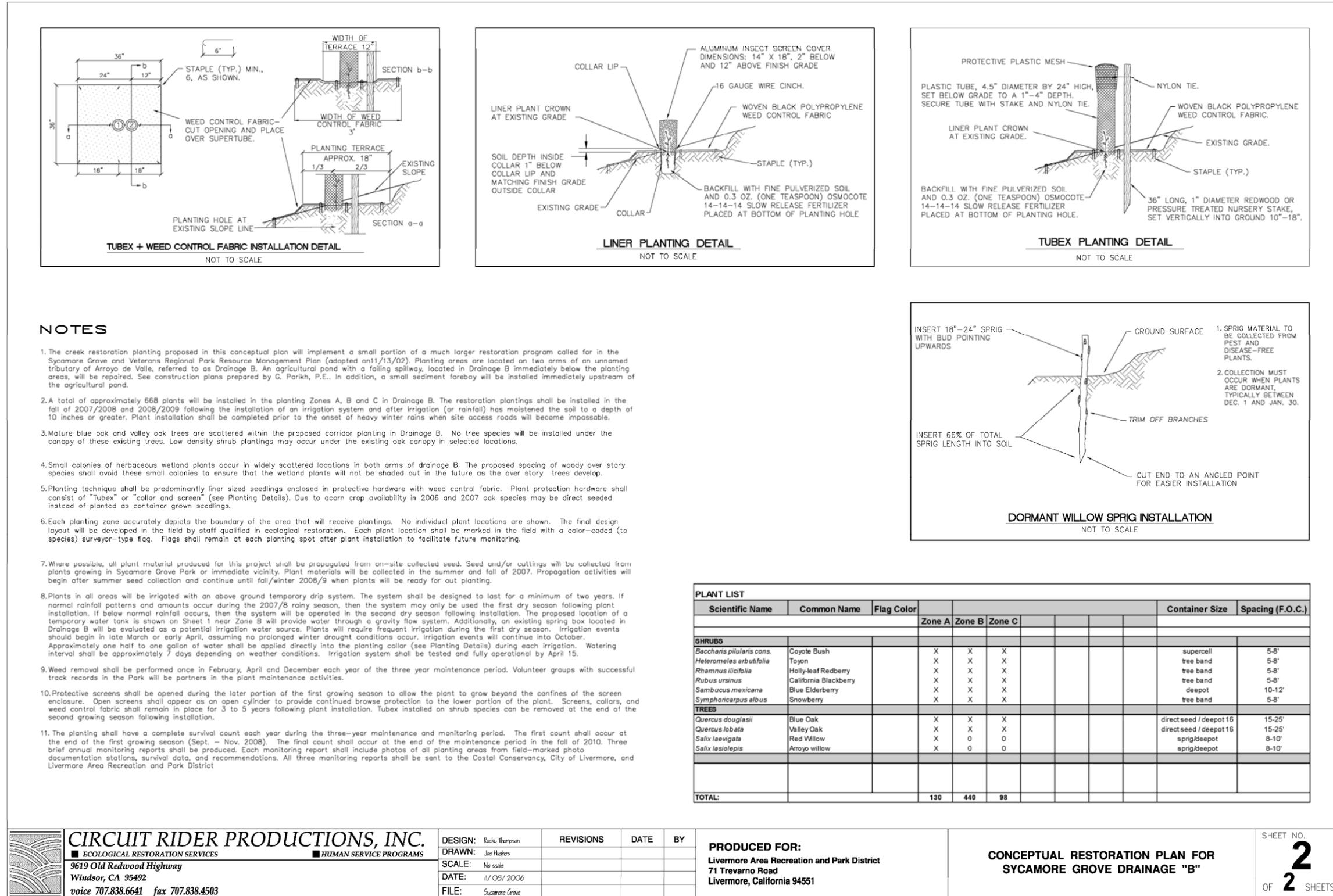


Figure 3 Conceptual Restoration Plan for Upper Drainage B (Sheet 2 of 2)

Appendix A
Mitigation Monitoring Plan

Appendix A
Mitigation Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Monitoring Plan
Sycamore Grove Regional Park Upper Drainage B and Stock Pond Restoration Project

