

Sacramento Municipal Utility District Cordova Park Underground Cable Replacement Project

Final Environmental Impact Report • July 2022
State Clearinghouse #2022030186



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Sacramento Municipal Utility District

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Replacement Project**

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July 2022

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Appendices

- A Revised Draft EIR



Acronyms and Abbreviations

CCR	California Code of Regulations
Draft EIR	draft environmental impact report
kV	kilovolt
PRC	Public Resources Code
project	Cordova Park Underground Cable Replacement Project
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SMUD	Sacramento Municipal Utility District



1 Introduction

On May 13, 2022, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) released for public review the draft environmental impact report (Draft EIR) for the proposed Cordova Park Underground Cable Replacement Project (project). The EIR describes the existing conditions of the project alignments, analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the project, and identifies mitigation measures where necessary and available to avoid or reduce the magnitude of potentially significant impacts of the project. As part of the project, SMUD would install approximately 0.6 miles of 12 kilovolt (kV) underground cable, approximately 1.12 miles of 69kV underground cable, and up to 13 new utility vaults in the City of Rancho Cordova, near the location of existing 12kV and 69kV underground cables that are approaching the end of their operational lives.

1.1 Public Review

In accordance with Sections 15087 and 15105 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Draft EIR was circulated for public review and comment to lead and responsible agencies, as well as members of the public, for 45 days (May 13, 2022 through June 27, 2022). SMUD also held a public meeting on June 9, 2022 to receive comments on the Draft EIR. No comments were received at the public meeting or during the public review period. Therefore, this Final EIR does not contain any responses to comments.

The Draft EIR, Final EIR, and associated appendices are available for review online at: <https://www.smud.org/CordovaParkCableReplacement> and at the following locations:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Customer Service Center
6301 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95817

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
East Campus Operations Center
4401 Bradshaw Road
Sacramento, CA 95827

1.2 Project Decision Process

This document and the Draft EIR together constitute the Final EIR, which will be considered by the Board before a decision on whether to approve the project. If the Board decides to approve the project, it must first certify that the Final EIR was completed in compliance with CEQA's requirements, was reviewed and considered by the Board, and reflects the Board's independent judgment and analysis, as required by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15090. The Board would then be required to adopt findings of fact on the disposition of each significant environmental impact, as required by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091. This EIR does not identify any significant and unavoidable impacts (those that cannot be mitigated to a less-than-significant level) that would result from the project; therefore, a statement of overriding considerations, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, is not warranted. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, which is required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(d), has been included as Chapter 3 of this Final EIR.



1.3 Project Updates

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5 requires recirculation of an EIR when the lead agency adds “significant new information” to an EIR, regarding changes to the project description or the environmental setting, after public notice is given of the availability of a draft EIR for public review under State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15087, but before EIR certification (State CEQA Guidelines CCR Section 15088.5[a]). Significant new information is defined in Section 15088.5(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines as follows:

- (1) A new significant environmental impact would result from the project or from a new mitigation measure proposed to be implemented.
- (2) A substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact would result unless mitigation measures are adopted that reduce the impact to a level of insignificance.
- (3) A feasible project alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed would clearly lessen the environmental impacts of the project, but the project’s proponents decline to adopt it.
- (4) The Draft EIR was so fundamentally and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.

Recirculation is not required unless the EIR is changed in a way that would deprive the public of the opportunity to comment on significant new information, including a new significant impact in which no feasible mitigation is available to fully mitigate the impact (thus resulting in a significant and unavoidable impact), a substantial increase in the severity of a disclosed environmental impact, or development of a new feasible alternative or mitigation measures that would clearly lessen environmental impacts but that the project proponent declines to adopt (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5[a]). Recirculation is not required when the new information added to the EIR merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications in an adequate EIR (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5[b]).

Following the release of the Draft EIR for public review, it was noticed that text from the version of the Draft EIR approved by SMUD for public release was inadvertently removed from the Draft EIR prior to its release for public review. These text changes are shown in Chapter 2, “Revisions to the Draft EIR,” of this Final EIR. These text changes provide updated information regarding the project’s environmental setting and do not constitute significant new information that would require recirculation of the Draft EIR.

