historian/architectural historian that prepared the documentation required by Mitigation Measure CUL-1A.

b. Interpretive signs, exhibits, etc. shall be finalized at least 10 days prior to the start of any construction activities so that materials identified for photographs or salvage may be salvaged, documented, etc. in accordance with the Salvage and Reinterpretation Plan prepared pursuant to Mitigation Measure CUL-1C.

3) Other library programming, brochures, booklets, or other written materials provided by the YCL.

4) Interpretative materials may include tribal cultural resources information if tribal cultural resources are encountered during construction activities.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1C: Incorporate Architectural Design Elements of the Existing Yolo Branch Library Building into the New Building Design

To ensure important architectural design elements associated with the existing Yolo Branch Library building are incorporated into the final design of the new library building, the Yolo County Library (YCL) shall, at least 30 days prior to the start of any construction activities, finalize a Salvage and Reinterpretation Plan for the proposed project. This Salvage and Reinterpretation Plan shall:

1) Be prepared by a qualified historian or architectural historian (a person that meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's minimum education and experience qualifications for these disciplines).

2) Be developed based on the documentation prepared as part of Mitigation Measure CUL-1A, and other input provided by the YCL, with the intent to bring architectural elements that embody the existing building's Craftsman style into the new building design.

3) Clearly identifies:

a. What is to be salvaged for reuse;

b. How and when in the process the salvage will occur;

c. Who is responsible for the salvage;

d. Where salvaged material will be stored during construction;

e. When and how the salvaged items will be installed in the new building and by whom.

4) Uses the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties as a guide for the treatment of architectural elements, or other appropriate guidelines recommended by the qualified historian/architectural historian that prepares the Salvage and Reinterpretation Plan.

Discussion on the Effectiveness of Mitigation Measures CUL-1A, CUL-1B, and CUL-1C

The conceptual design for the proposed project (see Figure 2-6, Figure 2-7, and Figure 2-8) incorporates, in part, reinterpretation of the existing character-defining features associated with historic Yolo Branch Library building (see Table 2-2 and Section 2.3.2). These features are based on the overall look and feel of the building as defined by the YCL and in community

meetings held to discuss the proposed project. The Historical Resource Report prepared for the project states (page 19):

> "The new design has incorporated several of the character defining features of the original building. These are not in-kind replication of features, but an incorporation of design elements in new materials. Based upon the current design, the new design uses a low single-story volume with intersecting gable roofs. The building is clad in modern clapboard siding and uses asymmetrically divided windows with hoods. The eave will be left open with exposed rafter tails, simplified brackets will support the gables which will have faux half-timbering. Plans also call for the incorporation of a fireplace. Incorporation of these features provides a generalized, modernized version of the Craftsman aesthetic.
>
> Currently the plans do not call for any salvaged materials. Salvaged materials can provide a sense of age and an actual artifact from the past. Salvaging materials takes advanced planning and is frequently limited to unique items rather than ubiquitous building materials. If not incorporated into the design of the new building, items may be selected to assist with the interpretation of the library and its history."

Mitigation measures CUL-1A, CUL-1B, and CUL-1C incorporate the recommendations of the Historical Resource Report prepared for the project by JRP Historical Consulting and would ensure the YCL would implement measures related to documentation, interpretation, and incorporation of design elements, including through salvaging.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1A would document the significant physical characteristics of the property, including Craftsman details of the William H. Weeks designed building, and the drawings, photographs, and written historical and contextual data collected in the HABS report the YCL would have prepared as part of this measure would provide the foundation and basis for developing the appropriate interpretative materials required by Mitigation Measure CUL-1B. The measure is intended for public benefit and public dissemination and to allow researchers interested in the Yolo Branch Library or the works of architect William H. Weeks access to materials for additional scholarship and study; the documentation is not intended for NPS review or transmittal to the Library of Congress and, therefore, would not be full definition HABS dataset.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1B would inform the community and public at large about the 100-year history of the Yolo Branch Library and link the historic library building to the continued future use of the property for community library services, thereby facilitating an understanding of the effects past events and values have upon present day activities.

Finally, Mitigation Measure CUL-1C would require the YCL to identify and plan for the salvaging and reinterpretation of important, existing architectural elements into the proposed project's final design. This would result in a new building design that is in harmony with the Yolo Branch Library's 100-year history and the historic characteristics of the surrounding community, while providing full, modern library services.

Discussion of Other, Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measures

In general, since demolition activities can result in the material impairment of a historical resource, guidance documents pertaining to the protection of historical resources, such as the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and the 2030

Countywide General Plan (Policy CO-4.3), prefer owners of historic resources preserve and rehabilitate their properties if feasible. In addition, the Yolo County Code (Section 8-11.109) sets forth that a permit application for demolition of certain historic structures may not be approved unless the project proponent has been unable to develop any reasonably economically feasible alternative plan for the preservation of the structure.

Chapter 12 of this EIR includes an evaluation of a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project which would feasibly obtain most of the basic objectives of the proposed project but avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects of the project. This chapter discusses several alternatives related to the preservation and rehabilitation of the existing Yolo Branch Library building. As explained in Chapter 12, the YCL considered but rejected most of the alternatives pertaining to preservation and rehabilitation of the existing building because the alternatives were determined to not be feasible for the YCL to implement. Please refer to Chapter 12 for a discussion of the alternatives to the proposed project considered by the YCL.

The only other potential mitigation measures that could avoid or substantially lessen the material impairment to the historic status of the existing Yolo Branch Library building would be:

- Relocation of the building to a different site; or
- Acquisition of funds (including through the sale of the building) so that the building can be preserved and relocated to a different site.

Regarding relocation of the building to a different site, the structural engineering evaluation of the building prepared by Buehler & Buehler noted the building is at risk of collapse in the event of a strong earthquake or wind storm, and the County Architect has determined that the existing Yolo Branch Library building cannot be safely moved from its current site due to its deteriorated condition. It is therefore likely that relocating the building would result in a substantial adverse change to the building during relocation, rendering this measure ineffective for implementation. In addition, the County would need to allocate funds to reinforce the building before it could be moved, reducing the economic feasibility of this measure and the project as a whole. For these reasons, preserving the Yolo Branch Library through relocation to a different site is not considered a feasible mitigation measure for the proposed project.

Regarding the acquisition of funds and/or the sale of the building such that it could be preserved and relocated to a different site, the effectiveness of this measure is uncertain and subject to numerous variables that are outside the control of the YCL (purchase offer, terms and conditions, etc.). In addition, the County currently does not have a site where the existing library building could be relocated to; however, while the effectiveness of such a measure is speculative, it is feasible for the YCL to attempt to seek funding and advertise the structure for purchase, conditioned on the requirement that the building be preserved in place as part of the final project design or relocated to a different site in a manner that does not materially impair the building. This would measure would also be consistent with Section 8-11.109 of the Yolo County code. Accordingly, the YCL would implement Mitigation Measure CUL-1D below.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1D: Seek Funding to Preserve and Relocate the Building

The Yolo County Library (YCL) shall make a good faith attempt to preserve and relocate the existing, historic Yolo Branch Library building to a different site by soliciting funds / and or advertising the sale of the building at least two times in a newspaper of general circulation within the County. This measure does not commit the County to accept any

offer to purchase the building, only to solicit, consider, and evaluate funding or purchase and sale offers that are consistent with the YCL's objectives for the proposed project. In addition, the receipt of any funds intended for the preservation and relocation of the existing Yolo Branch Library building shall be contingent on the identification of a site suitable for relocation of the building, the relocation of the building in a manner that would not materially impair the building, and a plan for the long-term maintenance and upkeep of the building.

Impact CUL-1 Significance Conclusion

Mitigation Measures CUL-1A, CUL-1B, CUL-1C would lessen the potentially significant adverse impact resulting from the demolition of the existing, historic Yolo Branch Library building, and Mitigation Measure CUL-1D would require the YCL to make a good faith attempt to preserve the building for ultimate relocation; however, Mitigation Measures CUL-1A, CUL-1B, and CUL-1C would not avoid the demolition of the building and the effectiveness of Mitigation Measure CUL-1D is speculative and cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, these measures would not avoid the significant, adverse, material change to the historic Yolo Branch Library building that would occur with implementation of the proposed project. There are no other feasible mitigation measures available to the YCL to reduce the magnitude of this impact. Thus, Impact CUL-1 would remain a significant and unavoidable impact even with the implementation of feasible mitigation measures.

Impact CUL-2: The proposed project could indirectly adversely affect surrounding historic resources.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(b), the altering of a resource or its surroundings may have a significant impact on the environment. As shown in Table 4-2, there are 23 historic properties recorded within a half mile of the existing Yolo Branch Library building; 12 of these buildings are in the Town of Yolo, in close proximity to the Yolo Branch Library. Therefore, the demolition of the existing Yolo Branch Library building and the new library building could result in an adverse effect to one or more of these structures by removing a part of the context in which it was deemed eligible for the CRHR. As each building within the vicinity of the project area was deemed eligible under its own merit, rather than as part of a historic district, the demolition of the existing Yolo Branch Library building would not alter, impair, or remove the criteria under which the structures were deemed eligible for the CRHR; however, the addition of the new library building could, potentially affect the character of the Town of Yolo, particularly the 12 buildings in close proximity to the library, thereby potentially affecting their historic setting and significance within the CRHR. The implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1A, CUL-1B, and CUL-1C would incorporate the recommendations of the Historical Resource Report prepared for the project by JRP Historical Consulting and would ensure the YCL would implement measures related to documentation, interpretation, and incorporation of design elements, including through salvaging, that would retain the some of the exterior design elements of the original library building and thus the historic 'feel' of the area. These measures would render Impact CUL-2 a less than significant impact.

4.3.3 Potential Impacts to Unrecorded Historical Resources, Archaeological Resources, Paleontological Resources, Human Remains, and/or Tribal Cultural Resources

To determine the significance of potential impacts to unrecorded historic resources, the YCL would follow the specifications provided in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b), as described

in Section 4.3.2. To determine the significance of potential impacts to archaeological resources, paleontological resources, human remains, and tribal cultural resources, the YCL would follow the specifications provided in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b) (archaeological and paleontological resources), CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) (human remains), CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(d) (tribal cultural resources), and Public Resources Code Sections 21084.2 and 21084.3 (tribal cultural resources), respectively.

Impact CUL-3: Project construction could disturb unrecorded historical, archaeological, paleontological, and tribal cultural resources and/or unrecorded human remains.

Project construction would require the use of earth moving equipment and activities (e.g., install new foundations, trenching, grading) that would disturb surface and shallow sub-surface soils, typically to depth of no more than three feet below grade, although the proposed septic system may require a minor amount of deeper excavation. In addition, potential controlled-burn activities that may be undertaken as a training exercise by the Yolo Fire Protection District on the residence at 14184 2nd Street may result in the modification or destruction of shallow sub-surface soils, either through heat, saturation (from water sprays), or through crushing if large water trucks drive onto saturated site soils or other surfaces. Therefore, potential project construction activities could result in a substantial adverse change to unknown (i.e., unrecorded) cultural, paleontological, and other resources that may be buried in native site soils. The unknown resources that could be affected include:

- Historic-period archaeological resources, which would include artifacts such as stone or adobe foundations or walls, structures, and or refuse or other materials associated with prior construction and occupation of sites in the project area. For example, the residence at 14184 2nd Street was originally constructed in the late 19th century, and the Yolo Branch Library was constructed in 1918. Therefore, unknown sub-surface cultural resources associated with historical site development and occupation could be encountered during earth moving activities.
- Tribal cultural resources, including chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, and pestles; and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Consultation with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation pursuant to AB52 has indicated the Yocha Dehe traditionally occupied and can trace its historical ties to the land in the proposed project's Study Area, and the proposed project is within the boundaries of the Yocha Dehe linguistic territory. Thus, tribal cultural resources within the Study Area may be related to the history and tradition of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and Patwin speaking peoples. Furthermore, the proposed project is located approximately 600 feet west of Cache Creek, and residents of the 14184 2nd Street reported discovering a mortar and pestle during gardening activities. Therefore, unknown sub-surface tribal cultural resources associated with historical site development and occupation could be encountered during earth moving activities.
- Paleontological resources, which could be discovered in native soils exposed during earthmoving activities and which might include plant and animal fossils as well as evidence of early human/proto-human activity or remains.
- Human remains, including those interred outside of formal ceremonies.

The potential for impacts to unknown cultural and tribal cultural resources is considered moderate to high given: 1) The age of the development to be demolished; 2) The limited disturbance/alteration that is presumed to have occurred in the project area over time; 3) the amount of recorded cultural/tribal cultural resources within the Study Area; 4) Anecdotal evidence of a prior tribal cultural resource discovery within the project area; and 5) Limited, but planned, excavation and disturbance of native soils in close proximity to Cache Creek. Similarly, the potential for impacts to unrecorded human remains is considered moderate given the proposed project's proximity to Cache Creek and the fact that previous discoveries of human remains were recorded within the proposed project's Study Area; however, the potential for impacts to paleontological resources is considered low given that the proposed project would require a minor amount of excavation (typically to depth of nor more than three feet below grade) within Holocene age (less than 10,000 years old) alluvium deposits that are generally not considered paleontologically sensitive.

The destruction, significant alteration, or other substantial adverse change to historical, archaeological, paleontological, and tribal cultural resources and/or human remains during construction of the proposed project is considered a potentially significant impact. To reduce the potential for project construction to disturb these resources, the YCL would implement Mitigation Measures CUL-3A, CUL-3B, CUL-3C, CUL-3D, CUL-3E, and CUL-3F.

Mitigation Measure CUL-3A: Provide Cultural Resource, Tribal Cultural Resource, and Human Remains Awareness Training

To ensure appropriate construction crews and personnel are aware of the potential for the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project to encounter unrecorded cultural resources (i.e., historical, archaeological, and paleontological resources), tribal cultural resources, and/or human remains, the YCL shall provide pre-construction training to all construction personnel involved in supervising or performing ground disturbing activities (site clearing, excavation work, grading, and trenching). This pre-construction training shall:

1) Be conducted by a qualified archaeologist (an archaeologist that meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's minimum education and experience qualifications for archaeology) and/or a Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation monitor.
2) Educate and inform construction personnel on:
    a. The types of unrecorded resources that may be encountered during ground disturbing activities;
    b. How to identify potential resources (i.e., what visual and other evidence to be aware of); and
    c. The measures to implement if a potential resource is encountered or suspected to have been encountered.

Mitigation Measure CUL-3B: Monitor for the Discovery of Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources

To ensure potential unrecorded resources are protected, the Yolo County Library (YCL) shall monitor all ground disturbing activities (site clearing, excavation work, grading, and trenching) for the discovery of unrecorded resources. This monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist (an archaeologist that meets the U.S. Secretary of the

Interior's minimum education and experience qualifications for archaeology) and/or a Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation monitor.

1) The frequency of monitoring by the qualified archaeologist shall be determined by the YCL, in consultation with the qualified archaeologist, once the final project design is approved. The frequency of this monitoring shall consider:
    a. The ground-disturbing activities associated with the final project design;
    b. The lack of recorded sub-surface cultural resources within the proposed project area;
    c. The experience of the construction crew and personnel in responding to the discovery of unrecorded cultural resources; and
    d. The frequency with which the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation monitor will be on-site to monitor for cultural resources training.
2) The frequency of the monitoring by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation shall be determined in consultation with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and as set forth in the Monitoring Agreement by and between the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and the County stipulated under Mitigation Measure CUL-3D.
3) The YCL shall ensure both the qualified archaeological monitor and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation monitor shall have the authority to stop work in the event a cultural resource or tribal cultural resource is discovered during project construction.
4) As part of this measure, the YCL may authorize a pre-construction site inspection for cultural resources and/or tribal cultural resources by the qualified archaeologist and/or Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation monitor.
5) At the conclusion of the monitoring effort, the qualified archaeologist shall submit a report meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards detailing the findings of the monitoring (including monitoring performed by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation monitor) to the Northwest Information Center for recordation purposes.

Mitigation Measure CUL-3C: Use Equipment that Minimizes Potential Adverse Effects on Unrecorded Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources

To reduce the potential for equipment to inadvertently adversely affect unrecorded cultural resources and tribal cultural resources, the Yolo County Library shall require all excavating machinery to use toothless buckets during ground disturbing activities (site clearing, excavation work, grading, and trenching).

Mitigation Measure CUL-3D: Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Monitoring Agreement

At least 30 days prior to the start of construction activities, the Yolo County Library shall finalize a monitoring agreement with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation that stipulates:

1) The frequency of monitoring by a Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation monitor;
2) A protocol for the treatment and disposition of tribal cultural resources discovered during project construction (e.g., temporary storage by the County, repatriation of the resource in an appropriate location);

3) A protocol for the treatment and disposition (e.g., a reburial plan) of Native American human remains (which may include only grave goods);

4) Ownership control of any tribal cultural resource discovered during project construction;

5) Other terms and measures recommended by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and agreed to by the County.