Mitigation Measure	Purpose	Monitoring Requirements	Responsible Party
Air Quality			
<p>Mitigation Measure AIR 1: Apply the following control measures to minimize potential short-term impacts to air quality:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Active construction areas and unpaved access roads will be watered at least twice daily. 2. All trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials will be covered or be required to maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard. 3. All paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites will be swept daily (with water sweepers). 	<p>To minimize fugitive dust from soil excavation.</p>	<p>Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) staff will monitor construction crews to ensure these air quality mitigation measures are implemented during construction.</p>	<p>LARPD</p>
Biological Resources			
<p>Mitigation Measure BIO 1: To avoid impacts to the California red-legged frog (CRLF) and California tiger salamander (CTS), draining of the stock pond would occur during October at the end of the dry season. Pumps used to dewater the pond will be screened and monitored; any wildlife caught in the system will be captured and identified. Handling of wildlife will be conducted only when a biologist in possession of a United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit is present. Desirable species would be relocated, and exotic species would be removed. October is an optimum month to dewater the pond since California red-legged frogs, if present, have already metamorphosed into their frog life stage, can be identified more readily, and are less likely to be impacted by dewatering. Dredging of the stock pond and vegetation removal shall be implemented outside of the breeding season for these species (breeding season is November through March). Outside of the breeding season, CRLF and CTS may aestivate in small mammal burrows and fissures within grasslands upslope of Upper Drainage B and the stock pond. In order to minimize potential impacts to aestivating individuals, all construction-related</p>	<p>To avoid or minimize the potential loss of suitable aestivation habitat or direct “take” of special-status aquatic species.</p>	<p>Monitoring as needed prior to and during construction as defined in consultation with the USFWS.</p> <p>At a minimum, a USFWS-approved biologist would be on-site during the dewatering of the pond in order to capture, identify and relocate sensitive aquatic species.</p> <p>Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to identify potential aestivation sites.</p>	<p>LARPD</p>

Appendix A
Mitigation Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure	Purpose	Monitoring Requirements	Responsible Party
<p>activities shall be limited to existing roads and trails to the greatest extent feasible. All aestivation sites would be marked and avoided, where possible. LARPD shall initiate consultation with the USFWS prior to implementation of the proposed project in order to determine if additional mitigation will be required due to loss of suitable upland aestivation habitat for both the CRLF and CTS.</p>			
<p>Mitigation Measure BIO 2: LARPD shall identify and protect active songbird and raptor nests during construction with appropriate buffers and avoidance. At a minimum, the following measures will be implemented to address potential impacts to nesting songbirds and raptors in the vicinity of the construction sites:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To the extent feasible, construction activities in or near active stream channels shall avoid the songbird and raptor nesting season between March 15 and August 15. 2. If construction must occur during this period, sites shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist to verify the presence or absence of nesting birds or raptors. 	<p>To minimize the potential disturbance or incidental “take” of nesting raptors and songbirds.</p>	<p>If preconstruction nesting bird surveys indicate the potential presence of nesting birds or raptors, survey results would be coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and suitable avoidance measures would be developed and implemented. Construction shall observe the generally recommended CDFG avoidance guidelines; include maintaining minimum buffer zones surrounding active raptor nests and other nesting birds. Unless direction from CDFG specifies otherwise, buffer zones shall remain until young birds have fledged.</p>	<p>LARPD</p>

Appendix A Mitigation Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure	Purpose	Monitoring Requirements	Responsible Party
<p>Mitigation Measure BIO 3: The western pond turtle, a state species of concern, was observed in the stock pond of Upper Drainage B in 2003 and 2005. Preconstruction surveys for individuals shall be performed by a qualified biologist prior to and during drainage of the stock pond. Individual western pond turtles, if found, will be returned to the pond after it is refilled.</p>	To minimize the potential direct “take” of special-status wildlife species.	A qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys prior to and during the dewatering of the stock pond.	LARPD
<p>Mitigation Measure BIO 4: The following best management practices (BMPs) shall be applied to minimize impact to wetlands and other waters of the United States:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ground disturbance associated with construction, including vehicle operation/parking and construction material storage, shall be prohibited within wetlands or within 50 feet of the edge of tributaries to Upper Drainage B. 2. Where working areas encroach on streams and wetlands, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) approved physical barriers adequate to prevent the flow or discharge of sediment into these systems shall be constructed and maintained between working areas and streams and wetlands. Discharge of sediment into streams shall be held to a minimum during construction of the barriers. Discharge will be contained through the use of RWQCB-approved measures that will keep sediment from entering jurisdictional waters beyond the project limits. 3. All dewatering systems shall be properly designed to prevent pumping soil fines with the discharged water. If soil fines are being pumped, the Contractor shall revise the dewatering operations to prevent discharge of material into waters of the United States. 4. All Contractors’ vehicles will be parked, properly maintained and serviced off-site. Contractors’ vehicles will be assessed prior to initiation of construction to verify proper condition for use to prevent oily or greasy substances from the Contractor’s operations from entering or being placed where they will have the potential to enter or later drain to a stream, pond, or wetland. 	To avoid and minimize impacts to wetland and other waters.	Monitoring as needed prior to, during and after construction.	LARPD