Since release of the Draft EIR, SMUD has continued to coordinate with the Native American Tribes under Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080.3 (enacted by Assembly Bill 52, Statutes of 2014). SMUD and the Tribes have agreed that



consultation is complete, though SMUD will continue to coordinate with the Tribes regarding implementation of the mitigation measures as discussed below.

None of the circumstances requiring recirculation have arisen; therefore, recirculation of the Draft EIR is not required.

1.3.1 Tribal Consultation Update

PRC Section 21080.3 requires that lead agencies undertaking CEQA consult with California Native American Tribes upon the Tribes' written request and evaluate in the EIR the potential for projects to affect Tribal cultural resources. Section 3.1, "Tribal Cultural Resources," of the Draft EIR describes the consultation that has occurred between the tribes and SMUD pursuant to PRC Section 21080.3. In particular, pages 3.1-8 and 3.1-9 of the Draft EIR summarize the consultation process that occurred prior to release of the Draft EIR for public review. During the Draft EIR public review period, SMUD continued to coordinate with the Tribes, including continued discussions regarding the implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.1-1a, -1b, and -1c (found on pages 3.1-12 and 3.1-13 of the Draft EIR).

Based on these further communications, Tribal consultation under PRC Section 21080.3 has been completed, as agreed to by the consulting tribes. This project update does not constitute significant new information that would require recirculation of the document.



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2 Revisions to the Draft EIR

This chapter presents specific text changes made to the Draft EIR since its publication and public review. The changes are presented in the order in which they appear in the original Draft EIR and are identified by the Draft EIR page number. Text deletions are shown in ~~strikethrough~~, and text additions are shown in underline.

The information contained within this chapter clarifies and expands on information in the Draft EIR and does not constitute “significant new information” requiring recirculation under CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5.

2.1 Revisions to Section 3.1, Tribal Cultural Resources

During preparation of the document for publication, some text and revisions were inadvertently excluded. The text beginning on page 3.1-7 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

Ethnographic Setting

The study area is within the traditional territory of the Valley Nisenan, also known as the Southern Maidu. These Indigenous people are the southernmost linguistic group of the Maidu-Penutian language family who occupied the northern portion of California’s Central Valley. Although boundaries with neighboring tribes were often fluid and overlapping, the southern portion of the Valley Nisenan territory is defined as extending from the original confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers near today’s Old Sacramento, up the American River and its tributaries to the crest of the Sierras. The northern portion of their territory consisted of the lower half of the Feather River, and then east along both the Bear and Yuba rivers up to the Sierra crest. Their neighbors were the Plains Miwok to the south, the Patwin across the Sacramento River to the west, and the Konkow and Mountain Maidu to the north. Settlements were typically located on low, natural rises next to streams and rivers or on gentle, south-facing slopes. Populations within the settlements are estimated to have varied from 15 individuals or more for smaller occupation sites and satellite villages, and up to 500 or more in large villages (SMUD 2022).

Valley Nisenan relied on a wide range of abundant natural resources. Large and small mammals, such as pronghorn antelope, deer, tule elk, black bears, cottontails, and jackrabbits, were hunted by individuals or by communal effort. Plant resources included acorns, pine nuts, buckeye nuts, berries, grass seeds, herbs, and underground tubers. To procure these resources, Valley Nisenan employed a variety of tools and hunting implements. The bow and arrow, snares, traps, nets, and enclosures or blinds were used for hunting land mammals and birds. For fishing, they made canoes from tule, balsa, or logs, and used harpoons, hooks, nets, and basketry traps. To collect plant resources, sharpened digging sticks, long poles for dislodging acorns and pinecones, and a variety of



basketry, such as seed beaters, burden baskets, and carrying nets, were utilized. Foods were processed with a variety of tools, such as bedrock mortars, bedrock grinding slicks, hand stones, pestles, hopper mortars, or metates (SMUD 2022).

A key component of Valley Nisenan life was their participation in an extensive east-west trade network between the coast and the Great Basin. From coastal groups marine *Olivella*, abalone, shell and steatite moved eastward, while salt and obsidian traveled westward from the Sierras and Great Basin. Basketry, an important trade item, moved in both directions (SMUD 2022).