Mitigation Measure CUL-3E: Minimize and Avoid Impacts to Unrecorded Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources

In the event that unrecorded cultural resources (historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources) or tribal cultural resources are discovered (or have been suspected to have been discovered) during project construction, the Yolo County Library, its qualified archaeologist, and/or the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation monitor shall:

1) Treat any potential cultural, historical, tribal and paleontological material as a resource to be protected until determined otherwise by appropriate personnel.

2) Ensure that no potential resource is removed or damaged by project personnel.

3) Stop all ground-disturbing work (e.g., excavation, piling, foundation removal, etc.) on-site to avoid altering the material and its context in any way, and immediately (within 24 hours) evaluate the resource for its cultural/tribal cultural importance. No ground-disturbing work shall be allowed to continue until the qualified archaeologist and/or the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation monitor has fully evaluated the find and permits work to continue. Depending on this evaluation, archaeological excavation and recordation of the discovered may be required before construction can continue.

Mitigation Measure CUL-3F: Minimize and Avoid Impacts to Unrecorded Human Remains

In the event that unrecorded human remains are discovered (or have been suspected to have been discovered) during project construction, the measures specified in Section 15064.5(e)(1) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines shall be followed by the Yolo County Library, its qualified archaeologist, and/or the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation monitor:

1) There shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until:
   a. The Yolo County coroner is contacted to determine that no investigation of the death is required; and
   b. If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours. The NAHC shall identify the person or persons it believes to be most likely descended from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendent may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98; or,

c. If the NAHC cannot identify the most likely descendants (MLD), the MLD fails to make a recommendation, or the property owner rejects the MLD's recommendations, the property owner can rebury the remains and associated burial goods with appropriate dignity in an area not subject to ground disturbance.

With Mitigation Measures CUL-3A to CUL-3F the YCL would train construction crews regarding potential unrecorded resources, provide appropriate monitoring to identify unrecorded resources, use equipment that minimizes potential adverse impacts to unrecorded resources, ensure unrecorded tribal cultural resources are adequately protected, stop work in the event unrecorded resources are discovered and evaluate the resource as needed, and minimize and avoid potential impacts on unrecorded human remains in accordance with existing state requirements. Thus, with these measures, Impact CUL-3 would be rendered a less than significant impact.

4.4 CHAPTER REFERENCES

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CHAPTER 5 AESTHETICS/VISUAL RESOURCES

5.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project is located in the unincorporated Town of Yolo, near the center of Yolo County. The Town is adjacent to both the I-5 corridor, which lies to the south and west, and Cache Creek, which lies to the east, and is generally surrounded by agricultural lands with scattered, rural residences.

5.1.1 Existing Visual Character of the Project Site and Surroundings

The Yolo Branch Library is located at 37750 Sacrament Street, at the intersection of Sacramento Street and 2nd Street, near the center of Town. The Town is located in a predominantly agricultural area that contains scattered rural residences and commercial buildings and developments. In general, the Town of Yolo and surrounding agricultural lands are flat and lack topographic relief.

The visual character and quality of the project area and surrounding lands are described below.

Yolo Branch Library Parcel

The Yolo Branch Library parcel consists of the existing Yolo Branch Library building (closed to the public), a temporary modular building (providing interim library services), a gravel parking area, and a small grassy area. The existing Yolo Branch Library building is approximately 1,000 square feet in size and 18-feet high at its gable (see Figure 2-2). The main entrance to the library is set back from Sacramento Street and consists of a covered concrete porch with stairs and a wooden bench. As described in detail in Section 4.1, the existing Yolo Branch Library building is a historic resource listed on the NRHP (as well as CRHR). The library building has a low, compact form, asymmetrical, intersecting roof lines, asymmetrical window designs, and building ornamentations such as exposed gables. In addition, the building is constructed of wood materials. These features are typical of Craftsman-style architecture. In December 2010, the County installed solar panels on a portion of the roof facing Sacramento Street (i.e., south facing); however, the building has mostly remained relatively unchanged for 100 years and its distinct Craftsman-style architecture is part of the reason the building was determined to be eligible for listing as a historic resource on the NRHP.

The library property's frontage along Sacramento Street contains library signage, a metal book drop, little lending library kiosk, grass turf, and a gravel access driveway; a large olive tree, shrubs, grass, and a wooden picnic bench are located on the library's 2nd Street frontage. Other mature trees generally line the property perimeter. Overhead powerlines connect the library to existing PG&E utility poles and overhead lines along Sacramento Street and 2nd Street.

The temporary modular building is approximately 1,350 square feet in size and is situated west of the existing, historic library building along a shared property line with the Yolo Fire Station. Metal ramps provide access to the temporary modular building's entrance, which is perpendicular to Sacramento Street. A paved walkway and ADA compliant parking space are located between the temporary modular building and the existing historic library building.

Adjacent Residential Property at 14184 2nd Street

The existing residential property at 14184 2nd Street consists of single-family home and associated residential structures (e.g. garage, exterior storage areas, etc.) and landscaping. The

single-family home is approximately 1,150 square feet in size and was originally built in 1878; however, the property has undergone significant alterations over time (JRP Historical Consulting, 2018). Existing wire and wooden fencing separates the Yolo Branch Library property from the adjacent residential property.

Surrounding Lands

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project site (i.e., both the library and the adjacent residential parcel at 14184 2nd Street) is bordered by a mix of older, lower-density residential, commercial, and public/institutional land uses. The proposed site is bordered by a single-family residential property on the north, 2nd Street and residential land uses on the east, Sacramento Street and residential and commercial land uses on the south, and the Yolo Fire Station on the west (see Figure 2-3 and Figure 2-4). A small, local commercial district is located southeast of the proposed project area (on Sacrament Street, between 1st and 2nd Streets), and Cache Creek High School is located approximately 400 feet south of the proposed site, at the intersection of Clay Street and 2nd Street. The commercial district includes some vacant buildings.

Most of the Town's buildings were originally constructed in the mid-1900s; a 1986 survey of the Town's built environment resources recognized the Town as an example of rural, small-town architecture, and there more than 10 historic buildings dating from about the 1860s to the 1910s located between the Yolo Branch Library parcel and Cache Creek.

5.1.2 Existing Sources of Light and Glare

Both the Yolo Branch Library parcel and the adjoining residential parcel at 14184 2nd Street contain typical sources of lighting, including street lighting, exterior building lighting (e.g., security, signage, or accent lights), and interior lighting that has spilled outside, as well as glare, including windows, building facades, parked cars, etc. Commercial development in the area is sparse and there are few lighted (neon) signs in the vicinity of the proposed project.

5.1.3 Scenic Highways

Yolo County does not contain any officially designated State Scenic Highway. A section of State Route 16 located approximately 13 miles west of the Town of Yolo is eligible for designation as a State Scenic Highway but has not been officially designated by Caltrans (Caltrans, 2011). In addition, there are no locally designated scenic roadways near the Town of Yolo. The closest County-designated scenic roadways are County Road 116 and 116B, near Knights Landing and the Fremont Weir State Wildlife Area, approximately 6.5 miles east of the project area (Yolo County, 2009).

5.1.4 Sensitive Visual Receptor Locations

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project is situated within the small, rural Town of Yolo. The Yolo Branch Library is an obvious feature of, and noteworthy landmark associated with, the Town. The existing Yolo Branch Library, therefore, contributes to the existing aesthetic quality and characteristic of the Town, and specifically the adjacent residential, commercial, and public/institutional land uses. In addition, the streets and roadways serving these neighborhoods provide public vantage points for all members of these and other communities to access and view the library and surrounding vicinity. Thus, for the purposes of this EIR, sensitive visual receptors are considered to be the adjacent residential properties,

library visitors, and travelers on public roads with a view/or vantage point of the proposed project.

5.2 REGULATORY SETTING

5.2.1 County of Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan

The County's General Plan Land Use and Community Character Element contains goals and policies intended to promote the preservation of the County's rural character, protect, enhance and redevelop existing communities, and incorporate green building standards. This element of the General Plan includes the following goals and policies related to aesthetics/visual resources:

- Goal CC-1: Preservation of Rural Character. Ensure that the rural character of the County is protected and enhanced, including the unique and distinct character of the unincorporated communities.
    - Policy CC-1.3: Protect the rural night sky as an important scenic feature to the greatest feasible extent where lighting is needed.
    - Policy CC-1.4: Identify and preserve, where possible, landmarks and icons which contribute to the identity and character of the rural areas.
    - Policy CC-1.5: Significant site features, such as trees, water courses, rock outcroppings, historic structures and scenic views shall be used to guide site planning and design in new development. Where possible, these features shall become focal points of the development.
    - Policy CC-1.9: In communities, place both new and existing line utilities and telecommunications infrastructure underground where feasible. Where underground utilities are not feasible, minimize the aesthetic impact by co-locating new improvements within existing lines and facilities where possible.
- Goal CC-2: Community Planning. Protect, enhance and redevelop existing communities.
    - Policy CC-2.5: Plan future land uses within communities so that more dense/intense uses are located within the downtown area and/or at neighborhood centers, transitioning to less dense/intense uses at the growth boundary edge. There is no intent to create or allow a ring of "transitional" rural residential development outside the growth boundaries.
    - Policy CC-2.6: Encourage infill development and the appropriate redevelopment of vacant and underutilized properties within existing unincorporated communities and prioritize infill projects over development on land at the planned community edge.
    - Policy CC-2.9: Locate County offices and other civic facilities in the downtown area of the unincorporated communities, whenever possible.
- Goal CC-4: Project Design. Require project design that incorporates "smart growth" planning principles and "green" building standards that reflect the County's commitment to sustainable development.

- Policy CC-4.3: Reduce activities that encroach upon nature, through: Reuse of existing buildings and sites for development; Compact and clustered residential development, including reduced minimum lot sizes; Reduction or elimination of impervious paving materials; Development patterns that respect natural systems such as watersheds and wildlife corridors.
- Policy CC-4.14: Reflect a human scale in architecture that is sensitive, compatible and distinctive to both the site and the community.
- Policy CC-4.17: Front exterior living spaces of a usable size (e.g. front porches, large front-facing windows, balconies, etc.) are highly desirable.
- Policy CC-4.24: Incorporate art into the public open spaces of both public and private developments.
- Policy CC-4.25: Locate and design civic buildings as significant structures that help anchor and provide focus to the downtown area, with a character that fosters community identity and pride.
- Policy CC-4.26: Downtown architecture shall have a pedestrian scale, with varied and articulated facades. Entries must be oriented to the sidewalk. Front facades shall include numerous windows and covered arcades.
- Policy CC-4.29: Non-residential corner lots in the downtown and other "gateway" settings shall receive special design treatment which may include enhanced landscaping, entry features that establish community identity, fountains, plazas, enhanced pedestrian furniture (bench and arbor) or similar features. Corner residential lots are encouraged to have duplex or other multi-family units with entries on each street face.
- Policy CC-4.31: Require the use of regionally native drought-tolerant plants for landscaping where appropriate.
- Policy CC-4.37: Each community shall have a "town center" where the public has access to meeting and event space (e.g., school, library, fire department, community center, social organization, etc.).

The County's General Plan Public Facilities and Services Element contains goals and policies that emphasize financial responsibility for facilities and maintenance at the community level. This element of the General Plan includes the following goals and policies related to aesthetics/visual resources:

- Goal PF-7: Library Services. Provide library services to meet the changing informational and social needs of each community.
  - Policy PF-7.2 Locate library facilities in areas easily accessible by motorized vehicles, bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles, pedestrians, and public transportation, such as downtown shopping areas or neighborhood business districts.
  - Action PF-A37 Design libraries to include space for meeting rooms and other uses that support the concept of the library as a community-gathering place.

The County's General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element contains goals and policies that provide for the balanced management of the County's multiple natural and cultural resources. This element of the General Plan includes the following goals and policies related to aesthetics/visual resources:

- Goal CO-4: Cultural Resources. Preserve and protect cultural resources within the County.
  - Policy CO-4.4: Encourage historic resources to remain in their original use whenever possible. The adaptive use of historic resources is preferred when the original use can no longer be sustained. Older residences may be converted to office/retail use in commercial areas and to tourist use in agricultural areas, so long as their historical authenticity is maintained or enhanced.
  - Policy CO-4.7: Encourage the identification of historic resources through the integrated use of plaques and markers.
  - Policy CO-4.9: Promote the use of historic structures as museums, educational facilities, or other visitor-serving uses.

5.2.2 County of Yolo Code of Ordinances

Title 8 of the Yolo County Code, Land Development and Zoning, Chapter 2, Zoning Regulations, Article 8, Public and Open Space Zones, establishes the following standards applicable to Public and Quasi-Public (PQP) land uses such as the Yolo Branch Library. Pursuant to Table 8-2.804, library facilities are subject to a site plan review by the County. In addition, Table 8-2.805 sets forth development standards for PQP land uses such as a library, including front yard setbacks (five feet or match the prevailing setback on the adjacent properties), rear yard setbacks (10 feet or 20 feet if abutting residential land), side yard setbacks (none, except 10 feet if abutting residential land), height limits (50 feet or four stories), and maximum floor to area ratio (FAR) limits (0.5).

5.3 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Consistent with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, this EIR focuses on the potentially significant direct and indirect impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project, as described in Chapter 2. The YCL has determined, based on the characteristics of the proposed project and the environmental conditions described in Section 5.1, that:

- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not have a significant adverse effect on a scenic vista because the project area consists of already developed parcels within a rural developed area with a predominantly agricultural character. The project area is not part of a scenic vista and is not visible from any designated scenic areas.
- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not significantly damage or destroy scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway because no officially designated State Scenic Highways or local scenic roadways are present within at least six miles of the proposed project area.

- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not result in a new source of light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. The project area contains existing night lighting associated with typical rural uses in and around the site including street lighting and wall mounted building security lighting. The proposed site plan shows exterior lighting including pole mounted parking lot lighting along the north and western property boundaries, low-level bollard lighting along the Sacramento street frontage walkways, ceiling mounted fixtures at the library entrance and rear outdoor seating area, and wall mounted fixtures on the north, east, and west exterior elevations of the building. The pole mounted perimeter lights have rear cut-off features to prevent light spillage onto adjoining parcels. Wall mounted lighting is designed with a downward throw to concentrate light on walkways around the building and not directed off-site. Ceiling mounted lighting will cast light downwards towards the floor. Lastly, low-level bollard lighting along pathways fronting Sacramento Street will ensure pedestrian safety around the building at night. The proposed project, therefore, would not result in a new source of light and glare that would be substantially different than the existing developments nor adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

For these reasons, these issues are not discussed further in this EIR. The potentially significant impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project are described below.

5.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on CEQA Guidelines Appendix G and thresholds applicable to the project, the implementation of the proposed project would have a significant environmental impact related to aesthetics/visual resources if it would:

- Significantly degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

In general, aesthetic analyses under CEQA focus on views from public vantage points such as roadways and recreational areas and evaluate whether a project will affect the environment of persons in general, not whether the project will affect particular persons. The YCL notes that determining the significance of potential changes to the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings is largely a qualitative judgment and not a set of quantifiable parameters. The assessment of aesthetic impacts involves qualitative analyses that are inherently subjective in nature; viewers may react to the same views and aesthetic conditions differently. Visual impacts, therefore, depend, in part, on the individual sensitivity of the observer.

In determining whether the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would substantially degrade the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings, the YCL has considered the following factors:

- The mostly rural, small-town architectural quality and character of the Town of Yolo;
- The extent to which the proposed project could change the visual character and quality of the project area by substantially increasing the density, size, height, and/or orientation of the new library building;
- The extent to which changes in the visual character and quality of the project area would be perceptible to residential properties that surround the site; and

- The extent to which changes in the visual character and quality of the project area that would be perceptible to surrounding residential properties would also be adverse, due to factors such as:
  - Changes in vegetation or other existing screening that currently screens or block view of the existing, historic library building;
  - Changes in the proximity of buildings to adjacent residential property lines (i.e., buildings getting closer to property lines);
  - Building size, orientation, or architectural style that is substantially different than that which exists currently in the project area.

5.3.2 Potential Impacts to Existing Visual Character and Quality

The proposed project would replace the existing, approximately 1,000 square-foot Yolo Branch Library building, approximately 1,350 square-foot temporary modular building, and approximately 1,150 square-foot single-family residence with a new, approximately 3,800 square-foot library building. The implementation of the proposed project would result in changes to the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings from the demolition and/or removal of existing structures, tree removal, and the construction of the new Yolo Branch Library building, which would be larger and slightly taller than the existing, historic Yolo Branch Library building. In addition, the potential controlled burn of the existing residential structure at 14184 2nd Street could be a temporary blight if the remains of the structure are left on-site for a prolonged period of time.