Appendix A Mitigation Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure	Purpose	Monitoring Requirements	Responsible Party
5. Asphalt or concrete shall not be placed in a stream, pond, or wetland.			
6. All construction equipment shall be cleaned of potential noxious weed sources (mud, vegetation) before entry into the site and after entering a potentially infested area before moving on to another area, to help ensure noxious weeds from outside of the project area are not introduced into the project area. The contractor shall employ whatever cleaning methods are necessary (typically the use of a high-pressure water hose) to ensure that equipment is free of noxious weeds. Equipment shall be considered free of soil, seeds, and other such debris when a visual inspection does not disclose such material. Disassembly of equipment components or specialized inspection tools is not required. Equipment washing stations shall be placed in areas that afford easy containment and monitoring and that do not drain into sensitive (riparian, wetland, etc.) areas.			
7. To further minimize the risk of introducing additional nonnative species into the project area, only native plant species appropriate for the project study area will be used in any erosion control or revegetation seed mix or stock. No dry-farmed straw will be used, and certified weed-free straw shall be required where erosion control straw is to be used. In addition, any hydroseed mulch used for revegetation activities must also be certified weed-free.			
8. All temporary construction disturbance areas will be restored and revegetated. Temporary disturbance areas will be restored to the original topography and planted with an erosion control mix composed only of native species.			

Appendix A Mitigation Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure	Purpose	Monitoring Requirements	Responsible Party
<p>Mitigation Measure BIO 5: The proposed project will result in the fill of approximately 0.11 acres to wetlands and other waters for the United States. A Clean Water Act Section 404 nationwide permit shall be acquired prior to any fill activities or discharges within jurisdictional wetlands. To mitigate for loss of wetlands resulting from fill and discharge into jurisdictional wetlands, LARPD shall enhance wetlands at a 1:1 ratio at another location in Sycamore Grove Park, in consultation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).</p>	<p>To avoid, minimize and mitigate for impacts to jurisdictional waters of the United States.</p>	<p>Monitoring as needed prior to, during or after construction.</p>	<p>LARPD</p>
Cultural Resources			
<p>Mitigation Measure CUL 1: A qualified paleontologist will be contacted in the event that fossils are discovered during construction, in order to salvage finds and assess the need for further mitigation.</p>	<p>To reduce potential direct or indirect destruction of unique paleontological resources or geologic features.</p>	<p>Monitoring during construction.</p>	<p>LARPD</p>
Geology and Soils			
<p>Mitigation Measure GEO 1: Where head-cuts are most prevalent in Drainage B, the slope will be lightly graded and filled with rock and engineered fabric. This will allow the water to escape while reducing the slope instability that head-cutting creates. Additionally, the slower water will reduce erosion, foster the development of under-story species and help to establish the new and existing over-story species.</p>	<p>To minimize risk of loss, injury or death due to landslides.</p>	<p>Monitoring as needed during construction.</p>	<p>LARPD</p>