The traditional culture and lifeways of the Valley Nisenan, and Central Valley Indigenous people in general, were disrupted beginning in the early 1800s. Although Spanish explorers entered their territory as early as 1808, there is no record of the forced movement of any Nisenan to the missions, at least no evidence similar to that recorded for the neighboring Plains Miwok. Regardless, Valley Nisenan and other Indigenous peoples were affected by land grant settlements and devastated by foreign disease epidemics that swept through the densely populated Central Valley. In particular, an epidemic presumed to be malaria, swept through the region in 1833, wiping out entire villages and causing the death of an estimated 75 percent of the Valley Nisenan population. Not long after in 1839, Captain John Sutter settled into the area and conscripted many of the surviving local Indigenous peoples to work for him at his fort and various other endeavors, including his hock farm on the banks of the Feather River (SMUD 2022).

Additional impacts to Valley Nisenan traditional lifeways resulted from the California Gold Rush in 1849. As a steady influx of non-native people exploited their lands and wasted their resources, many lifeways of the Valley Nisenan, as well as neighboring groups, were irretrievably interrupted. As a result, surviving Valley Nisenan either retreated to the foothills and mountains, or became domestics and laborers for the expanding ranching, farming, and mining industries (SMUD 2022).

Known Nisenan Villages Near the Project Site

The banks of the American River were heavily populated in Indigenous times. At least four Nisenan villages are known to have been present within ten miles of the project alignment. On the north side of the American River, east of California State University Sacramento but west of the project area, was *Kadema*, *Kishkish*, and *Yamankudu*. On the south side of the river, the closest known village was *Yalisumni*. Additional un-named villages on the south side of the American River are evidenced by three particularly deep and large archaeological sites, CA-SAC-157, CA-SAC-319, and CA-SAC- 320/H, each site being located less than three miles from either end of the project alignment (SMUD 2022).



Contemporary Native American Setting

Defining Tribal cultural resources involves the knowledge and expertise of living California Native Americans. As the embodiment of a continuous connection between tribal history and the landscape, they are uniquely qualified to act as the interpreters and stewards of their culture, including the ability to define the significance of the material remains and landscapes of their ancestor's lifeways.

~~As described above, the~~The Project is located on land traditionally inhabited by the Valley Nisenan. ~~Although boundaries with neighboring tribes were often fluid and overlapping, traditional Valley Nisenan lands are generally described as extending from present day Old Sacramento, up the American River and its tributaries to the crest of the Sierras.~~ Today, many descendants of Valley Nisenan still reside on lands once inhabited by their ancestors or on lands set aside for tribal communities by the federal government in California which may or may not been traditionally inhabited by their ancestors. Contemporary Californian Native American tribes with ancestral connections to the study area and Valley Nisenan heritage include the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (SSBMI), Lone Band of Miwok, and Wilton Rancheria.



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3 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

This mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) summarizes the mitigation measures, implementation schedule, and responsible parties for monitoring the mitigation measures required of the proposed Cordova Park Underground Cable Replacement Project, as set forth in the EIR prepared for the project.

Section 21081.6 of the California Public Resources Code and Section 15091(d) and Section 15097 of the State CEQA Guidelines require public agencies “to adopt a reporting or monitoring program for changes to the project which it has adopted or made conditions of project approval to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.” An MMRP is required for the project because the EIR for the project identified potentially significant adverse impacts related to construction and operation of the project, and mitigation measures have been identified to reduce most of those impacts to a less-than-significant-level.

This MMRP will be adopted by SMUD if it approves the project and will be kept on file at SMUD’s Customer Service Center at 6301 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95817; and at SMUD’s East Campus Operations Center at 4401 Bradshaw Road, Sacramento, CA 95827. SMUD will use this MMRP to ensure that identified mitigation measures, adopted as a condition of project approval, are implemented appropriately.

3.1 Mitigation Implementation and Monitoring

SMUD will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures designed to minimize impacts associated with the project. While SMUD has ultimate responsibility for ensuring implementation, others may be assigned the responsibility of actually implementing the mitigation. SMUD will retain the primary responsibility for ensuring that the project meets the requirements of this MMRP and other permit conditions imposed by participating regulatory agencies.