Impact AES-1: The proposed project could change the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings.

The proposed project's conceptual site plan, floor layout, and visual rendering are shown in Figure 2-6, Figure 2-7, and Figure 2-8, respectively. The new, 3,800-square foot library building would be located near the center of a 0.65-acre (27,878 square feet) parcel formed from the County's merger of the existing library and adjacent residential parcels. The new library building would be located in the same general area (i.e., similarly setback from Sacramento Street, 2nd Street, and adjacent properties), and have the same general north-south facing orientation, as the existing, historic library building. In addition, the main entrance to the new library building would continue to front Sacramento Street; however, the new library building could reach a height of 22 feet at its gable, approximately 4 feet higher than the existing library building.

The conceptual site plan prepared for the project indicates the new Yolo Branch Library building would be able to meet the minimum requirements for front yard setbacks (five feet) and rear yard setbacks (20 feet); side yard setbacks would not apply since the project would not abut residential lands on any side yard. The conceptual project design also indicates the new, one-story, 22-foot-tall Yolo Branch Library building would be below the maximum height limits (50 feet or four stories) for PQP land uses, and have a FAR of approximately 0.14, which is below the maximum FAR of 0.5 set by Table 8-2.805 of the County Code. The proposed project would also be consistent with relevant General Plan goals and policies related to aesthetics/visual resources because it would involve upgrading and replacing an important library facility in the center of the Town of Yolo and in a manner that preserves, as much as possible, the importance and identity of the existing Yolo Branch Library building.

Due to its increased size, the new Yolo Branch Library Building would be more visible than the existing library building to residences that border the project area (on Sacramento Street, Washington Street, 2nd Street, 3rd Street, and other nearby streets), but, as described in Section 2.3.2 and Chapter 4, the YCL is making a concerted effort to ensure the historic nature – the "look and feel" of the existing Yolo Branch Library building – is brought into the planning and design of the proposed new Yolo Branch Library building. The conceptual visual rendering shown in Figure 2-6 retains similar architectural features as the existing library building, including a low, compact form, asymmetrical, intersecting rooflines, exposed gables, and a muted color pallet. In addition, as described in Section 2.3.2, the County has developed a list of "character defining" features which include both architectural (i.e., the "look") and experiential (the "feel") features associated with the existing, historic Yolo Branch Library building. Specifically, as shown in Table 2-2, the key architectural characteristics that contribute to the exterior visual character and quality of the existing Yolo Branch Library building include intersecting gable roof lines, open eaves with exposed rafter tails, faux half-timbering at gable ends, clapboard siding, divided windows with molded hoods, a front porch with distinct features (corbels/brackets, squared posts, squared arches, a half wall), and front door with large glass panels and simple molding.

The historic status and demolition of the existing Yolo Branch Library building is a separate and distinct issue from the proposed project's potential aesthetic/visual resources impacts that is discussed and evaluated in Chapter 4 of this EIR (Cultural/Tribal Cultural Resources); however, the existing building's Craftsman-style architecture is not only a contributing factor to the building's listing on the NRHP, it is also a distinct visual characteristic of the Yolo Branch Library that has contributed to the visual character and quality of the Yolo Branch Library and the overall aesthetic environment of the Town of Yolo for 100 years. Therefore, the County would consider it a potentially significant adverse change to the visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings if the proposed new Yolo Branch Library building did not generally embody the historical architectural context and character defining features of the existing Yolo Branch Library building.

To reduce the potential for implementation of the proposed project to result in a potential temporary (i.e., construction) or permanent adverse change to the existing visual character and quality of the Yolo Branch Library site and its surroundings, the YCL shall implement Mitigation Measures AES-1A, AES-1B, and AES-1C/CUL-3 below.

Mitigation Measure AES-1A: Controlled Burn Coordination and Clean-Up

To avoid potential adverse aesthetic impacts associated with the Yolo Fire Protection District's potential controlled burn training exercise on the existing residential structure at 14184 2nd Street, the Yolo County Library shall coordinate with the Yolo Fire Protection District to ensure:

1) Any structural remains are deconstructed and removed from the site in a timely manner, i.e., as soon as is safely possible; and
2) The site is cleaned-up and prepared for construction activities or restored as soon as is safely possible.

Mitigation Measure AES-1B: Consider the Location and Aesthetic Appeal of Potential Interpretive Materials in the Final Project Site Plan and Design

If Mitigation Measure CUL-1B results in the installation of interpretive materials outside the new Yolo Branch Library building (e.g., signage), the Yolo County Library shall:

1) Consider the location and aesthetic appeal of the interpretive materials in the final project site plan and design;
2) Ensure the size and scale of the interpretive materials are appropriate for their location and intent as a focal (or non-focal) point of interest;
3) Aim to incorporate any interpretive materials as an art or other special design treatment that enhances the new library site and its identity.

Mitigation Measure AES-1C: Incorporate Character-Defining Architectural Elements of the Existing Yolo Branch Library into the New Library Design.

See Mitigation Measure CUL-1C.

As described in Chapter 4, Mitigation Measure CUL-1C requires the County to incorporate the character defining features of the existing Yolo Branch Library into the new library building's design, which would also ensure the aesthetics of the new building are consistent with the existing building. With Mitigation Measures AES-1A, AES-1B, and AES-1C/CUL-1C, the YCL would avoid and minimize potential blight conditions from potential controlled burn exercises, appropriately incorporate exterior interpretative materials into the final project site plan and design, and incorporate important character-defining architectural elements from the existing library building into the new library building's design. These measures would avoid and minimize potential adverse changes to the existing visual character and quality of the Yolo Branch Library site. Thus, with these measures, Impact AES-1 would be rendered a less than significant impact.

5.4 CHAPTER REFERENCES

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CHAPTER 6 AIR QUALITY

This chapter of the EIR provides information on the existing air quality environment in Yolo County, summarizes applicable air quality guidelines, standards, and regulations, and evaluates potential air quality impacts associated with the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project. The chapter was prepared using methodologies and assumptions recommended in the latest version of the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) CEQA Air Quality Guidelines (YSAQMD, 2007). Information on existing air quality conditions, federal and state ambient air quality standards, and pollutants of concern was obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and YSAQMD. As described in this chapter, the implementation of the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would result in a less than significant CEQA air quality impact with the incorporation of mitigation measures to reduce construction-related air quality impacts.

6.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Air quality is a function of pollutant emissions and topographic and meteorological influences. The physical features and atmospheric conditions of a landscape interact to affect the movement and dispersion of pollutants and determine its air quality.

6.1.1 Regulated Air Pollutants

The U.S. EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six common air pollutants: ozone (O_3), particulate matter (PM), which consists of "inhalable coarse" PM (particles with an aerodynamic diameter between 2.5 and 10 microns in diameter, or PM_{10}) and "fine" PM (particles with an aerodynamic diameter smaller than 2.5 microns, or $PM_{2.5}$), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and lead. The U.S. EPA refers to these six common pollutants as "criteria" pollutants because the agency regulates the pollutants on the basis of human health and/or environmentally-based criteria.

CARB has established California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for the six common air pollutants regulated by the federal Clean Air Act (the CAAQS are more stringent than the NAAQS) plus the following additional air pollutants: hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), sulfates (SO_X), vinyl chloride, and visibility reducing particles.

A description of the air pollutants associated with the proposed project and its vicinity is provided below. Air pollutants not commonly associated with the existing or proposed sources in the vicinity of the project area, such as visibility reducing particles, are not described below.

- **Ground-level Ozone**, or smog, is not emitted directly into the atmosphere. It is created from chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO_X) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), also called Reactive Organic Gasses (ROG), in the presence of sunlight (U.S. EPA, 2017a). Thus, ozone formation is typically highest on hot sunny days in urban areas with NO_X and ROG pollution. Ozone irritates the nose, throat, and air pathways and can cause or aggravate shortness of breath, coughing, asthma attacks, and lung diseases such as emphysema and bronchitis.
    - **ROG** is a CARB term defined as any compound of carbon, excluding carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, carbonic acid, metallic carbides or carbonates, and

ammonium carbonate, and includes several low-reactive organic compounds which have been exempted by the U.S. EPA (CARB, 2004).

- **VOC** is a U.S. EPA term defined as any compound of carbon, excluding carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, carbonic acid, metallic carbides or carbonates, and ammonium carbonate, which participates in atmospheric photochemical reactions. The term exempts organic compounds of carbon which have been determined to have negligible photochemical reactivity such as: methane, ethane, and methylene chloride (CARB, 2004).

- **Particulate Matter**, also known as particle pollution, is a mixture of extremely small solid and liquid particles made up of a variety of components such as organic chemicals, metals, and soil and dust particles (U.S. EPA, 2016a).
  - PM_{10}, also known as inhalable coarse, respirable, or suspended PM10, consists of particles less than or equal to 10 micrometers in diameter (approximately 1/7th the thickness of a human hair). These particles can be inhaled deep into the lungs and possibly enter the blood stream, causing health effects that include, but are not limited to, increased respiratory symptoms (e.g., irritation, coughing), decreased lung capacity, aggravated asthma, irregular heartbeats, heart attacks, and premature death in people with heart or lung disease (U.S. EPA, 2016a).
  - $PM_{2.5}$, also known as fine PM, consists of particles less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers in diameter (approximately 1/30th the thickness of a human hair). These particles pose an increased risk because they can penetrate the deepest parts of the lung, leading to and exacerbating heart and lung health effects (U.S. EPA, 2016a).

- **Carbon Monoxide (CO)** is an odorless, colorless gas that is formed by the incomplete combustion of fuels. Motor vehicles are the single largest source of carbon monoxide in the Sacramento Valley. At high concentrations, CO reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood and can aggravate cardiovascular disease and cause headaches, dizziness, unconsciousness, and even death (U.S. EPA 2016b).

- **Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)** is a by-product of combustion. NO_2 is not directly emitted, but is formed through a reaction between nitric oxide (NO) and atmospheric oxygen. NO and NO_2 are collectively referred to as NO_X and are major contributors to ozone formation. NO_2 also contributes to the formation of particulate matter. NO_2 can cause breathing difficulties at high concentrations (U.S. EPA, 2016c).

- **Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)** is one of a group of highly reactive gases known as oxides of sulfur (SO_X). Fossil fuel combustion in power plants and industrial facilities are the largest emitters of SO_2. Short-term effects of SO_2 exposure can include adverse respiratory effects such as asthma symptoms. SO_2 and other SO_X can react to form PM (U.S. EPA, 2016d).

- **Sulfates ($SO4^{2-}$)** are the fully oxidized ionic form of sulfur. $SO4^{2-}$ are primarily produced from fuel combustion. Sulfur compounds in the fuel are oxidized to SO_2 during the combustion process and subsequently converted to sulfate compounds in the atmosphere. Sulfate exposure can increase risks of respiratory disease (CARB, 2009a).

Toxic Air Contaminants

In addition to criteria air pollutants, the U.S. EPA and CARB have classified certain pollutants as hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) or toxic air contaminants (TACs), respectively. These pollutants can cause severe health effects at very low concentrations, and many are suspected or confirmed carcinogens. The U.S. EPA has identified 187 HAPs, including such substances as benzene and formaldehyde; CARB also considers particulate emissions from diesel-fueled engines (DPM) and other substances to be TACs[1].

- **Diesel PM**. The exhaust from diesel engines includes hundreds of different gaseous and particulate components, many of which are toxic. Many of the toxic compounds adhere to the particles, and because diesel particles are very small (less than 2.5 microns in diameter), they penetrate deeply into the lungs. The CARB has identified diesel PM as a human carcinogen.

Common criteria air pollutants, such as ozone precursors, SO_2, and PM, are emitted by a large number of sources and have effects on a regional basis; other pollutants, such as TACs, and fugitive dust, are generally not as prevalent and/or emitted by fewer and more specific sources. As such, these pollutants have much greater effects on local air quality conditions and local receptors.

6.1.2 Sacramento Valley Air Basin

The U.S. EPA and CARB are the federal and state agencies charged with maintaining air quality in the nation and state, respectively. The U.S. EPA delegates much of its authority over air quality to CARB. CARB has geographically divided the state into 15 air basins for the purposes of managing air quality on a regional basis. An air basin is a CARB-designated management unit with similar meteorological and geographic conditions. The New Yolo Branch Library Building Project is within unincorporated Yolo County within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB). Comprised of 11 different counties, the SVAB includes all of Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, Yolo, Butte, Sutter, Yuba, and Sacramento Counties, and portions of Solano and Placer Counties. The Yolo Branch Library is located in the southwestern portion of the SVAB.

Local Topography and Meteorology

The topography and meteorology of the SVAB are characterized by the North Coast Ranges to the west and Northern Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east. The intervening topography is relatively flat. The SVAB experiences a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot dry summers and mild rainy winters. Temperatures range from 20 to 115 degrees Fahrenheit, with summer highs usually in the 90s and winter lows occasionally below freezing. Average annual rainfall is approximately 20 inches, with 75 percent of the rain occurring during the months of November through March. The prevailing winds are moderate in strength and vary from moist clean breezes from the south to dry land flows from the north.

Prevailing wind patterns are from the southwest as marine breezes flow through the Carquinez Strait. The Carquinez Strait is the major corridor for air moving into the Sacramento Valley from the west. Incoming airflow strength varies daily with a pronounced diurnal cycle. Influx strength

[1] Since CARB's list of TACs references and includes U.S. EPA's list of HAPs, this EIR uses the term TAC when referring to HAPs and TACs.

is weakest in the morning and increases in the afternoon and evening hours (Delta breeze). The ozone season (May through October) in the Sacramento Valley is characterized by stagnant morning air or light winds with the delta breeze arriving in the afternoon out of the southwest. Usually, the evening breeze transports the airborne pollutants to the north out of the Sacramento Valley. During about half of the days from July to September, however, a phenomenon called the "Schultz Eddy" prevents this from occurring.

Instead of allowing for the prevailing wind patterns to move north carrying the pollutants out of the valley, the Schultz Eddy causes the wind pattern to circle back south. This phenomenon causes the air pollutants to be blown south toward the Sacramento nonattainment area. The SVAB's climate and topography contribute to the formation and transport of photochemical pollutants throughout the region. The region experiences temperature inversions that limit atmospheric mixing and trap pollutants, resulting in high pollutant concentrations near the ground surface. Generally, the lower the inversion base height from the ground and the greater the temperature increase from base to top, the more pronounced the inhibiting effect of the inversion will be on pollutant dispersion. Consequently, the highest concentrations of photochemical pollutants occur from late spring to early fall when photochemical reactions are greatest because of more intense sunlight and the lower altitude of daytime inversion layers. Surface inversions (those at altitudes of 0–500 feet AMSL) are most frequent during winter, and subsidence inversions (those at 1,000–2,000 feet AMSL) are most common in summer.

Estimated Yolo Branch Library Emissions

CalEEMod, Version 2016.3.2 was used to estimate current area, energy, and mobile sources of emissions associated with the operation of the Yolo Branch Library. The size of the library was entered into the model and, in most cases, default model assumptions were used to estimate emissions for the library. The exceptions to this include the incorporation of the building's existing rooftop solar system. The resulting existing emissions estimates are presented in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 Existing Yolo Branch Library Emissions (Tons Per Year)

Sources	ROG	NO_X	CO	SO_2	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Area	<0.00	<0.0	<0.0	<0.00	<0.0	<0.0
Energy	<0.00	<0.0	<0.0	<0.00	<0.0	<0.0
Mobile	0.02	0.09	0.21	<0.00	1.18	0.12
Total(A)	0.02	0.09	0.21	<0.00	1.18	0.12

Source: MIG, see Appendix B
(A) Totals may not equal due to rounding.

6.1.3 Air Quality Conditions and Attainment Status

The federal and state governments have established emissions standards and limits for air pollutants which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. These standards typically take one of two forms: standards or requirements that are applicable to specific types of facilities or equipment (e.g., petroleum refining, metal smelting), or concentration-based standards that are applicable to overall ambient air quality. Air quality conditions are best described and understood in the context of these standards; areas that meet, or attain, concentration-based ambient air quality standards are considered to have levels of

pollutants in the ambient air that, based on the latest scientific knowledge, do not endanger public health or welfare.