Appendix A Mitigation Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure	Purpose	Monitoring Requirements	Responsible Party
<p>Mitigation Measure GEO 2: The riparian corridor of Upper Drainage B will be revegetated with native plants. Over-story species that will be planted include oaks, willows, buckeye and cottonwood. New under-story species will consist of a variety of existing sedges, rushes, shrubs and willows. They will be planted in the fall, after the first rain, to ensure the ground has been saturated. Wood chips will be added to the base of each plant for greater water absorption, and protective netting shall be placed over it for at least 1 year. In the areas of the riparian corridor that are above the stock pond, irrigation of the new plants will be possible due to their close vicinity to a water tank. In the remaining areas, hand watering will be used for the first year of growth. After this first year, it is proposed to only selectively water those plants which appear to have the best success of survival. A 5-year monitoring program will be implemented to monitor vegetation establishment.</p>	<p>To reduce the potential for soil erosion and for the loss of topsoil.</p>	<p>Monitoring will be conducted during and after construction as required as part of the revegetation plan. This plan includes irrigating plants installed above the stock pond and hand watering plants in other areas during the first year. Additionally, selective watering will occur after year one. A 5-year monitoring program will be implemented to ensure establishment of the vegetation. Areas that do not revegetate appropriately shall be revegetated in order to meet success criteria.</p>	<p>LARPD</p>
Hazardous Materials			
<p>See Mitigation Measure BIO 4.</p>	<p>To reduce the hazards associated with the handling and potential release of hazardous materials into the environment.</p>	<p>Monitoring as needed prior to, during and after construction.</p>	<p>LARPD</p>
Hydrology and Water Quality			
<p>See Mitigation Measure BIO 4.</p>	<p>To reduce soil erosion and siltation.</p>	<p>Monitoring as needed prior to, during and after construction.</p>	<p>LARPD</p>

Appendix A
Mitigation Monitoring Plan

Mitigation Measure	Purpose	Monitoring Requirements	Responsible Party
Noise			
<p>Mitigation Measure NOI 1: At a minimum, the following measures will be implemented to avoid temporary construction-related noise impacts in the project vicinity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noise-generating construction-related activities, including truck traffic coming to and from the project site for any purpose, will be limited to daytime, weekday non-holiday hours from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., as specified in Livermore Municipal Code Section 9.36.08. 2. Construction equipment powered by internal combustion engines will be properly muffled and maintained. 3. Unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines will be prohibited. 4. All stationary noise-generating construction equipment (such as air compressors) will be shielded from existing nearby residences. 5. Wherever possible, quiet construction equipment, particularly air compressors, will be used. 	<p>To reduce short-term increase in noise levels at or in the vicinity of the project site.</p>	<p>Monitoring as needed during construction and operation of construction equipment.</p>	<p>LARPD</p>

Appendix B

BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines:

Feasible Control Measures for Construction Emissions of PM₁₀

BAAQMD CEQA GUIDELINES**Assessing the Air Quality Impacts
of Projects and Plans**

Prepared by the Planning and Research Division of the
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
December, 1999

Table 2
Feasible Control Measures for Construction Emissions of PM₁₀

Basic Control Measures – The following controls should be implemented at all construction sites:

- Water all active construction areas at least twice daily.
- Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials *or* require all trucks to maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard.
- Pave, apply water three times daily, or apply (nontoxic) soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites.
- Sweep daily (with water sweepers) all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites.
- Sweep streets daily (with water sweepers) if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets.

Enhanced Control Measures – The following measures should be implemented at construction sites greater than four acres in area.

- All “Basic” control measures listed above.
- Hydroseed or apply (nontoxic) soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for ten days or more).
- Enclose, cover, water twice daily, or apply (nontoxic) soil binders to exposed stockpiles (dirt, sand, etc.)
- Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.
- Install sandbags or other erosion control measures to prevent silt runoff to public roadways.
- Replant vegetation in disturbed areas as quickly as possible.

Appendix B
BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines

Optional Control Measures – The following control measures are strongly encouraged at construction sites that are large in area, located near sensitive receptors or which for any other reason may warrant additional emissions reductions.

- Install wheel washers for all exiting trucks, or wash off the tires or tracks of all trucks and equipment leaving the site.
- Install wind breaks, or plant trees/vegetative wind breaks at windward side(s) of construction areas.
- Suspend excavation and grading activity when winds (instantaneous gusts) exceed 25 mph.
- Limit the area subject to excavation, grading and other construction activity at any one time.

Appendix C
Project Area Photographs

Appendix C
Project Area Photographs

Upper Drainage B



Stock Pond



Appendix C
Project Area Photographs

Upper Drainage B



Lower Drainage B (shows trail that currently passes through wetlands that will be relocated to the top of dam)