SMUD will designate specific personnel who will be responsible for monitoring implementation of the mitigation that will occur during project construction. The designated personnel will be responsible for submitting documentation and reports to SMUD on a schedule consistent with the mitigation measure and in a manner necessary for demonstrating compliance with mitigation requirements. SMUD will ensure that the designated personnel have authority to require implementation of mitigation requirements and will be capable of terminating project construction activities found to be inconsistent with mitigation objectives or project approval conditions.

SMUD and its appointed contractor will also be responsible for ensuring that its construction personnel understand their responsibilities for adhering to the performance requirements of the mitigation plan and other contractual requirements related to the implementation of mitigation as part of project construction. In addition to the prescribed mitigation measures, Table 3-1 lists each identified environmental resource being affected (in the same order and using the same numbering system as in the EIR), the associated CEQA checklist question (used as the thresholds of significance in the EIR),



the corresponding monitoring and reporting requirement, the party responsible for ensuring implementation of the mitigation measure and monitoring effort, and the project component to which the mitigation measure applies.

If an issue addressed in the EIR does not result in mitigation, it is not included in the table.

3.2 Mitigation Enforcement

SMUD will be responsible for enforcing mitigation measures. If alternative measures are identified that would be equally effective in mitigating the identified impacts, implementation of these alternative measures will not occur until agreed upon by SMUD.

3.3 Reporting

SMUD shall, or may require the developer to, prepare a monitoring report upon completion of the project describing the compliance of the activity with the required mitigation measures. Information regarding inspections and other requirements shall be compiled and explained in the report. The report shall be designed to simply and clearly identify whether mitigation measures have been adequately implemented. At a minimum, each report shall identify the mitigation measures or conditions to be monitored for implementation, whether compliance with the mitigation measures or conditions has occurred, the procedures used to assess compliance, and whether further action is required. The report shall be presented to SMUD's Board of Directors.

3.4 Regulatory Considerations

In addition to the mitigation measures set forth in this MMRP, SMUD complies with all applicable regulations and statutes, including but not limited to the following:

- The City of Rancho Cordova's noise restrictions (Municipal Code, Chapter 6.68), which restricts the days and hours of construction noise, will be followed.
- The City of Rancho Cordova's Land Grading and Erosion Control requirements (Municipal Code, Chapter 16.44) includes specific standards for project construction related to erosion control.
- Should groundwater be encountered during project construction, testing would occur in accordance with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requirements prior to dewatering activities. This may include seeking coverage under RWQCB's General Order for Dewatering (R5-2013-0074). If dewatering activities are needed, they would include the potential use of Baker tanks and/or filtration bags, if needed, to treat water prior to discharge into the City of Rancho Cordova's stormdrain system.



It should be noted that this discussion of regulatory requirements is not intended to be all-inclusive; site specific conditions and activities may require compliance with other regulations or statutes.

3.5 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program Table

The categories identified in the attached MMRP table are described below.

Impact – This column provides the verbatim text of the impact statement included in the EIR.

Mitigation Measure – This column provides the verbatim text of the adopted mitigation measure.

Implementation Duration – This column identifies when the mitigation measure shall be implemented (e.g., prior to construction, during construction, prior to occupancy, etc.).

Monitoring Duration – This column identifies the period within which monitoring shall be conducted.

Responsibility – This column identifies the party(ies) responsible for implementation and/or enforcing compliance with the requirements of the mitigation measure.

