

## **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter provides an overview of the existing physical environment and regulatory requirements for each of the resources that may be affected by the proposed project. For each resource, there is a discussion of the environmental setting, followed by an evaluation of the environmental impacts on the resource. The chapter is organized by resource topic and corresponds to the Environmental Checklist Form of the State CEQA Guidelines. A complete environmental checklist for each potentially affected resource is provided in Appendix 1-B.

Implementation of the mitigation measures specified in the impact analysis would either avoid adverse impacts completely or reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level. Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency would adopt a mitigation and monitoring plan at the time it adopts the mitigated negative declaration. The purpose of the plan is to ensure that the mitigation measures adopted as part of the project approval would be implemented when the project is constructed.

The following terminology is used to describe the level of significance of impacts.

- A finding of *no impact* is appropriate if the analysis concludes that the project would not affect the particular topic area in any adverse way.
- An impact is considered *less than significant* if the analysis concludes that it would cause no substantial adverse change to the environment and requires no mitigation.
- An impact is considered *less than significant with mitigation* if the analysis concludes that it would cause no substantial adverse change to the environment with the inclusion of mitigation measures that have been agreed to by the applicant.
- An impact is considered *significant and unavoidable* if the analysis concludes that it could have a substantial adverse effect on the environment and mitigation to a less-than-significant level of impact is not possible.

Impacts are described for the three components: vegetation management and restoration, hydraulic improvements, and recreation enhancement.

## **3.1 Resources Not Likely to Be Affected**

Initial evaluation of the impacts of the proposed project indicated that there likely would be little to no impact on several resources. These resources are discussed below to add to the overall understanding of the project.

### **3.1.1 Population, Housing, and Environmental Justice**

Population growth is addressed in Section 3.18, *Growth-Inducing Impacts*.

Implementation of the proposed project would not displace any existing housing units or residents and therefore would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing units elsewhere. In addition, the recreation improvements are relatively minor and are not expected to increase visitation at the Oroville Wildlife Area and therefore would not cause an increase in the need for housing. The project would have no impact on population and housing and is not considered further in this document.

### **3.1.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources**

Agricultural lands are present southeast and east of the project area; however, the nearest agricultural lands are located approximately 0.25 mile southeast and east of the closest project components, and would not be affected by construction or staging activities. No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance is within the project area, and nearby lands are primarily categorized as Other and Grazing Land, with one area of Prime Farmland to the southeast and one area of Farmland of Statewide Importance to the east of the project area (California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resources Protection 2014). None of the nearby agricultural lands are subject to Williamson Act contract (California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resources Protection 2015). The project site is in open space use, with most of the land being zoned Resource Conservation, and one area near the southern end being zoned Agriculture-80 (80-acre minimum parcel size) (County of Butte 2012). The proposed project would not change the existing use of these lands. In addition, no lands within or near the project area are designated for forestland or timberland use. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for forestland or timberland and would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land. The proposed project would accordingly have no impact on agriculture or forestry resources, and these resources are therefore not considered further in this document.