- **Attainment.** A region is "in attainment" if monitoring shows ambient concentrations of a specific pollutant are less than or equal to the NAAQS or CAAQS. In addition, an area that has been re-designated from nonattainment to attainment is classified as a "maintenance area" for 10 years to ensure that the air quality improvements are sustained.
- **Nonattainment.** If the NAAQSD or CAAQS are exceeded for a pollutant, the region is designated as nonattainment for that pollutant. It is important to note that some NAAQS and CAAQS require multiple exceedances of the standard in order for a region to be classified as nonattainment. Federal and state laws require nonattainment areas to develop strategies, implementation plans, and control measures to reduce pollutant concentrations to levels that meet, or attain, standards.
- **Unclassified.** An area is unclassified if the ambient air quality monitoring data are incomplete and do not support a designation of attainment or nonattainment.

Table 6-2 below lists the NAAQS and CAAQS and summarizes the SVAB attainment status.

Table 6-2 Ambient Air Quality Standards and YSAQMD Attainment Status

Pollutant	Averaging Time	NAAQS(A)		CAAQS(B	
		Standard(C)	Attainment Status(D)	Standard(C)	Attainment Status(D)
Carbon Monoxide	8-hour	9 ppm	A	9 ppm	A
	1-hour	35 ppm	A	20 ppm	A
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual Average	0.053 ppm	A	0.030 ppm	A
	24-hour	--	--	0.18 ppm	A
PM10	24-hour	150 µg/m^3	--	50 µg/m^3	N
	Annual Average	--	--	20 µg/m^3	N
PM2.5	Annual Average	12.0 µg/m^3	--	12 µg/m^3	--
	24-hour	35 µg/m^3	--	--	--
Ozone	8-hour (2008)	0.075 ppm	N	0.07 ppm	N
	8-hour (1997)	0.08 ppm	N		--
	1-hour	0.12 ppm	N	0.09 ppm	N
Sulfur Dioxide	Annual Average	0.03 ppm	A	--	--
	24-hour	0.14 ppm	A	0.04 ppm	A
	1-hour	--	--	0.25 ppm	A

Source: YSAQMD 2016, modified by MIG.

(A) Standards shown are the primary NAAQS designed to protect public health.

(B) Table does not list CAAQS for lead, sulfates, visibility reducing particles, hydrogen sulfide, and vinyl chloride. California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide (1 and 24-hour), nitrogen dioxide, suspended PM10 and PM2.5 are values that are not to be exceeded.

(C) Standards shown in terms parts per million (ppm), and micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m^3.

(D) A= Attainment, N= Nonattainment, U=Unclassifiable

6.1.4 Air Quality Sensitive Receptors

Some people are more affected by air pollution than others. The YSAQMD defines sensitive receptors as residential subdivisions, schools, or hospitals. In general, the sensitive air quality receptors near the Yolo Branch Library include:

- Existing residences near the Yolo Branch Library site
- Cache Creek High School, located approximately 400 feet south the Yolo Branch Library

6.2 REGULATORY SETTING

6.2.1 Federal and State Clean Air Acts

The federal Clean Air Act, as amended, provides the overarching basis for both federal and state air pollution prevention, control, and regulation. The Act establishes the U.S. EPA's responsibilities for protecting and improving the nation's air quality. The U.S. EPA oversees federal programs for setting air quality standards and designating attainment status, permitting new and modified stationary sources of pollutants, controlling emissions of hazardous air pollutants, and reducing emissions from motor vehicles and other mobile sources. The U.S. EPA also requires that each state prepare and submit an SIP that consists of background information, rules, technical documentation, and agreements that an individual state will use to attain compliance with the NAAQS within federally-imposed deadlines. State and local agencies implement the plans and rules associated with the SIP, but the rules are also federally enforceable.

In addition to being subject to federal requirements, air quality in California is also governed by more stringent regulations under the California Clean Air Act. In California, both the federal and state Clean Air acts are administered by CARB. It sets all air quality standards including emission standards for vehicles, fuels, and consumer goods and monitors air quality and sets control measures for toxic air contaminants. CARB oversees the functions of local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts, which in turn administer air quality activities at the regional level.

6.2.2 CARB In-Use Off Road Diesel Equipment Program

CARB's In-Use Off-Road Diesel Equipment regulation is intended to reduce emissions of NOx and PM from off-road diesel vehicles, including construction equipment, operating within California. The regulation imposes limits on idling; requires reporting equipment and engine information and labeling all vehicles reported; restricts adding older vehicles to fleets; and requires fleets to reduce their emissions by retiring, replacing, or repowering older engines or installing exhaust retrofits for PM. The requirements and compliance dates of the off-road regulation vary by fleet size, and large fleets (fleets with more than 5,000 horsepower, or hp) must meet average targets or comply with Best Available Control Technology requirements beginning in 2014. CARB has off-road anti-idling regulations affecting self-propelled diesel-fueled vehicles 25 hp and up. The off-road anti-idling regulations limit idling on applicable equipment to no more than five minutes, unless exempted due to safety, operation, or maintenance requirements.

6.2.3 Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD)

The YSAQMD is the agency primarily responsible for maintaining air quality and regulating emissions of criteria and toxic air pollutants within the SVAB. The YSAQMD carries out this responsibility by preparing, adopting, and implementing plans, regulations, and rules that are designed to achieve attainment of state and national air quality standards. The YSAQMD currently has 11 regulations containing more than 100 rules that control and limit emissions from sources of pollutants. Table 6-3 summarizes the major YSAQMD rules and regulations that may apply to the proposed project.

Table 6-3 Potentially Applicable YSCAQMD Rules and Regulations

Regulation	Rule	Description
2	5-Prohibitions, Exceptions – Requirements	Limits air contaminates which cause injury, annoyance to the public, which endanger the comfort, health or safety of the public.
2	8-Open Burning, General	Prohibits a person from setting or permitting an open outdoor fire; exemptions include fire(s) which permission is given from a public officer and such fire is necessary in the opinion of such officer.
2	11-PM Concentration	Establishes a PM emissions standard to protect ambient air quality.
2	14-Architectural Coatings	Limits the quantity of VOC in architectural coatings sold or used within the District.
3	1-General Permit Requirements	Provides an orderly procedure for the review of new sources, modification or operation existing sources of air pollution through permits.
4	3-Asbestos Demolitions / Renovation	Establishes fees to cover cost of review, inspection, and monitoring related to District Rule 9.9 – Asbestos.
9	9-Asbestos	Limits the emission of asbestos to the atmosphere and requires appropriate work practice and disposal procedure.

Source: CARB, 2018

Sacramento Regional 2008 NAAQS Attainment Plan

The Sacramento Regional 2007 NAAQS Attainment Plan demonstrates how the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA), which includes Yolo County, will demonstrate attainment of the 2008 NAAQS O_3 standard. The plan documents how the region is meeting requirements under the Clean Air Act in demonstrating reasonable further progress and attainment of the 2008 NAAQS of 75 parts of ozone per billion. The YSAQMD adopted the plan in October 2017. In 2015, the U.S. EPA lowered the 2008 ozone standard from 75 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion. The YSAQMD has not begun planning efforts for this 2015 standard (YSAQMD, 2017).

YSAQMD Triennial Plan

The California Clean Air Act (CCAA) requires districts that do not meet the ozone standard to adopt an Air Quality Attainment Plan (Plan) and to submit progress reports to CARB every three years. The original District plan was adopted in 1992. The most recent triennial update covers the years 2012 -2014. The document summarizes emission trends over this time period, forecasts future emissions, and reviews efforts made by the District to improve air quality.

Ozone concentrations have been trending downward for Yolo and northeast Solano Counties since 2008, and the general pattern suggests that the worst years for air quality are becoming less severe while the best air quality years are becoming cleaner.

The CCAA requires an air quality strategy to achieve a 5% average annual ozone precursor emission reduction when implemented or, if that is not achievable, an expeditious schedule for adopting every feasible emission control measure under air district purview. The District has estimated a 1.6% per year precursor emission reduction through 2020. Since this is less than the required 5% annual emission reduction required by the CCAA, the District is obligated to adopt every feasible measure to reduce ozone precursors. The most recent triennial update outlines the control measures the District has committed to through 2020, these control measures focus on lowering VOC and NOx emissions through regulations on architectural coatings, boilers, generators and heaters, and graphic arts (YSAQMD, 2016a).

PM2.5 Implementation/Maintenance Plan

In order to show attainment of the 24-hour fine particulate standard, an area must demonstrate that it has met the standard during three consecutive years. The Sacramento region was able to show that the standard had been achieved during the 2010-2012 period. The YSAQMD and the other air districts of the region subsequently submitted a request to the U.S. EPA for a redesignation to attainment of the standard. The districts also developed and submitted a "clean data finding" and a maintenance plan to EPA. The clean data finding demonstrates that the standard has been met during a given three-year period, and the maintenance plan demonstrates how the standard will continue to be met in future years (YSAQMD, 2016b).

6.2.4 County of Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan

The County's General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element contains goals and policies related to air quality applicable to the proposed project:

- Goal CO-6: Improve air quality to reduce the health impacts caused by harmful emissions.
    - Policy CO-6.6: Encourage implementation of YSAQMD Best Management Practices, such as those listed below, to reduce emissions and control dust during construction activities:
        - Water all active construction areas at least twice daily.
        - Haul trucks shall maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
        - Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials.
        - Apply non-toxic binders (e.g., latex acrylic copolymer) to exposed areas after cut-and-fill operations and hydroseed area.

- Apply chemical soil stabilizers on inactive construction areas (disturbed lands within construction projects that are unused for at least four consecutive days).
- Plant tree windbreaks on the windward perimeter of construction projects if adjacent to open land.
- Plant vegetative ground cover in disturbed areas as soon as possible.
- Cover inactive storage piles.
- Sweep streets if visible soil material is carried out from the construction site.
- Treat accesses to a distance of 100 feet from the paved road with a 6 to 12-inch layer of wood chips or mulch.
- Treat accesses to a distance of 100 feet from the paved road with a 6-inch layer of gravel.

6.3 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Consistent with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, this EIR focuses on the potentially significant direct and indirect impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project, as described in Chapter 2. The YCL has determined, based on the characteristics of the proposed project and the environmental conditions described in Section 6.1, that:

- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not substantially conflict with or obstruct implementation of the YSAQMD Air Quality Attainment Plan or the goals and objectives of the Yolo County 2030 General Plan.

For these reasons, these issues are not discussed further in this EIR. The potentially significant impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project are described in Section 6.3.2 below.

6.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on CEQA Guidelines Appendix G and thresholds applicable to the project, the implementation of the proposed project would have a significant environmental impact related to aesthetics/visual resources if it would:

- Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan;
- Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation;
- Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

In July 2007, YSAQMD adopted project-level thresholds of significance for ROG, NOx, PM0, and CO for use in evaluating and assessing a project's potential air quality impacts (YSAQMD, 2007). These thresholds apply to both construction and operational impacts. These thresholds are

- ROG: 10 tons per year
- NO_X: 10 tons per year
- PM_{10}: 80 pounds per day
- CO: Violation of State ambient air quality standard

6.3.2 Potential Impacts from Project-Related Emissions of Air Pollutants

The implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would generate criteria air pollutant and toxic air contaminant emissions from fuel combustion in heavy-duty construction equipment, motor vehicle trips to and from the new library, and area sources such as landscaping equipment, use of cleaning products, etc. These emissions could conflict with an applicable YSAQMD air quality plan, cause or contribute to an existing or projected violation of an air quality standard, expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, and create objectionable odors.

Impact AIR-1: Implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would generate emissions of criteria air pollutants, toxic air contaminants, and odors.

Project construction activities such as building demolition, site preparation, and building construction would emit equipment exhaust and fugitive dust emissions. These activities would take place over an approximately six to eight month period. Potential construction activity emissions were modeled using CalEEMod, Version 2016.3.2 (see Appendix B). The resulting construction emissions are shown in Table 6-4.

Table 6-4 Potential Project Construction Emissions

Scenario	Pollutant Emissions		
	ROG (Tons per year)	**NOx (Tons per year)**	**PM10 (Pounds per day)**
New Library Building Project	0.1	0.7	10.61
YSAQMD Threshold	10	10	80
Potential Significant Impact?	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: MIG, see Appendix B for CalEEMod emissions estimates.

As shown in Table 6-4, potential construction emissions would be below all YSAQMD significance thresholds for construction emissions; however, fugitive dust emissions could be potentially significant. For all projects, the YSAQMD recommends implementation of best management practices to reduce construction fugitive dust emissions levels. Accordingly, the YCL would implement Mitigation Measure AIR-1A to reduce fugitive dust emissions from potential construction activities.

The potential Yolo Fire Protection District's controlled burn training exercise could result in criteria pollutant emissions, toxic air contaminants, and objectionable odors in the surrounding community. Depending on the fuel mixture and temperature, fires can result in the release of large amounts of PM and CO, as well as varying amounts of VOCs, hydrocarbons, metals, and other air pollutants; however, it is not possible to estimate the emissions from the potential controlled-burn training exercise without knowing the amount of wood mass and other combustible materials involved in the training exercise. The single-family residence at 14184 2nd Street is small (approximately 1,150 square feet) and the potential training exercise would be performed under controlled conditions. Nonetheless, this activity would generate smoke that could affect the surrounding community if meteorological conditions are poor, which is considered a potentially significant impact. Accordingly, the YCL would implement Mitigation

Measure AIR-1B to reduce the potential for smoke and odors from the controlled burn to adversely affect the Town of Yolo.

Once operational, the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not result in a substantial change in operations or a significant increase in vehicle trips that could lead to a significant emissions increase. The YSAQMD's CEQA Air Quality Guidelines contain screening criteria to provide lead agencies with a conservative indication of whether a proposed project could result in potentially significant air quality impacts. Consistent with the YSAQMD's guidance, if a project falls considerably below the screening size criteria, it may be safely assumed the project would result in a less than significant air quality impact and a detailed air quality assessment in not required for the project. Although the YSAQMD does not have a specific screening size for library land uses, the proposed new Yolo Branch Library building's size (3,800 square feet) is substantially below all screening sizes listed in the YSAQMD CEQA Guidelines and, therefore, would not conflict with the applicable ozone or PM air quality plan or cause or contribute to a violation of any air quality standard. Thus, long-term operational emissions associated with the project would be a less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measure AIR-1A: Reduce Fugitive Dust Emissions

To reduce potential fugitive dust that may be generated by the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project during building demolition, site preparation, and building construction activities, the Yolo County Library shall implement the following Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District-recommended best management practices for controlling fugitive dust:

1) Water all exposed surfaces (e.g., staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) two times per day during construction and adequately wet demolition surfaces to limit visible dust emissions.

2) Cover or maintain at least two feet of freeboard for all haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose materials off the project site.

3) Sweep streets if visible soil material is carried out from the construction site.

4) Apply non-toxic binders (e.g., latex acrylic copolymer) to exposed areas after cut-and-fill operations and hydroseed area.

5) Apply chemical soil stabilizers on inactive construction areas (disturbed lands within construction projects that are unused for at least four consecutive days).

6) Minimize idling time of diesel powered construction equipment to five minutes and post signs reminding workers of this idling restriction at access points and equipment staging areas during construction of the proposed project.

Mitigation Measure AIR-1B: Controlled Burn Notification and Coordination

To reduce potential adverse air quality and odor impacts associated with the Yolo Fire Protection District's potential controlled burn training exercise, the Yolo County Library shall:

1) Ensure the potential controlled burn occurs in compliance with Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) Rule 2-8, Open Burning, General.

2) Coordinate with the Yolo Fire Protection District and the YSAQMD to ensure the controlled burn occurs under meteorological conditions that aid dispersion of potential odors and smoke away from the community and towards uninhabited surroundings;

3) Coordinate with the Yolo Fire Protection District and YSAQMD to develop precautions and recommendations the neighboring community, especially nearby sensitive receptors, can undertake to protect themselves from potential nuisances resulting from smoke.

Mitigation Measure AIR-1A requires the YCL to implement measures to control and reduce fugitive dust to less than significant levels, and Mitigation Measure AIR-1B requires the YCL to ensure potential controlled-burn emissions occur in compliance with YSAQMD requirements and to coordinate with the YSAQMD to identify precautions the surrounding community can take to minimize smoke exposure. Thus, the implementation of these measures would render Impact AIR-1 a less than significant impact.

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CHAPTER 7 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This chapter describes the biological resources that occur or have the potential to occur at the proposed project area and summarizes the applicable regulations and policies that govern biological resources. This chapter also evaluates the project's potential adverse effects on these resources and identifies mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts. The evaluation of the project's potential effects on biological resources is based on a reconnaissance-level biological survey of the site conducted by a qualified biologist (in February 2018), and a review of existing available information such as the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Species List and National Wetlands Inventory, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants, and local planning documents.