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
<p>Impact 3.1-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal cultural resource, including human remains.</p> <p>Impact 3.1-2: Potential for the project, in combination with other development, to contribute to a significant cumulative impact to Tribal cultural resources including human remains.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 3.1-1a: Avoid TCRs through Project Design. During the design phase of the 69kV alignment portion of the Project, SMUD will consult with consulting Tribes on the adequacy of the plans to avoid and protect in place the identified Tribal cultural resources. The consulting Tribes will review the plans starting at 30 percent design, or a similar milestone, and will continue to be consulted with until the design plans are finalized (100 percent design). To avoid impacts and protect the Tribal cultural resources in place, a qualified archaeologist, in collaboration with consulting Tribes, will ensure that no staging, storage, or work will come within a minimum of a 15-foot protection buffer from each Tribal cultural resource. If the archaeologist and consulting Tribes find at any time that the plans do not meet the 15-foot protection buffer, the design engineers will work with the archaeologist and consulting Tribes to modify the plans. If sufficient modifications to the plans cannot be achieved to ensure a 15-foot protection buffer, additional consultation with the participating tribes will be required to develop appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures. Such measures may include creation of a treatment plan, data recovery, reburial, or additional plan redesign. The project plans will not be considered final until the archaeologist has deemed them to be adequate for the avoidance and protection in place of the Tribal cultural resources.</p>	During project design	During construction activities	SMUD	SMUD
<p>Impact 3.1-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal cultural</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 3.1-1b: Prepare and implement worker cultural resources awareness and respect training program. A cultural resources awareness and respect training program will be provided to all construction personnel active on the project site prior to the start of project implementation and to any new workers who start on</p>	Prior to and during construction activities (ground disturbance)	During construction activities (ground disturbance)	SMUD	SMUD

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
<p>resource, including human remains.</p> <p>Impact 3.1-2: Potential for the project, in combination with other development, to contribute to a significant cumulative impact to Tribal cultural resources including human remains.</p>	<p>the project after starting. A representative or representatives from culturally affiliated Native American Tribe(s) will be invited to participate in the development and delivery of the cultural resources awareness and respect training program in coordination with a professional archaeologist meeting the United States Secretary of Interior’s qualification standards for archaeology. The program will include relevant information regarding Tribal cultural resources, including applicable laws and regulations, the consequences of violating said laws and regulations, protocols for resource avoidance, and protocols for discoveries, including who to contact in the event of a discovery and what to do upon the discovery of human remains. The program will also underscore the requirement for confidentiality and culturally-appropriate treatment of any find of significance to Native Americans and protocols, consistent to the extent feasible, with Native American Tribal values.</p>				
<p>Impact 3.1-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal cultural resource, including human remains.</p> <p>Impact 3.1-2: Potential for the project, in combination with other development, to contribute to a significant cumulative impact</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 3.1-1c: Implement Tribal and Archaeological Monitoring. All ground disturbing activities, including any preparatory grading, tree removal, or vegetation clearing, within the project site will be monitored by a Tribal monitor and a qualified archaeologist. SMUD shall contact the participating Tribes a minimum of seven days prior to beginning earthwork or other ground disturbing activities to ensure a Tribal monitor is available; construction activities will proceed if no response is received 48 hours prior to ground disturbing activities. The Tribal and archaeological monitor shall complete daily monitoring logs that describe each day’s activities, including construction activities, locations, soil, and any cultural materials identified. In the event that unanticipated archaeological or Tribal cultural</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction activities (ground disturbance)</p>	<p>During construction activities (ground disturbance)</p>	<p>SMUD</p>	<p>SMUD</p>

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
to Tribal cultural resources including human remains.	resources are discovered, including human remains, compliance with Mitigation Measure 3.1-1d would be required. Both the Tribal monitor and the archaeological monitor have the ability to halt work if a discovery occurs.				
<p>Impact 3.1-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal cultural resource, including human remains.</p> <p>Impact 3.1-2: Potential for the project, in combination with other development, to contribute to a significant cumulative impact to Tribal cultural resources including human remains.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 3.1-1d: Halt Ground Disturbance Upon Discovery of Subsurface Tribal Cultural Resources and Evaluate Discovered Resource.</p> <p>If any suspected Tribal cultural resources or unique archaeological resources are discovered during ground disturbing construction activities, all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find, or a distance agreed upon by the Tribal monitor, archaeological monitor, SMUD, and the construction foreman based on the location and nature of the find and type of work occurring. The Tribal monitor shall determine if the find is a Tribal cultural resource. The Tribal monitor will make recommendations for further evaluation and culturally appropriate treatment of discovered Tribal cultural resources as necessary in consultation with the archaeological monitor.</p> <p>Unless another type of treatment is recommended, resources will be preserved in place by redesigning the project; however, if project redesign is determined by SMUD, with evidence, to be technologically, regulatorily, or economically infeasible. Redesign could include modifying the route of the alignment; and route modification would remain within the boundary of the project study area. If redesign is demonstrated to be infeasible, culturally appropriate treatment would be developed in consultation with the participating Tribes. Culturally appropriate treatment may include, but is not limited to, processing materials for reburial, minimizing handling of cultural objects, leaving objects in place within the landscape, returning objects to a location</p>	During construction activities (ground disturbance)	During construction activities (ground disturbance)	Contractor	SMUD

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
	<p>within the project area where they will not be subject to future impacts from the project. Because curation of Tribal cultural resources is not considered by the participating Tribes to be appropriate or respectful, participating Tribes request that materials not be permanently curated, unless approved by the participating Tribes.</p> <p>Work at the discovery location cannot resume until all necessary investigation, evaluation, and treatment of the discovery under the requirements of the CEQA, including AB 52, have been satisfied. Implementation of this mitigation measure would also satisfy State and local regulations regarding the treatment of Tribal cultural resources as well as Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code and PRC 5097 regarding the treatment of human remains.</p>				
<p>Impact 3.2-1: Change the significance of a known archaeological resource.</p> <p>Impact 3.2-3: Potential for the project, in combination with other development, to contribute to a significant cumulative impact to cultural resources.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 3.2-1: Establish Work Exclusion Zones to Avoid Archeological Features. Prior to the start of operations, a 15-foot work exclusion zone (WEZ) will be established around each of the identified archeological features. The WEZ will be shown on project plans and will be installed prior to the start of work on Rossmoor Drive. The WEZ will be delineated by the installation of high visibility temporary construction fencing set 15 feet away from the edge of the feature. The installation of the WEZ fencing will be overseen by a professionally qualified archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior’s standards for archaeology. The archaeologist will review the WEZ location and mark the location of the WEZ on the ground prior to installation. No access, staging, storage, equipment, or personnel shall enter any portion of the WEZ.</p>	During project design	During construction activities	SMUD	SMUD

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
	The WEZ for each archaeological feature will remain in place until all work on Rossmoor Drive is complete.				
<p>Impact 3.2-2: Change the significance of unknown archaeological resources.</p> <p>Impact 3.2-3: Potential for the project, in combination with other development, to contribute to a significant cumulative impact to cultural resources.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 3.2-2a: Halt Ground-Disturbing Activity Upon Discovery of Archaeological Resources and Evaluate Discovered Resource.</p> <p>In the event that a historic-period archaeological resource (such as concentrated deposits of bottles or bricks with makers marks, amethyst glass, ceramic or metal pipes, or other historic refuse) or a prehistoric archaeological resource (such as lithic scatters, midden soils), is uncovered during grading or other construction activities, all ground-disturbing activity within 100 feet of the discovery shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. SMUD will be notified of the potential find and a qualified archeologist shall be retained to investigate its significance. If the find is suspected to be Native American in origin, Mitigation Measure 3.1-1d shall be implemented. Any previously undiscovered resources found during construction will be recorded on appropriate California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms and evaluated for significance under all applicable regulatory criteria. If the archaeologist determines that the find does not meet the CRHR standards of significance for cultural resources, construction may proceed. If the find is determined to be significant by the qualified archaeologist (i.e., because the find is determined to constitute either an historical resource or a unique archaeological resource), the archaeologist shall work with SMUD to follow accepted professional standards such as further testing for evaluation or data recovery, as necessary. The results of the identification, evaluation, and/or data recovery program for any unanticipated discoveries shall be presented in a</p>	During construction activities (ground disturbance)	During construction activities (ground disturbance)	Contractor	SMUD