7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project site is an approximately 0.65-acre site currently developed with the existing Yolo Branch Library Building (approximately 1,000 square feet), the existing temporary modular building (approximately 1,300 square feet), a single-family residence, ancillary residential structures (e.g., sheds), gravel parking areas, and landscaping. The proposed project area is located in the center of the unincorporated community of Yolo, surrounded by other developed properties on 2nd Street, Sacramento Street, and Washington Street. The community is generally surrounded by active agricultural operations. Cache Creek lies approximately 600 feet east of the proposed project area, and I-5 is approximately 1,400 feet south of the site.

7.1.1 Site Vegetation / Habitat

Vegetation at the proposed project area is limited to ornamental trees and shrubs and lawn grass. Species observed on-site include an olive tree (*Olea europaea*) southeast of the existing library building, fruit trees such as pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) and citrus (*Citrus* sp.), rose bushes (*Rosa* sp.), and other edible and ornamental species.

Vegetation in the surrounding area is also limited to fruit trees, ornamental trees and shrubs, and lawns. Agricultural fields with cultivated crops exist approximately 300 feet north of the project area.

The closest natural vegetation to the proposed project area is the riparian corridor along Cache Creek, located approximately 600 feet east of the project area. This vegetation includes primarily willows (*Salix* sp.) and valley oaks (*Quercus lobat*a). Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) is invading the riparian zone in some areas.

7.1.2 Site Wildlife

Birds observed in the vicinity of the proposed project include red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), California scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), and house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*). In addition, the remnants of two swallow nests were observed under the eaves of the existing Yolo Branch Library building. Ms. Sue Billing, the Yolo Branch Library Associate, stated that the swallow nests in the front of the building have been used annually for the last four years, typically from April through early September for multiple

clutches (Billing, 2018). The nests were unoccupied at the time of the February, 2018 site visit; however, the nests are presumed likely to be from a barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) or a cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) based on the nest type and location. Both species are native to the project area.

No reptiles or amphibians were observed during the February 2018 site visit, but species which may occur in the proposed project area could include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), northern alligator lizard (*Elgaria coerulea*), and California slender salamander (*Batrachoseps attenuatus*).

No mammal species were observed during the site visit, but species which may occur at the proposed project site include house cat (*Felis catus*), eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), non-native mice and rats, raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*).

7.1.3 Special-Status Species

Special-status species are those plants and animals that are legally protected or otherwise recognized as vulnerable to habitat loss or population decline by federal, state, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. For the purposes of this EIR, special-status species include species:

- Listed, proposed for listing, or a candidate for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA, 50 CFR §17.12);
- Listed or a candidate for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA, Fish and Game Code §2050 et seq.);
- Listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act (Fish and Game Code §1900 et seq.);
- Listed as a Fully Protected Species (Fish and Game Code §§3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515);
- Listed as a California Species of Special Concern (CSSC) by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); and
- Considered by California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and CDFW to be "rare, threatened, or endangered in California" (Ranks 1A, 1B, and 2).

MIG evaluated the potential for special-status species to occur in the vicinity of the proposed project by: 1) conducting a search of the CNDDB and CNPS Rare Plant Inventory for records of species occurring within the USGS Woodland Quadrangle (where the proposed project is located) and eight surrounding quads[2]; 2) Reviewing information contained in the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan; and 3) Reviewing information contained in the County's 2030 Countywide General Plan EIR.

Based on these sources and the reviewing biologist's knowledge of the habitat requirements for identified special-status species, there are 11 special-status plant species and 21 special-status animal species with the potential to occur in the general region of the proposed project (See Appendix B). Of these 32 species, none are known to be present in the proposed project area

[2] The CNDDB was queried for records of species occurring within five miles of the proposed project site.

(there are no CNDDB or CNPS records of any special-status species occurring on or adjacent to the Yolo Branch Library); however, two of the 32 species are considered to have a low potential to occur in the project area, as described below.

- **Loggerhead shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*), a CSSC, receives its name from its relatively large head in comparison to body size. Loggerhead shrikes have a black mask, gray head and back, and white chest. The loggerhead shrike is an unusual member of the order of Passerines because it is a top-level predator. Loggerhead shrikes possess a hooked bill, not unlike many raptor species, and capture and kill large prey by impaling them on a thorn or barbed wire fence. Prey items for loggerhead shrikes consist of large insects, small mammals and birds, amphibians, reptiles, carrion, and other invertebrates. This species has been detected within five miles of the project area; however, the proposed project area does not provide suitable nesting habitat for this species. Therefore, loggerhead shrike has a low potential to forage and breed in the project area.
- **Pallid Bat**, a CSSC, is nocturnal and hibernates in winter. It occupies day roosts in caves, crevices, mines, and occasionally in hollow trees and buildings. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Bats move deeper into cover as temperatures rise. Night roosts may be in more open sites, such as porches and open buildings. Few hibernation sites are known, but it probably uses rock crevices. Maternity colonies form in early April, and may have a dozen to 100 individuals. Males may roost separately or in the nursery colony. Pallid bats mate from late October to February. Fertilization is delayed and gestation is 53-71 days. The young can be born from April to July, but most are born in May and June. The average litter is two, but females reproducing for the first time usually have one young. Pallid bats eat a wide variety of insects and arachnids, including beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, cicadas, moths, spiders, scorpions, solpugids, and Jerusalem crickets (CDFG 1999). Pallid bat is considered to have a low potential to occur in the project area based on the presence of trees and buildings that could be used for roosting, and nearby fields and riparian habitat which could provide foraging habitat. In addition; bat roosts, especially maternity roosts, are typically near a permanent source of water, such as Cache Creek. There have also been no recent occurrences recorded by the CNDDB in the project region and there is a high degree of human disturbance at the site. Nonetheless, the potential for the bat to occur is considered low.

Please refer to Appendix B for tables of the special-status plant and wildlife species that occur in the general region of the project, along with their protection status, geographic distribution, habitat and basis for determining which species had the potential to occur at the project site.

7.2 REGULATORY SETTING

7.2.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) establishes a broad public and federal interest in identifying, protecting, and providing for the recovery of threatened or endangered species. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce are designated in FESA as responsible for identifying endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat, carrying out programs for the conservation of these species, and rendering opinions regarding the impact of proposed federal actions on listed species. The USFWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) are charged with implementing and enforcing FESA. USFWS has authority over terrestrial and continental

aquatic species, and NOAA Fisheries has authority over species that spend all or part of their life cycle at sea, such as salmonids.

Section 9 of FESA prohibits the unlawful "take" of any listed fish or wildlife species. Take, as defined by FESA, means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such action." The USFWS's regulations define harm to mean "an act which actually kills or injures wildlife." Such an act may include "significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering" (50 CFR § 17.3). Take can be permitted under FESA under Sections 7 and 10. Section 7 provides a process for take permits for federal projects or projects subject to a federal permit, and Section 10 provides a process for incidental take permits for projects without a federal nexus. FESA does not extend the take prohibition to federally listed plants on non-federal land, other than prohibiting the removal, damage, or destruction of such species in violation of state law.

7.2.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), it is unlawful to "pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill; attempt to take, capture or kill; possess, offer to or sell, barter, purchase, deliver or cause to be shipped, exported, imported, transported, carried or received any migratory bird, part, nest, egg or product, manufactured or not." Under the MBTA it is thus illegal to disturb a nest of a migratory species that is in active use, since this could result in killing a bird or destroying an egg. The USFWS oversees implementation of the MBTA.

7.2.3 California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA), administered by CDFW, protects wildlife and plants listed as "threatened" or "endangered" by the California Fish and Game Commission, as well as species identified as candidates for listing. CESA restricts all persons from taking listed species except under certain circumstances. The state definition of take is similar to the federal definition, except that CESA does not prohibit indirect harm to listed species by way of habitat modification or harassment. Under CESA, an action must have a direct, demonstrable detrimental effect on individuals of the species.

CDFW maintains lists of animal species of special concern (CSSC) that serve as "watch list" species. A CSSC is not subject to the take prohibitions of CESA. The CSSC are species that are declining at a rate that could result in listing under the FESA or CESA and/or have historically occurred in low numbers, and known threats to their persistence currently exist. This designation is intended to result in special consideration for these animals and is intended to focus attention on the species to help avert the need for costly listing under federal and state endangered species laws. This designation is also intended to stimulate collection of additional information on the biology, distribution, and status of poorly known at-risk species, and focus research and management attention on them.

7.2.4 California Fish and Game Code

The California Fish and Game Code protects a variety of species, separate from the protection afforded under CESA.

The following specific statutes afford some limits on take of named bird species: Section 3503 (nests or eggs), 3503.5 (raptors and their nests and eggs), 3505 (egrets, osprey, and other specified birds), and 3508 (game birds). Section 3503 simply states, "it is unlawful to take,

possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto." The exceptions generally apply to species that are causing economic hardship to an industry. Section 3503.5 states that it is "unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the order Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted." Section 3505 prohibits taking, selling, or purchasing egrets, osprey, and other named species or any part of such birds.

The California Fish and Game Code sets forth that "Fully Protected Species" may not be taken or possessed except for scientific research. Four sections of the Fish and Game Code list 37 fully protected species: 3511 (fully protected birds), 4700 (fully protected mammals), 4800 et seq. (mountain lions), 5050 (fully protected reptiles and amphibians), and 5515 (fully protected fish).

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 4150, "[a]ll mammals occurring naturally in California which are not game mammals, fully protected mammals, or fur-bearing mammals, are nongame mammals. Nongame mammals or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed except as provided in this code or in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission." This provision could apply to bats which could be found in the project area.

7.2.5 California Native Plant Protection Act

The California Native Plant Protection Act (CNPPA) of 1977 preserves, protects, and enhances endangered and rare plants in California by specifically prohibiting the importation, take, possession, or sale of any native plant designated by the California Fish and Game Commission as rare or endangered, except under specific circumstances identified in the CNPPA. Various activities are exempt from the CNPPA, although take as a result of these activities may require other authorization from CDFW. Section 1911 of the CNPPA dictates that all state departments and agencies shall utilize their authority in furtherance of the purposes of the CNPPA by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered or rare native plants. Notwithstanding that provision, CNPPA Section 1913 directs that the performance by a public agency of its obligation to provide service to the public shall not be restricted because of the presence of rare or endangered plants.

7.2.6 California Native Plant Society Inventory

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has prepared and regularly updated an "Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California." In general, the CDFW qualifies plant species on List 1B (Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere) or List 2 (Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere) of the CNPS Inventory for legal protection under CEQA. Species on CNPS List 3 (Plants About Which We Need More Information--A Review List) or List 4 (Plants of Limited Distribution--A Watch List) may, but generally do not, qualify for protection under CEQA.

7.2.7 Yolo County General Plan

The Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element contains goals and policies to protect biological resources. Most of the policies relate to the protection of special-status species, sensitive habitats, and wildlife corridors not present on or near the proposed project site and thus are not applicable to the project; however, the following General Plan goals and policies are relevant to the biological resources present at the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building site:

Goal CO-2: *Biological Resources*. Protect and enhance biological resources through the conservation, maintenance, and restoration of key habitat areas and corresponding connections that represent the diverse geography, topography, biological communities, and ecological integrity of the landscape.

Policy CO-2.38: Avoid adverse impacts to wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites (e.g., nest sites, dens, spawning areas, breeding ponds). Preserve the functional value of movement corridors to ensure that essential habitat areas do not become isolated from one another due to the placement of either temporary or permanent barriers within the corridors. Encourage avoidance of nursery sites (e.g., nest sites, dens, spawning areas, breeding ponds) during periods when the sites are actively used and that nursery sites which are used repeatedly over time are preserved to the greatest feasible extent or fully mitigated if they cannot be avoided.

7.2.8 Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

The Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (Yolo HCP/NCCP) is a comprehensive, county-wide plan to provide for the conservation of 12 sensitive species and the natural communities and agricultural land on which they depend, as well as a streamlined permitting process to address the effects of a range of future anticipated activities (i.e., "covered activities") on these 12 species. The Yolo HCP/NCCP will improve habitat conservation efforts in Yolo County; encourage sustainable economic activity; and maintain and enhance agricultural production. The Yolo HCP/NCCP is fully approved by all participating local agencies (the County and each of the four cities), and will take effect upon the issuance of permits and approvals by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

7.3 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Consistent with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, including Appendix G to the CEQA Guidelines, this EIR focuses on the potentially significant direct and indirect impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project, as described in Chapter 2. The YCL has determined, based on the characteristics of the proposed project and the environmental conditions described in Section 7.1, that:

- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not 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 CDFW or USFWS because the project area and surrounding area do not contain suitable habitat for such species, and such species have not been previously recorded on or adjacent to the project area.
- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not have the potential to result in a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community because the project area does not contain any riparian habitat and is not located in the vicinity of any sensitive natural community identified in any local, regional, or other plan, policy, or regulation. The closest sensitive habitat is the riparian zone along Cache Creek, approximately 600 feet east of the proposed project area. The construction and operation of the proposed project would not impact Cache Creek or

associated riparian habitat due to the distance from the creek and nature of the proposed project (i.e., redevelopment of existing developed parcels).

- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not have the potential to result in a substantial adverse effect on any federally protected wetland defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act because the because the proposed project area does not contain any such wetlands or jurisdictional water features and none are adjacent to the site.
- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not have the potential to substantially interfere with the movement of native fish or wildlife species or established wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites because the project area is already developed with buildings, parking areas, and landscaping.
- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The project would not impact special-status species, sensitive habitats, wildlife corridors, or other sensitive biological resources. Yolo County does not have a heritage tree ordinance or any other tree protection ordinance.
- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. The proposed project is a covered activity under the Yolo HCP/NCCP; however, no impacts to covered species or their habitat are anticipated to occur since the proposed project involves redevelopment of existing, developed lands (Yolo Habitat Conservancy, 2017).

For the reasons, these issues are not discussed further in this EIR. The potentially significant impacts that could result from the implementation of the proposed project are described below.

7.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on CEQA Guidelines Appendix G and thresholds applicable to the project, the implementation of the proposed project would have a significant environmental impact related to biological resources if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any nesting birds protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code or roosting bats protected by the California Fish and Game Code.

7.3.2 Potential Impacts to Nesting Birds and Roosting Bats

The implementation of the proposed project would require tree removal, grading and other ground disturbance, and demolition and construction of buildings that could temporarily impact native nesting birds or roosting bats. Project-related tree removal could also result in the permanent loss of habitat for nesting birds, roosting bats, and other wildlife.

Impact BIO-1: The proposed project could cause adverse impacts to nesting birds and roosting bats.

The vegetation, trees, and structures on the project site provide potential nesting habitat for birds protected by state and federal law. In addition, tree cavities, leaves of large trees, tree bark,

and/or any structures near the project area (including the existing Yolo Branch Library building itself) could provide nursery and nocturnal roosting habitat for bat species.

Nesting birds and roosting bats could be temporarily and permanently impacted by the project. Short-term impacts could include the loss of bird nests and bat roosts from the removal of on-site trees, woody vegetation, and structures during project construction. The exact number of trees to be removed would be minor and dependent on the final design of the proposed project; however, as described in Section 2.3.1, the conceptual design for the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project includes landscaping with native plants and trees as well as ornamental shrubs and plantings that would replace trees and vegetation lost as a result of the project. Short-term impacts to nesting birds or roosting bats could also include the loss of reproductive success or nesting failure or roost abandonment as a result of disturbance from nearby demolition and construction activities; however, the project area is currently developed and occupied by institutional (e.g.,. library and adjacent fire district services) and residential uses. Thus, there is already a high degree of human disturbance at the site and nesting birds and roosting bats in the area are likely habituated to some degree of disturbance. Permanent impacts to nesting birds, roosting bats and other wildlife would include the loss of habitat due to the removal of trees and shrubs.

All native birds and their nests are protected under the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. Similarly, roosting bats are protected by California Fish and Game Code Section 4150. Thus, the potential impacts to nesting birds and roosting bats that could occur with implementation of the proposed project is considered a potentially significant impact.

To reduce the potential for implementation of the project to impact nesting birds and roosting bats, the YCL shall implement Mitigation Measures BIO-1A, and BIO-1B below.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1A: Avoid and Minimize Impacts on Nesting Birds

To avoid impacts to nesting birds and the potential violation of state and federal laws pertaining to birds, the Yolo County Library (YCL) shall implement the following measures:

1) Schedule construction-related activities (including but not limited to mobilization and staging, clearing, grubbing, vegetation removal, fence installation, demolition, and grading) to occur outside the avian nesting season (that is, prior to February 1 or after August 31) as much as feasible given scheduling, budget, and other logistical concerns (e.g., rainy season concerns).