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
	professional-quality report that details all methods and findings, evaluates the nature and significance of the resources, analyzes and interprets the results.				
<p>Impact 3.2-2: Change the significance of unknown archaeological resources.</p> <p>Impact 3.2-3: Potential for the project, in combination with other development, to contribute to a significant cumulative impact to cultural resources.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 3.2-2b: Implement Native American and Archaeological Monitoring. All ground disturbing activities, including any preparatory grading, tree removal, or vegetation clearing, within the project site will be monitored by a Tribal monitor and a qualified archaeologist. SMUD shall contact the participating Tribes a minimum of seven days prior to beginning earthwork or other ground disturbing activities to ensure a Tribal monitor is available; construction activities will proceed if no response is received 48 hours prior to ground disturbing activities. The Tribal and archaeological monitor shall complete daily monitoring logs that describe each day's activities, including construction activities, locations, soil, and any cultural materials identified. In the event that unanticipated archaeological or Tribal cultural resources are discovered, including human remains, compliance with Mitigation Measure 3.1-1d would be required. Both the Tribal monitor and the archaeological monitor have the ability to halt work if a discovery occurs.</p>	During construction activities (ground disturbance)	During construction activities (ground disturbance)	SMUD	SMUD
<p>Impact 3.3-2: Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 3.3-1: Implement SMAQMD Basic Construction Emission Control Practices. During construction, the contractor shall comply with and implement SMAQMD's Basic Construction Emission Control Practices, which includes SMAQMD-recommended BMPs and BACT, for controlling fugitive dust emissions. Measures to be implemented during construction include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water all exposed surfaces at least two times daily. Exposed surfaces include, but are not limited to, soil piles, 	During construction activities	During construction activities	Contractor	SMUD

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
ambient air quality standard.	<p>graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover or maintain at least two (2) feet of freeboard space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Cover any haul trucks that will be traveling along freeways or major roadways. Use wet power vacuum street sweepers to remove any visible track-out mud or dirt onto adjacent public roads at least once a day. Use of dry power sweeping is prohibited. Limit vehicle speed on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used. Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes (required by California Code of Regulations Title 13, Sections 2449[d][3] and 2485). Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site. <p>Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer’s specifications. Equipment will be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition before it is operated.</p>				
Impact 3.4-2: Result in the Loss of or Disturbance of Valley Elderberry	<p>Mitigation Measure 3.4-2: Avoid and protect elderberry shrubs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The elderberry shrub and a 20-foot buffer from the dripline of the shrub shall be fenced or flagged as close to the 	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	Qualified biologist	SMUD

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
Longhorn Beetle and Habitat.	<p>edge of construction as feasible and avoided during construction activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A qualified biologist will provide training for all contractors, work crews, and any onsite personnel on the status of valley elderberry longhorn beetle, its host plant and habitat, the need to avoid damaging elderberry shrubs, and the possible penalties for non-compliance. • As much as feasible, all activities that could occur within 165 feet of an elderberry shrub (but outside of the 20-foot no disturbance buffer), shall be conducted outside of the flight season of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (the flight season typically occurs between March-July). • Project activities such as truck traffic or other use of machinery, shall not create excessive dust on the project site, such that the growth or vigor of elderberry shrubs could be adversely affected. Establishing and enforcing a 15 miles per hour speed-limit for off-road usage and watering non-paved access roads shall be implemented as needed to minimize excessive dust. • A qualified biologist (i.e., a biologist that holds a wildlife biology, botany, ecology, or other relevant degree from an accredited university and: 1) be knowledgeable in relevant species life histories and ecology, 2) be able to correctly identify relevant species and habitats, 3) have experience conducting field surveys of relevant species or resources, 4) be knowledgeable about survey protocols, 5) be knowledgeable about State and federal laws regarding the protection of special-status species, and 6) have experience with CDFW's CNDDDB and Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS). The project proponent will review the resume and approve the qualifications of biologists.) shall monitor the work area 				

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
	within 165 feet of the elderberry shrub at project-appropriate intervals to ensure the avoidance and minimization measures listed above are implemented.				
Impact 3.4-3: Disturbance of nesting Swainson’s hawk, white-tailed kite, or other avian species.	<p>Mitigation Measure 3.4-3: Avoid disturbance of active nests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For project activities, including tree trimming or removal, that begin between February 1 and September 15, a qualified biologist will conduct preconstruction surveys for Swainson’s hawk, white-tailed kite, and other nesting birds to identify active nests on and within 0.25 mile of the alignments for Swainson’s hawk and on or within 500 feet for other birds. The survey for Swainson’s hawks will be conducted before the beginning of any construction activities between March 1 and September 15, following the <i>Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson’s Hawk Nesting Surveys in California’s Central Valley</i> (Swainson’s Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000). If active nests are found, a qualified biologist will establish appropriate buffers around the active nest sites identified during preconstruction bird surveys such that project-related activities are unlikely to result in nest abandonment or disruption of normal nesting activities. No project activity will commence within the buffer areas until a qualified biologist has determined the young have fledged, the nest is no longer active, or reducing the buffer would not likely result in nest abandonment. CDFW guidelines recommend implementation of 0.25-mile buffer for Swainson’s hawk and white-tailed kite and 500-feet for other raptors, but the size of the buffer may be adjusted if a qualified biologist, in consultation with CDFW, determine that such an adjustment would not be likely to adversely affect the nest. Monitoring of the nest by a qualified biologist during and 	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	Qualified biologist	SMUD