2) If construction-related activities are scheduled to occur within the avian nesting season (the nesting season is defined as the period of time from February 1 to August 31), a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey no more than five day days before the start of any equipment mobilization and/or site disturbance.

    a. This pre-construction nesting bird survey shall evaluate all suitable habitat within 50 feet (for passerines) and 250 feet (for raptors) of the project site boundary for the presence of active nests. Active nesting shall be considered present if a bird is sitting in a nest, a nest has eggs or chicks in it, or adults are observed carrying food to the nest.

b. If the start of construction-related activities is delayed by more than five days from the date of the survey, an additional pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be performed.

3) If the pre-construction nesting bird survey conducted under part 2) above confirms the presence of active nest, the location of all such nests shall be added to project site plan and grading plan, or otherwise depicted on a map, along with the following buffers zones:

   a. 50 feet for active passerine nests

   b. 250 feet for active raptor nests

   c. A different buffer as determined by a qualified biologist in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

   No mobilization of heavy equipment or site disturbance (including but not limited to equipment staging, fence installation, clearing, grubbing, vegetation removal, demolition, or grading), shall take place within the identified buffer zones until the chicks have fledged. A qualified biologist shall monitor construction activities to ensure compliance with buffer zones and the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and relevant California Fish and Game Code requirements.

4) If the pre-construction nesting bird survey conducted under Part 2) above confirms the absence of active nests, no further mitigation shall apply provided construction-related activities start within five days of the completion of the pre-construction survey (see Part 2b above).

5) If the Yolo HCP/NCCP is approved and in effect prior to project approval, the YCL shall conform to its requirements regarding pre-construction surveys and other avoidance and minimization measures that are applicable to any covered bird species that may be present at or near the site. To the extent the Yolo HCP/NCCP contains survey or other requirements that are stricter than those set forth above, its requirements shall govern. The YCL shall adhere to the requirements of the Yolo HCP/NCCP relating to species mitigation once it is in effect.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1B: Avoid and Minimize Impacts on Roosting Bats

To avoid impacts to roosting bats and the potential violation of state laws pertaining to bats, the Yolo County Library (YCL) shall implement the following measure:

1) A qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct an on-site pre-construction survey for maternity (the maternity season is defined as the period of time from March 1 to August 1) or colony bat roosts (year-round) no more than 7 days prior to the initial removal of any trees or structures on the project site. This pre-construction survey shall include an inspection for signs of bats (including sightings of live or dead bats, grease or urine stains around openings in trees or structures, or flies around such openings, and bat droppings), bat calls or squeaking, and bat-related odors. Trees with multiple hollows, crevices, forked branches, woodpecker holes or loose and flaking bark have the highest chance of occupation and shall be inspected the most carefully.

a. If the removal of trees or structures from the project site is delayed by more than seven days from the date of the survey, an additional pre-construction bat survey shall be performed.

b. If the pre-construction survey detects the presence of an occupied maternity or colony roost, the YCL and/or the qualified biologist shall contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding how to proceed with building demolition. Typically, an exclusionary buffer zone would be established around each occupied roost until bat activities have ceased. The size of the buffer would take into account the proximity of construction activities, noise level associated with construction activities, and species-specific needs, if known, such as sensitivity to disturbance.

c. If the pre-construction survey does not detect the presence of an occupied maternity or colony roost, nor further mitigation shall apply.

2) Due to restrictions established by the California Department of Public Health, direct contact by workers with any bat is not allowed. The YCL shall contact a qualified bat biologist immediately if a bat or bat roost is discovered or encountered during project construction.

With Mitigation Measures BIO-1A and BIO-1B, the YCL would avoid and minimize the potential impacts to nesting birds and roosting bats that could occur with implementation of the proposed project. Thus, with these measures, Impact BIO-1 would be rendered a less than significant impact.

7.4 CHAPTER REFERENCES

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CHAPTER 8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

8.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed new Yolo Branch Library building would be located at the intersection of Sacramento Street and 2nd Street, in the Town of Yolo, in unincorporated Yolo County. The approximately 0.65-acre project area shares a property line with the Yolo Fire Station and is located near a mix of low density residential and commercial properties. In addition, Cache Creek is located 400 feet south of the Yolo Branch Library property.

A hazardous waste site contains or formerly contained and has residual hazardous materials. Hazardous waste is defined as "a waste with a chemical composition or other properties that make it capable of causing illness, death, or some other harm to humans and other life forms when mismanaged or released into the environment" (DTSC, 2010). Hazardous materials may include, but are not limited to oils, pesticides, poisons, gasoline, acids, cleaning materials, and medical waste products. A search of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) EnviroStor database and the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Geotracker database revealed no active, inactive, or closed hazardous waste or material clean-up sites within 0.5 miles of the proposed project area (DTSC, 2018, SWRCB, 2018). The search also did not identify any permitted underground storage tanks (USTs) within 0.5 miles of the proposed project area; however, as described in more detail in Section 8.1.2, a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) prepared for the project identified two properties on other publicly available information databases.

Records searches were also completed for the SWRCB's Cease and Desist Order / Cease and Abatement Order list, CalEPA's list of Sites with Waste Constituents above Hazardous Waste Levels Outside of the Management Unit, and CalEPA's list of hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action pursuant to Section 25187.5 of the Health and Safety Code (CalEPA, 2018a and 2018b); the proposed site is not located on any of these lists.

8.1.1 Past Land Uses and Activities

Historical air photographs and other sources of information indicate the proposed project area and vicinity were developed beginning in the late 19th century. The residential property at 14184 2nd Street has supported a residence since 1878. The Yolo Branch Library property supported a small concrete brick or cement block structure during the late 1800s, which may be been associated with the adjacent residential property. The Yolo Branch Library building was constructed on the property in 1918. The adjacent Yolo Fire Station building was initially constructed in the 1970s (Brusca Associates, Inc., 2017a and 2017b).

8.1.2 Present Site Conditions / Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment Results

The YCL authorized the preparation of a Phase 1 ESA for both the Yolo Branch Library parcel and the adjacent residential property at 14184 2nd Street (Brusca Associates, Inc., 2017a and 2017b). The purpose of the assessments was to determine if the potential exists for significant site contamination from either on- or off-site sources for the purposes of identifying any recognized environmental conditions in connection with the library and adjacent residential property. According to the 2013 American Society for Testing and Materials' Standard Practice for Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments Process (E 1527-13), a recognized environmental condition is defined as, "the presence or likely presence of any hazardous substances or

petroleum products in, on, or at a property: 1) due to any release to the environment; 2) under conditions indicative of a release to the environment; or 3) under conditions that pose a material threat of a future release to the environment." The results of the Phase 1 ESAs are described below.

Yolo Branch Library Property

The Phase 1 ESA for the Yolo Branch Library property did not identify any recognized environmental conditions, nor the likelihood that past on-site activities have resulted in a significant release of hazardous substances or products to the environment. In addition, the Phase 1 ESA for the Yolo Branch Library property did not identify any evidence (agency information, direct observations) of nearby contamination of sufficient magnitude to be a threat to the library property. The site visit conducted for the Phase 1 ESA observed one pole mounted transformer on the southwest corner of the site. This type of equipment can contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are a group of man-made chemicals manufactured until the late 1970's known to cause skin conditions and other adverse effects depending on the amount and duration of exposure; however, the Phase 1 ESA did not observe any evidence of discharge or leakage from the transformer. The site visit also observed a few, properly stored containers of mild cleaners and disinfectants, and the property's septic system.

Residential Property at 14184 2nd Street

The Phase 1 ESA for the residential property at 14184 2nd Street did not identify any recognized environmental conditions, nor the likelihood that past on-site activities have resulted in a significant release of hazardous substances or products to the environment. In addition, the Phase 1 ESA for this residential property did not identify any evidence (agency information, direct observations) of nearby contamination of sufficient magnitude to be a threat to the library property. The site visit conducted for the Phase 1 ESA observed a few, small, properly stored containers of motor oil and fuel in a storage shed, as well as property's septic system.

Adjacent and Nearby Properties

Research and visual observations of adjoining and nearby properties conducted for the ESA's did not identify current conditions or activities likely to have resulted in a significant release of hazardous substances or petroleum products. The adjacent Yolo Fire Station does not and has not contained any aboveground or underground storage tank at any point in time.

Although the ESA(s) did not identify hazardous conditions, they did summarize two nearby sites listed on a state storage tank registration list. These are:

- Victor Bunch/Borachs Store: This former gasoline station site, located at 14194 1st Street in the Town of Yolo, is approximately 400 feet east of the proposed project area. Records indicate the property supported a 500-gallon gasoline underground storage tank and associated gasoline dispensers and piping. The UST was removed in 1999 and subsequent soil sampling revealed no contamination of concern. The Yolo County Environmental Health Department issued a "No Further Action" and closed this site investigation upon review of the soil sample results.
- Oliver Family Farms: This site at 13750 County Road 98 E is more than one mile from the proposed project area and is not considered an environmental concern to the proposed project area.

8.1.3 Asbestos- and Lead-Containing Building Materials

An evaluation for the presence of asbestos- and lead-containing building materials is not covered in a Phase 1 ESA. Due to the age of some of the buildings and other structures to be potentially removed (over 60 years), there could be potentially hazardous materials (such as asbestos containing materials or lead-based paint) present in the structures.

Prior to 1978, asbestos was used in the manufacturing of spray acoustic ceilings, duct wrap, paper backing of linoleum, wallboard, and thermal insulation on pipes. Friable asbestos is material that can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry. If a material containing friable asbestos is disturbed, it may release airborne fibers that can be inhaled and pose a health threat. If material containing friable asbestos is in good general condition and left undisturbed, it should not pose a health threat and does not need to be removed. Non-friable building products contain asbestos bound up with cement, vinyl, asphalt, or some other hardening binder. Examples of non-friable asbestos building products include cement siding, vinyl asbestos floor tiles, and asphalt roofing shingles. Non-friable asbestos materials are still manufactured. Non-friable asbestos may become friable if it is pulverized during renovation or demolition activity.

Many structures built before 1978 may have paint that contains lead. Prior to 1950, lead was a major ingredient in many interior and exterior house paints. In 1955, the paint industry adopted a voluntary one percent paint limit on lead concentration in interior paints. In 1978, the Consumer Product Safety Commission banned the manufacture of most paints containing more than 0.06 percent lead. Many buildings constructed after 1978 may also contain lead paint, especially if older surplus paint has been used on the building. Lead is a highly toxic heavy metal that adversely affects virtually every organ system in the body. Children six years old and younger are most susceptible to the effects of lead. Lead can enter the body by breathing lead dust, eating paint chips or soil that contains lead, and by putting hands or other objects covered with lead dust into the mouth. Lead dust can form when lead-based paint is scraped, sanded, or heated. The presence of lead paint alone does not in itself constitute a hazard. Lead-based paint that is in good condition is usually not a hazard, but when paint containing lead is in poor condition, it becomes hazardous.

8.1.4 Electric Lines, Pipelines, and Storage Tanks

There are no high voltage electric lines, high-pressure natural gas or water pipelines, or aboveground storage tanks or USTs in the vicinity of the proposed project area.

8.1.5 Railroads and Airports

The California Northern rail line is a freight line that runs along the I-5 corridor, approximately 1,000 feet southwest of the proposed project area. The Town of Yolo is not located within an airport land use planning area. The closest airport to the Town is the Watts-Woodland Airport, a private facility located approximately five miles to the southwest of the Town.

8.1.6 Other Risks

There are no wildlands at or adjacent to the proposed project area. Naturally-occurring asbestos is not present near the Town, and the Town is located in an area of low wild fire risk (Yolo County, 2009 and 2012).

8.2 PROJECT COMPONENTS

Hazardous materials encompass a wide range of substances, some of which are naturally-occurring and some of which are man-made. Examples include pesticides, herbicides, petroleum products, metals (e.g., lead, mercury, arsenic), asbestos, and chemical compounds used in manufacturing. Determining if such substances are present on or near project sites is important because, by definition, exposure to hazardous materials above regulatory thresholds can result in adverse health effects on humans, as well as harm to plant and wildlife ecology. Due to the fact that these substances have properties that are toxic to humans and/or the ecosystem, there are multiple regulatory programs in place that are designed to minimize the chance for unintended releases and/or exposures to occur. Table 8-1 provides a general overview and summary of hazardous material regulations; specific regulations related to the development of school projects are presented after this table.

Table 8-1 Regulation of Hazardous Materials

Agency	Responsibilities
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Oversees Superfund sites; evaluates remediation technologies; develops standards for hazmat disposal & cleanup of contamination; implements Clean Air & Clean Water Acts, including the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Pollutants for Asbestos.
U.S. Department of Transportation	Regulates and oversees the transportation of hazardous materials.
U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration	Implements federal regulations and develops protocol regarding the handling of hazmat for the protection of workers.
California DTSC	Authorized by EPA to implement & enforce various federal hazmat laws & regulations; implements state hazmat regulations; oversees remediation of contamination at various sites.
California Occupational Safety & Health Administration	Implements state regulations and develops protocols regarding the handling of hazardous materials for the protection of workers.
California Air Resources Board / Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District	Regulates emissions of toxic air contaminants & requires public dissemination information regarding the risk of such emissions.
State Water Resources Control Board / Regional Water Quality Control Board	Regulates the discharge of hazardous materials to surface and ground waters; oversees remediation of contamination at various sites.
California Department of Public Health	Regulates abatement of lead-based paint; requires accredited training for workers and supervisors; provides certification of workers and supervisors performing abatement; mandates lead abatement be performed in accordance with United States Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines.

Table 8-1 Regulation of Hazardous Materials	
Agency	**Responsibilities**
Yolo County Department of Environmental Health	Oversees & enforces state/local regulations pertaining to hazardous waste generators and risk management programs, including the California Accidental Release Program; The Department of Environmental Health is the County's Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).
Yolo Fire Protection District	Administers and enforces various hazardous materials, hazardous waste, and underground storage tank programs. Comprised of volunteer fire fighters.

8.2.1 Federal Toxic Substances Control Act and Related Federal Regulations

The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976 gives the EPA authority to require reporting, record-keeping, and testing requirements relating to chemical substances and/or mixtures. The TSCA addresses the importation, disposal, use, and production of specific chemicals, including PCBs, asbestos, and lead-based paints.

The TSCA bans the manufacture, processing, use, and distribution in commerce of PCBs. The TSCA gives EPA the authority to develop, implement, and enforce regulations concerning the use, manufacture, cleanup, and disposal of PCBs. Section 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations 761 (40 CFR 761) focuses predominately on the management, clean up, and disposal of PCB-containing materials and equipment that are still in use.

EPA regulates asbestos through the TSCA, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, the Asbestos Information Act, and the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP). NESHAP's are rules promulgated by U.S. EPA under the Clean Air Act (40 CFR Section 61.140, et. seq.). Section 61.145 of the asbestos NESHAP regulation, 40 CFR, Subpart M, requires building owners to inspect buildings for asbestos-containing material prior to renovation, remodeling or demolition and to provide written notification of demolition or renovation operations. EPA defines a material that contains more than 1 percent friable asbestos as a regulated asbestos-containing material (RACM).

EPA monitors compliance with lead-based paint program regulations under TSCA Subchapter IV and Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. EPA considers deteriorated, chipping or chalking paint at or above 0.5 percent to be a lead hazard. EPA's 2008 Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (as amended in 2010 and 2011) requires that firms performing renovation, repair, and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities, and pre-schools built before 1978 be certified by EPA or an authorized state agency, use certified renovators who are trained by EPA-approved training providers, and follow safe work practices. EPA also bans consumer products intended for use by children from having more than 0.009% lead paint when children or consumers will have direct access to the painted surface.

8.2.2 Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD)

Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) Regulation 2, Rule 2-8, Open Burning, General, limits emissions to the atmosphere from open burning. The rule is applicable to all open burning within the boundaries of the YSAQMD, but exempts fires set or for which

permission for such fire(s) is given in the performance of the official duty of any public officer, and such fire is necessary in the opinion of such officer, for the instruction of public or industrial employees in methods of fighting fire where a permit has been issued by the Air Pollution Control Officer. In the case of an intentional burn training fire, the responsible agency shall notify the YSAQMD a minimum of 14 days prior to the proposed burn, provide the YSAQMD with the location, times and dates of the proposed burn, and verify in writing to the YSAQMD that all asbestos containing or hazardous materials have been removed from the structure.

In addition, Regulation 9, Rule 9, Asbestos, is intended to control emissions of asbestos to the atmosphere during demolition activities. The rule requires the inspection for, and removal of, asbestos-containing building materials prior to demolition and to implement procedures for preventing emissions of asbestos for asbestos-containing building materials that cannot be removed (e.g., asbestos-containing concrete).

8.2.3 County of Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan

The County's General Plan Health and Safety Element contains goals and policies intended to ensure appropriate consideration of natural and human-made hazards and risks are factored into land use decisions. This element of the General Plan includes the following goals and policies related to hazards and hazardous materials that are relevant to the proposed project:

- Goal HS-4: Hazardous Materials. Protect the community and environment from hazardous materials and waste.
    - Policy HS-4.1: Minimize exposure to the harmful effects of hazardous materials and waste.
    - Action HS-A47: New development and redevelopment in areas previously used for agricultural, commercial, or industrial uses shall ensure that soils, groundwater, and buildings affected by hazardous material releases from prior land uses, as well as lead paint and/or asbestos potentially present in building materials, will not have the potential to affect the environment or health and safety of future property owners or users, and any affected areas shall be properly abated. A Phase I ESA to American Society for Testing and Materials standards shall be required where appropriate and a Phase II ESA may be required in certain circumstances based on the recommendations/results of the Phase I. Where the Phase I report has identified agricultural cultivation prior to the 1980s, a shallow soil investigation shall be performed at the property in accordance with DTSC guidance for sampling agricultural properties.

8.3 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Consistent with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, this EIR focuses on the potentially significant direct and indirect impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project, as described in Chapter 2. The YCL has determined, based on the characteristics of the proposed project and the environmental conditions described in Section 8.1, that:

- The New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not have the potential to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment from being located on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5

(the Cortese List) because the proposed project does not contain any historic or current leaking underground storage tank sites, does not contain any historic or current DTSC State Response, Federal Superfund, or Certified with Operation and Maintenance sites, and does not contain any other historic or current solid waste disposal, cease and desist or cleanup and abatement order, or corrective action sites (CalEPA, 2018a and 2018b).

- The New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not have the potential to expose people working at or visiting the new library building to airport-related safety hazards because the proposed project area is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public or private airport. The nearest airport to the proposed project area is the private Watts-Woodland Airport, approximately five miles southwest of the Yolo Branch Library property.
- The New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not have the potential to impair implementation of or physically interfere with an emergency response or evacuation plan because the project does not involve a change in land use from that planned for in the County's General Plan and the YCL would continue to coordinate with the Yolo Fire Protection District site access, fire hydrants, fire flows, etc.
- The New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not have the potential to expose people or structures to significant risk or loss of injury or death involving wildland fires because the project is located in developed area with low fire risk.

For these reasons, these issues are not discussed further in this EIR. The potentially significant impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project are described in Section 8.3.2 below.

8.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, the proposed project would have a significant environmental impact related to hazards and hazardous materials if it would:

- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- 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; or
- Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of a proposed school.

8.3.2 Potential Impacts to the Public and the Environment from Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The implementation of the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would involve demolition, site preparation, and building construction activities that could encounter unanticipated hazardous materials and asbestos- and/or lead-containing building materials. In addition, the Yolo Fire Protection District's potential controlled-burn training exercise could exacerbate the release of asbestos- and/or lead-containing building materials, as well as generate smoke that could affect the surrounding area. Once constructed, the new library building would not use, store, or otherwise

handle hazardous materials in quantities that could pose a risk to human health and/or the environment.

Impact HAZ-1: Construction of the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project could result in the release or potential release of hazardous materials that pose a risk to human health and/or the environment.

Potential demolition activities could encounter potentially hazardous building materials and emit hazardous air pollutants in the form of asbestos- or lead-laden dust. Given their potential age, the Yolo Branch Library building and adjacent single-family residence may contain lead paint or asbestos-containing building materials. The demolition of buildings that contain these materials could lead to the release of asbestos or lead in the form of dust, storm water runoff, or track-out. The potential controlled-burn training exercise that may be undertaken by the Yolo Fire Protection District would have the potential to exacerbate the release of potential hazardous materials and generate smoke that could pose a nuisance or inhalation hazard to the surrounding community, including Cache Creek High School.

In addition to demolition activities, ground-disturbing activities would have the potential to encounter unanticipated soil contamination. Although the discovery of unanticipated soil contamination is considered to be unlikely, the proposed project area has been developed for more than 100 years and unrecorded spills, discharges, or leaks of hazardous materials may have occurred in the past.

Finally, the use of heavy construction equipment has the potential to result in leaks of fuels, oils, and lubricants that could contaminate soil or storm water.

To reduce the potential for construction activities to result in the potential release of hazardous materials that may pose a risk to human health and/or the environment, the YCL would implement mitigation measures HAZ-1A, HAZ-1B, HAZ-1C, and HAZ-1D.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1A: Minimize and Avoid Impacts from Unanticipated Hazardous Materials

In the event unanticipated contamination or hazardous materials are discovered during project construction (e.g., gasoline odors, or oily soil or water), the Yolo County Library shall:

1) Stop all work immediately, contact the Department of Environmental Health, and take appropriate investigative and/or remedial action to adequately characterize the contamination and ensure the release or potential release of hazardous materials would not pose a significant threat to human health and/or the environment.
2) Construction may proceed if, after coordinating with the Department of Environmental Health, it is determined activities would not affect the release or potential release of a hazardous material.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1B: Minimize and Avoid Potential Impacts from Lead Paint and Asbestos-Containing Building Materials

Prior to the start of any building demolition activity, the Yolo County Library (YCL) shall:

1) Hire a qualified inspector(s) to survey the building for potential lead paint and asbestos containing materials.

a. If lead or asbestos is found, the YCL shall remove the materials from the building to the extent feasible and in accordance with all applicable regulations, such as Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) Regulation 9, Rule 9, Asbestos.
b. If it is not feasible to remove or strip materials out of the building (e.g, asbestos containing concrete), the YCL shall ensure emissions of lead and /or asbestos are captured and prevented from being released into the outside air by sufficiently wetting the material, providing HEPA exhaust, ventilation, collection of emissions, or other equivalent method.

2) Ensure lead and asbestos containing materials are properly disposed of and transported to an appropriate waste disposal facility
3) Submit a written plan or notification of intent to demolish the structures in the project area to the YSAQMD at least 10 working days prior to the start of demolition activities, in accordance with YSAQMD Regulation 9, Rule 9.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1C: Minimize and Avoid Potential Impacts Associated with the Potential Controlled-Burn Training Exercise

In the event the Yolo County Library (YCL) and the Yolo Fire Protection District agree to undertake a controlled-burn, the YCL shall:

1) Ensure the Yolo Fire Protection District complies with the requirements of Mitigation Measure AIR-1;
2) Coordinate with the Yolo Fire Protection District to undertake the training exercise at a time that minimizes impacts on the surrounding community by considering:
   a. Forecast meteorological conditions
   b. Whether Cache Creek High School is in session or planning an outdoor event on the day of the exercise
3) Provide written notification to properties within 500 feet of the project area that:
   a. Lists the date and time of the training exercise;
   b. Explains the protective measures being implemented to control and reduce potential risks from the training exercise, which may include, but are not limited to, the removal of asbestos- and/or lead-containing building materials in compliance with Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District requirements and Mitigation Measure HAZ-1B and the removal of all other potentially hazardous household substances (e.g., stored motor oil, etc.) prior to the training exercise.
   c. Provides the name and contact information of a YCL and/or Yolo Fire Protection District for people to call with questions regarding the training exercise.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1D: Minimize and Avoid Impacts from Equipment Leaks and Spills

The Yolo County Library shall minimize and avoid potential leaks and spills from heavy construction equipment used during demolition, site preparation, and building construction activities by:

1) Designating vehicle and equipment storage, staging, and clean-up locations.
2) Designating equipment fueling locations and ensuring appropriate spill containment measures and spill response equipment is on-site.

3) Inspecting equipment for leaks prior to and at the conclusion of daily construction activities. If leaks are observed, the leaking equipment shall be repaired immediately. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds discovered during inspections shall be contained and disposed of, as necessary, at lawfully permitted or authorized disposal sites.

Mitigation Measures HAZ-1A, HAZ-1B, HAZ-1C, and HAZ-1D would avoid or reduce the potential for construction activities to release quantities of hazardous materials that could pose a significant risk to human health and/or the environment. Thus, with these measures, Impact HAZ-1 would be rendered a less than significant impact.

Once constructed, the proposed new Yolo Branch Library building would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, nor through a reasonably foreseeable upset or accident condition. The new, small library may use or store minor amounts of common consumer products (cleaners, solvents, etc.) that would not present a significant hazard to the public or the environment, including the students of Cache Creek High School, and the library would not produce hazardous emissions or handle acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste.

8.4 CHAPTER REFERENCES

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CHAPTER 9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

9.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project is located in the unincorporated Town of Yolo, near the center of Yolo County, in the southern portion of the Sacramento Valley. The Sacramento Valley and the County have a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot, dry summers and temperate, wet winters. Yolo County receives a marine air influence from the Delta region to the west that moderates temperature extremes observed in other parts of California's Central Valley region. In the southern Sacramento Valley, typical daily temperatures during the summer range from a low of approximately 50 degrees Fahrenheit (ºF) to highs of approximately 95 ºF; during the winter typical daily temperatures range from a low of approximately 40 ºF to highs between 50 and 60 ºF. Most precipitation falls as rain, typically between November and April. In the southern Sacramento Valley, rainfall typically ranges from approximately 16 to 22 inches per year, with an annual average rainfall of 18 inches, although drought conditions have prevailed throughout most of the state in recent years.

9.1.1 Local Watershed

The Town of Yolo and the proposed project area are located entirely within the Sacramento River Basin Watershed, Sacramento Valley Subregion. This watershed subregion covers an area of approximately 5,500 square miles, stretching approximately 250 miles from Redding in the north to Sacramento in the south.

The proposed 0.65-acre project area is flat and void of any natural surface water features. The Sacramento River is located approximately seven miles east of the Town of Yolo. Cache Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River with its own defined drainage basin and watershed, borders the Town to the east and is approximately 600 feet from the Yolo Branch Library parcel at 37750 Sacramento Street; however, neither the Town nor the project area lie within the Cache Creek watershed.

The water quality in the portions of both the Sacramento River and Cache Creek that area located closest to the Town of Yolo are classified by the U.S. EPA as impaired pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act due to various sources of pollutants, including historic and present day agricultural and mining sources (SWRCB, 2018a; USGS, 2011).

9.1.2 Site Hydrology

The proposed 0.65-acre project area (27,878 square feet) is currently developed with the existing Yolo Branch Library building, the temporary library, a single-family residence, and associated residential structures (e.g., covered storage areas). With the exception of the new parking provided when the temporary modular building was installed, which is concrete, most parking and driveway areas at the site consist of a permeable gravel base. The project area also includes grass and other landscaped areas where infiltration can occur. The estimated amount of existing impervious surface area in the project area is approximately 5,900 square feet (or 21% of the project area).

Drainage and Storm Water Systems

The project area is generally flat with elevations ranging from approximately 74 to 76 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Both the Yolo Branch Library and adjacent residential parcels lack on-site stormwater containment systems. Surface water flows are generally directed to a storm drain inlet located at the street curb on 2nd Street, just east of the existing Yolo Branch Library parcel. This inlet connects to a 15-inch main that directs water across 2nd Street (to the east side), then south to the intersection at Sacramento Street. From there, the stormwater is directed east along Sacramento Street, and is presumed to ultimately discharge into Cache Creek, located approximately 600 feet east of the project area.

Ground Water

The project area is located within the Yolo subbasin of the Sacramento Valley groundwater basin (SWRCB 2004, 2006, 2018b). The Yolo subbasin is generally bounded by the County line to the north, the Sacramento River to the east, Putah Creek and the county line to the south, and the Capay Hills and Blue Ridge to the west. The subbasin's primary water bearing formations are comprised of sedimentary continental deposits of gravel, clay, silt, and sand of the Late Tertiary (Pliocene) to Quaternary (Holocene) age. The direction of groundwater flow in the subbasin is generally west to east. The depth to groundwater varies between 40 to 200 feet. In general, groundwater depth may fluctuate by approximately 5 feet between typical water years and dry water years, but overall groundwater levels have remained steady in the basin, with the exception of local pumping effects near Davis, Woodland, and Dunnigan (SWRCB 2004, 2006, 2018b).

9.1.3 Flood Hazards

Both the Yolo Branch Library and the adjacent residential parcels are within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-defined special flood hazard area (Zone A; FEMA, 2012). This zone as an area that has a one in one hundred (1%) chance of being flooded in any one year based on historical data (i.e., the 100-year flood). The FEMA flood hazard maps reflect recent climate assumptions, as well as assumptions regarding the likelihood of flooding due to levee failure. The FEMA flood hazard map for the project area does not identify the base flood elevation for the Town of Yolo. The Town is not located in a 200 year floodplain (Yolo County, 2009).

Levee Flood Protection

Yolo County has an estimated 215 miles of levees managed by various agencies. According to the County's Operational Area Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Town of Yolo is located in an area that is subject to flooding (with an inundation depth of less than three feet) in the event of a levee failure (Yolo County, 2012). In addition, the levees protecting the Town of Yolo from Cache Creek flooding only provide a 10-year level of flood protection, rather than the more typical 100-year federal standard, and that additional development within the floodplain could put more residents at risk of flooding hazards.

9.1.4 Dam Inundation Areas

The Town of Yolo is located within the potential area of inundation associated with Indian Valley Dam failure (Yolo County, 2012). Located on Cache Creek approximately 45 miles northwest of the Town, the estimated time from dam break to flooding at Interstate 5 at Yolo is 7.0 hours. Emergency response actions for the Town in the event of Indian Valley Dam failure include road closures and the evacuation of the Town to high ground.

9.2 REGULATORY SETTING

9.2.1 Federal Clean Water Act

The primary federal law regulating water quality is the 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA), administered by the U.S. EPA. The purpose of the CWA is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters through prevention and elimination of pollution.

The CWA applies to discharges of pollutants into Waters of the U.S. The CWA establishes a framework for regulating storm water discharges from municipal, industrial, and construction activities under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The CWA sections most relevant to this analysis are summarized below. In some instances, the U.S. EPA delegates its authority for implementing the CWA in California to the State Water Quality Control Board (SWRCB) and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB).

- Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states, territories, and authorized tribes to develop a list of water bodies that are considered to be "impaired" from a water quality standpoint. Water bodies that appear on this list do not meet water quality standards even after the minimum required levels of pollution control technologies have been implemented to reduce point sources of pollution. In turn, the law requires that respective jurisdictions (i.e., RWQCBs) establish priority rankings for surface water bodies on the list and develop action plans, referred to as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), to improve water quality. The California SWRCB publishes the list of water-quality limited segments in California. The Central Valley RWQCB has adopted a TMDL for mercury in Cache Creek.
- Section 401 of the CWA requires that an applicant for a federal license or permit that allows activities resulting in a discharge to waters of the U.S. obtain a state certification that the discharge complies with other provisions of the CWA. The SWRCB administers the certification Program within California through its nine RWQCBs.
- Section 402 of the CWA establishes the NPDES permit Program to regulate the discharge of pollutants from point sources. The CWA defines point sources of water pollutants as "any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance" that discharges or may discharge pollutants. These are sources from which wastewater or storm water is transmitted in some type of conveyance (pipe and channel) to a water body; they are classified as municipal or industrial. Municipal point sources consist primarily of domestic treated sewage and processed water, including municipal sewage treatment plant outfalls and storm water conveyance system outfalls. These outfalls contain harmful substances that are emitted directly into Waters of the U.S. Without a permit, the discharge of pollutants from point sources into Waters of the U.S. is prohibited. NPDES permits require regular water quality monitoring. Assessments must be completed to ensure compliance with the permit standards.

  In 1990, the U.S. EPA promulgated regulations for permitting storm water discharges from industrial sites (including construction sites that disturb five acres or more) and from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) serving a population of 100,000 people or more. These regulations, known as the Phase I regulations, require

operators of medium and large MS4s to obtain storm water permits. On December 8, 1999, U.S. EPA promulgated regulations, known as Phase II regulations, requiring permits for storm water discharges from Small MS4s and from construction sites disturbing between one and five acres of land.

Yolo County is a Small MS4 and covered under the Phase II regulations. The County was required to implement a Water Board approved Storm Water Management Plan. A requirement of the Phase II General Permit is that Small MS4s develop measures to ensure that post-development peak stormwater runoff discharge rates will not exceed the estimated pre-development discharge rate, resulting in increased potential for downstream erosion (also referred to as hydromodification).

9.2.2 Federal Safe Drinking Water Act

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), originally passed by Congress in 1974, protects public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply. The law was amended in 1986 and 1996 and requires many actions to protect drinking water and its sources, including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and ground water wells. SDWA authorizes the U.S. EPA to set national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally occurring and human-made contaminants that may be found in drinking water. The U.S. EPA, states, and water systems then work together to make sure that these standards are met. There are a number of threats to drinking water. Improperly disposed of chemicals, animal wastes, pesticides, human wastes, wastes injected deep underground, and naturally occurring substances can all contaminate drinking water. Likewise, drinking water that is not properly treated or disinfected, or which travels through an improperly maintained distribution system, may also pose a health risk. Originally, SDWA focused primarily on treatment as the means of providing safe drinking water at the tap. The 1996 amendments recognize source water protection, operator training, funding for water system improvements, and public information as important components of safe drinking water.