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
	after construction activities will be required if the activity has potential to adversely affect the nest.				
Impact 3.4-4: Conflict with provisions of the City of Rancho Cordova Municipal Code or Sacramento County Code of Ordinances intended to protect biological resources.	<p>Mitigation Measure 3.4-4: Tree Protection. Prior to site disturbance, SMUD shall provide to the City of Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County a plan for all tree work. A Certified Arborist shall approve all work plans prior to submittal to the City of Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County. Tree planting will comply with the City of Rancho Cordova's and Sacramento County's landscaping requirements.</p> <p>For those trees that will be preserved on site during project construction, the following guidelines are recommended to ensure the long-term survival and stability of the trees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate Workers: Educate all workers on site about tree protection guidelines and requirements prior to construction. • Establish a Tree Protection Zone: Establish a tree protection zone (TPZ) around any tree or group of trees designated for retention. The TPZ should at minimum be equal to 1.5 times the radius of the dripline. The TPZ may be adjusted on a case-by-case basis after consultation with a Certified Arborist. • Install Fencing and Signage: Install fencing around the TPZ of all trees or groups of trees designated for retention. The fencing should remain in place for the duration of construction activities. Post appropriate signage to help convey the importance of the TPZ to workers. • Prohibit Construction Activities within the TPZ: Prohibit construction-related activities, including grading, trenching, construction, demolition, or other work, within the TPZ. No heavy equipment or machinery should be operated within 	Prior to site disturbance	Throughout construction activities	SMUD	SMUD

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
	<p>the TPZ. No construction materials, equipment, machinery, or other supplies should be stored within the TPZ. Vehicle and foot traffic should not be permitted within the TPZ. No wires or signs should be attached to any trees designated for retention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prune Selected Trees: Prune selected trees to provide necessary clearance during construction and to remove any defective limbs or other tree parts that may pose a failure risk. All pruning should be completed by a Certified Arborist or Tree Worker and adhere to the Tree Pruning Guidelines of the International Society of Arboriculture. Monitor Trees and TPZs: Monitor the integrity of the TPZs and the health of the trees designated for retention regularly throughout the construction process. A Certified Arborist should monitor the health and condition of the protected trees and, if necessary, recommend additional mitigations and appropriate actions. This could include the monitoring of trees adjacent to project facilities to determine if construction activities (including the removal of nearby trees) would affect protected trees in the future. Treat Impacted Trees: Provide supplemental irrigation and other care, such as mulch and fertilizer, as deemed necessary by a Certified Arborist, to any trees impacted by construction. Treatment of any injuries should be performed by a Certified Arborist. 				
Impact 3.5-1: Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit,	Mitigation Measure 3.5-1: Traffic Control Plan. Prior to project construction within or adjacent to public roadways, SMUD's construction contractor shall develop a traffic control plan for the project and submit the plan to the City of Rancho Cordova's Department of Public Works. The plan shall identify temporary lane, sidewalk, bicycle lane, and transit stop closures and	Prior to construction	During construction activities	Contractor	SMUD

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Duration	Monitoring Duration	Responsibility	
				Implementation	Monitoring
<p>roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.</p> <p>Impact 3.5-3: Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)</p> <p>Impact 3.5-4: Result in inadequate emergency access.</p>	<p>provide information regarding how access and connectivity will be maintained during construction activities. The plan shall include details regarding traffic controls that would be employed, including signage, detours, and flaggers. The traffic control plan shall be implemented by the contractor during construction to allow for the safe passage of vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists along the project route.</p>				



4 References

Chapter 1, Introduction

No references cited.

Chapter 2, Revisions to the Draft EIR

No references cited.

Chapter 3, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

No references cited.



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