9.2.3 Federal Flood Insurance Program

FEMA creates Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that designate 100-year floodplain zones. The threshold for unacceptable flood risk has traditionally been associated with the “100-year flood”. Responsibility for flood protection is distributed among many agencies at various levels of government. At the federal level the three primary agencies are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, and the Bureau of Reclamation. At the state level the primary agencies are Department of Water Resources and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. At the local level in Yolo County and the region these agencies include: the County of Yolo and each of its four cities; the Yolo County Flood Control and Conservation District, 15 local reclamation districts, the Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District, the Madison Esparto Regional County Service Area (CSA), the Snowball Levee CSA, other CSAs, various Community Service Districts, and the Sacramento River West Side Levee District.

9.2.4 State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

Division 7 of the California Water Code is the basic water quality control law for California. This law is titled the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne Act). The Porter-Cologne Act establishes a regulatory Program to protect water quality and to protect beneficial uses of state waters. The implementation of the Porter-Cologne Act is principally characterized in each RWQCB's Basin Plan. These Basin Plans set forth the water quality criteria by which all waters of the state within the Region are measured. "Waters of the state" means any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state.

Yolo County lies within the jurisdiction boundary of the Central Valley RWQCB. The most recent Basin Plan is the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, dated July 2016. The Basin Plan lists the various water uses (including beneficial uses), describes the water quality which must be maintained to allow those uses, describes the Programs, projects, and other actions which are necessary to achieve the standards established in the plan, summarizes SWQCB and RWQCB plans and policies to protect water quality, and describes statewide surveillance and monitoring Programs as well as regional surveillance and monitoring Programs. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and Antidegradation Policy (see below) are the State's water quality standards.

9.2.5 State Water Resources Control Board

The SWRCB regulates numerous aspects of the state's water resources and their quality and use. The SWRCB policies and regulations most relevant to this analysis are summarized below.

Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

The SWRCB regulates the use of on-site wastewater treatment systems, commonly known as septic systems, which treat domestic wastewater and employ subsurface disposal. The SWRCB OWTS Policy establishes a statewide, risk-based, tiered approach for the regulation and management of OWTS installations and replacements in order to protect water quality and public health. The policy requires local agencies, like Yolo County, to adopt either Tier 1 standards (general, broad, and sometimes restrictive requirements) or develop a Tier 2 Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) that allows alternative methods from Tier 1 requirements in order to achieve the same purpose of protecting water quality and public health with local flexibility. As described in more detail in Section 9.2.9, Yolo County has adopted an OWTS Ordinance to fulfill and implement the requirements of a LAMP.

Antidegredation Policy

All wastewater discharges must comply with SWRCB's Antidegredation Policy (SWRCB Resolution 68-16) contained in the Central Valley RWQCB Basin Plan. The policy states: "Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State." This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measures by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives. The SWRCB's antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the NPDES and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes.

General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit, Order 2009-009-DWQ)

As discussed above, the U.S. EPA has delegated regulatory authority for the NPDES program to state and regional water boards. The SWRCB Division of Water Quality (DWQ) adopted NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities, Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ on September 2, 2009 and amendment No. 2010-0014-DWQ on November 16, 2010. This general permit applies to storm water discharges from construction activities associated with any project that would disturb more than one acre of land. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, and disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP must list best management practices (BMPs) the discharger will use to protect storm water runoff and the placement of those BMPs. Additionally, the SWPPP must contain a visual monitoring program; a chemical monitoring program for "non-visible" pollutants to be implemented if there is a failure of BMPs; and a sediment monitoring plan if the site discharges directly to a water body listed on the 303(d) list for sediment.

The proposed project area totals 0.65 acres in size and is not part of a larger development plan. Minor disturbances within street rights-of-way to accommodate utility connections would be completed but are not expected to result in greater than one acre of disturbance. Therefore, the proposed project would not be required to obtain coverage under the SWRCB Construction General Permit.

9.2.6 County of Yolo Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

The County's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan was adopted in 2007 and updated the 1992 water management plan. The plan addresses major topics such as water supply, water quality, flood management, enhancement of aquatic and riparian habitat, and improvement of the County's recreational opportunities.

9.2.7 County of Yolo Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan

The County's Operation Area Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is a revision of the County's 2005 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The updated plan identifies natural hazards and risks and identifies hazard mitigation strategies to reduce vulnerability and make the communities of Yolo County more disaster resistant and sustainable. The plan addresses dam failure, drought, earthquake, flood (including levee failure), severe weather, volcanic activity, and wildfire hazards.

9.2.8 County of Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan

The County's General Plan Health and Safety Element contains goals and policies intended to ensure appropriate consideration of natural and human-made hazards and risks are factored into land use decisions. This element of the General Plan includes the following goals and policies related to flooding that are relevant to the proposed project:

- Goal HS-2: Flood Hazards. Protect the public and reduce damage to property from flood hazards.

- Policy HS-2.1: Manage the development review process to protect people, structures, and personal property from unreasonable risk from flooding and flood hazards.
- Action HS-A5: Require a minimum of 100-year flood protection for new construction, and strive to achieve 200-year flood protection for unincorporated communities. Where such levels of protection are not provided, require new development to adhere to the requirements of State law and the County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.
- Action HS-A6: Continue to require habitable structures in the 100-year floodplain to be designed and constructed so that they do not significantly contribute to cumulative flooding that could pose a hazard to surrounding landowners and/or the public.
- Action HS-A9: Require new developments to detain the stormwater runoff created on-site by a 100-year storm event.
- Action HS-A10: Limit the construction of extensive impermeable surfaces and promote the use of permeable materials for surfaces such as driveways, and parking lots.
- Action HS-A11: Locate new structures outside of the floodplain, where feasible, and implement appropriate methods to minimize potential damage where new construction occurs within flood hazard zones.

The County's Conservation and Open Space Element contains goals and policies that provide for the balanced management of the County's multiple natural and cultural resources. This element of the General Plan includes the following goals and policies related to water resources that are relevant to the proposed project:

- Goal CO-5: Water Resources. Ensure an abundant, safe, and sustainable water supply to support the needs of existing and future generations.
  - Policy CO-5.15: Encourage new development and redevelopment to use reclaimed wastewater, where feasible, to augment water supplies and to conserve potable water for domestic purposes.
  - Policy CO-5.17: Require new development to be designed such that nitrates, lawn chemicals, oil, and other pollutants of concern do not impair groundwater quality.
  - Policy CO-5.19: Strive for "water-neutral" development with new water demand offset by efficiency improvements elsewhere in the system. Require all new developments to offset new water demands to the greatest extent feasible.
  - Policy CO-5.34: Require measures that reduce peak demand for water, and therefore allow for smaller pumps that use less energy overall.
  - Action CO-A89: Encourage roof catchment and the use of rainwater for non-potable uses to reduce the need for groundwater.
  - Action CO-A93: Require the implementation of Best Management Practices to minimize erosion, sedimentation, and water quality degradation resulting from new development and increases in impervious surfaces.

9.2.9 County of Yolo Code of Ordinances

The County Code of Ordinances establishes standards pertaining to hydrology and water quality. The standards that are potentially relevant to the proposed project are described below.

Title 6 of the Yolo County Code, Sanitation and Health, Chapter 8, Water Quality, establishes the following standards related to water resources:

- Article 12, Cache Creek, establishes that the County has a primary interest in the control and utilization of the waters of Cache Creek. Section 6-8.1202 prohibits any person from directly or indirectly depositing or discharging sewage, industrial waste, or effluent in or upon Cache Creek or any defined watercourse draining into Cache Creek.
- Article 19, Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems, protects groundwater and surface water quality and ensures compliance with SWRCB standards for OWTS. The code establishes minimum standards for the design, construction, installation, operation, maintenance, monitoring, replacement, enlargement, repair, abandonment, and modification of OWTS. The code also establishes certain systems are subject to approval by the Central Valley RWQCB; however, the proposed project does not meet any of these requirements (discharges more than 10,000 gallons per day, receives high strength wastewater, or significant amounts of recreational vehicle holding tank wastewater).
    - Pursuant to Section 6-19.605, a site evaluation for factors such as ground slope, soil texture, effective soil depth, percolation ate, horizontal setbacks, and sufficient replacement area is required to be prepared for review and approval by the County's Department of Environmental Health prior to installing an OWTS.

Title 8 of the Yolo County Code, Land Development and Zoning, Chapter 4, Flood Protection, is intended to promote public health, safety and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions.

- Section 8-4.401, Flood Hazard Development Permit, requires that a permit be obtained from the Floodplain Administrator before any construction or other development begins in a special flood hazard area.
- Section 8-4.501, Standards of Construction, establishes standards for construction in special flood hazard areas, including standards for anchoring construction, using flood damage-resistant materials, and raising the elevation of the lowest floor at least one foot above the base flood elevation, as determined by the community.
- Section 8-4.502, Standards for Utilities, requires OWTS to be located to avoid impairment or contamination during flooding.

Title 10 of the Yolo County Code, Environment, Chapter 9, Stormwater Management and Discharge Control, is intended to protect and enhance the water quality of watercourses and water bodies within the unincorporated areas of the County in a manner consistent with existing local, state, and federal requirements by reducing pollutants in stormwater discharges to the maximum extent practicable and by prohibiting non-stormwater discharges from entering the storm drain system.

- Section 10-9.303, Best Management Practices, requires any person performing construction activities for which a building permit has been issued to implement appropriate BMPs to prevent the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable from the site into the County storm drain system or natural surface waters. This section also requires new development projects to implement post-construction BMPs to control the volume, rate, and potential pollutant load of stormwater runoff.

9.2.10 County of Yolo Improvement Standards

Section 9 of the County of Yolo Improvement Standards contains storm drainage standards for new development. The section requires that development shall not result in flooding on- or off-site, or loss of environmental functions downstream, significantly increase flood elevations or flood conveyance capacity, increase velocity or result in impairment of hydrologic or hydraulic functions of streams and floodplains, or significantly degrade surface or groundwater quality. Developers are required to demonstrate new development does not result in an increase in peak release rate, time decrease associated with time of concentration, contribute to adjacent flood problems or significantly alter the direction of runoff. The County has developed a Drainage Manual (approved February 23, 2010) which specifies engineering criteria and methodology for drainage design for developments in unincorporated Yolo County and provides guidelines for stormwater quality treatment to supplement the Yolo County Improvement Standards.

Section 11 of the County of Yolo Improvement Standards contains standards to maintain stormwater quality and prevent erosion and sediment discharge during construction. Section 11-2 establishes good housekeeping practices for all construction sites, regardless of size, and projects involving paint, cement or concrete work, and roadwork or pavement construction. Section 11-4 establishes BMPs for construction activities including requirements for an erosion and sediment control plan. Section 11-5 establishes permanent post-construction stormwater pollution control design standards for new development or redevelopment projects including requirements to maintain pre-development peak stormwater discharge rates, conserve natural areas, minimize stormwater pollutants of concern, label storm drain inlets, trash storage area design, and structural or treatment control BMPs to treat stormwater runoff.

9.3 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Consistent with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, this EIR focuses on the potentially significant direct and indirect impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project, as described in Chapter 2. The YCL has determined, based on the characteristics of the proposed project and the environmental conditions described in Section 9.1, that:

- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not have the potential to substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there could be a net deficit in aquifer volume or lowering of the local groundwater table level because the project would not alter or modify existing ground water irrigation wells or substantially increase impervious surfaces in the project area as compared to existing conditions.
- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not involve the construction of housing units and therefore would have no potential to place housing

within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary, federal FIRM, or other flood hazard delineation map.

- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not have the potential to expose people or structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow because the project area is not located within a seiche or tsunami hazard zone and does not contain slopes where mudflows could occur (Yolo County, 2012).

For these reasons, these issues are not discussed further in this EIR. The potentially significant impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project are described below.

9.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on CEQA Guidelines Appendix G and thresholds applicable to the project, the implementation of the proposed project would have a significant environmental impact related to water resources if it would:

- Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements;
- Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner that would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation;
- 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;
- Otherwise substantially degrade water quality;
- Substantially alter the existing drainage patter of the site or area in a manner that would result in substantial on- or off-site flooding;
- Place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area which could impede or redirect flood flows.

9.3.2 Potential Temporary Construction Related Impacts

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would replace the existing, approximately 1,000 square-foot Yolo Branch Library building, approximately 1,350 square-foot temporary modular building, and approximately 1,150 square-foot single-family residence with a new, approximately 3,800 square-foot library building. The construction of the project would involve the demolition of existing structures and ground disturbing activities that would disturb site soils and increase the likelihood for sediment to be transported off-site by wind or surface water flows. In addition, the potential controlled burn of the existing residential structure at 11484 2nd Street would generate ash and other debris that could be carried off-site by wind or water erosion; the controlled burn may also increase the potential for chemicals or pollutants to enter the environment if the burn chemically or physically change chemicals or pollutants that have been built-up on or in existing surfaces, such as lead-based paints or asbestos-containing building materials. Finally, equipment use would require fuels and lubricating oils that could leak or be spilled during construction activities, impacting water quality.

Impact HYD-1: Construction activities associated with the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project could result in erosion, siltation, and other temporary hydrology and water quality impacts.

Construction of the proposed project would involve deconstruction/demolition of the existing Yolo Branch Library, a potential controlled burn (or demolition) of the adjacent residential

structures, earthwork activities including but not limited to clearing and grading, soil removal and recompaction (in accordance with geotechnical recommendations), and trenching, some of which may occur during the historical rainy season (approximately October through April). At times, soils may be stockpiled on site, as the YCL proposes to import a net of approximately 100 cubic yards of soil to the site to raise the lowest building floor elevation at least one-foot above the base flood elevation.

In general, these types of construction activities can cause or contribute to on-site erosion, leading to the entrainment of soil particles in wind or surface water flows and eventual off-site siltation in Cache Creek (the presumed discharge point for the Town's storm drain system). In addition, the Yolo Fire Protection District's potential controlled burn training exercise may generate ash, soot, and other debris that could be carried off-site by wind or water. Thus, erosion and siltation during construction activities may also result in chemical-laden soils migrating off-site.

Construction of the proposed project may also include the use of hazardous materials that are potentially harmful to water quality, such as vehicle fuels, fluids, paints, thinners, and other chemicals. Accidents or improper use of these materials could release contaminants to the environment. Additionally, oil and other petroleum products used to maintain and operate construction equipment could be accidentally released. However, as stated before, construction would be limited to a localized area on the project site; therefore any accidentally released hazardous materials would be unlikely to exit the site.

Although spills, leaks, and substantial erosion during the project's construction activities are unlikely given the small size of the project area (less than one acre) and proposed facilities, the discharge of sediment and pollutants to local storm water flows could be a potentially significant impact depending on nature and magnitude of the discharge. To reduce the potential for construction activities to result in polluted storm water flows, the YCL would implement Mitigation Measure HYD-1 below.

Mitigation Measure HYD-1: Avoid and Minimize Polluted Storm Water Runoff During Construction Activities

To reduce potential construction-related hydrology and water quality impacts, the Yolo County Library, in coordination with the Department of Public Works, shall prepare a Stormwater, Erosion, and Sediment Control Plan (Plan) to minimize the potential for polluted runoff during construction. The Plan shall be consistent with Section 11, Stormwater Quality, Erosion, and Sediment Control, of the County of Yolo Improvement Standards, and shall identify:

1) The proposed construction sequence for the project, including any potential controlled burn training exercises requested by the Yolo Fire Protection District;

2) A list of good housekeeping and/or Best Management Practices (BMPs) sufficient to control and minimize potential erosion, transport of sediment and debris off-site, and adverse effects of equipment leaks or spills to the maximum extent practicable (e.g., preserving vegetation, stabilizing disturbed surfaces with hydroseeding or soil binders, perimeter controls such as waddles or silt fencing, monitoring of stormwater flows, etc.);

3) Specific controls recommended by the Yolo Fire Protection District for ash, soot, and other debris or waste generated from any potential controlled-burn training exercise;

4) The entity responsible for implementing all stormwater, erosion, and sediment controls identified in the Plan.

Mitigation Measure HYD-1 requires the YCL to prepare plans that would identify and require implementation of control measures that reduce and avoid erosion and risks from polluted storm water runoff during construction activities. Thus, with this measure, Impact HYD-1 would be rendered a less than significant impact.

9.3.3 Potential Operational Water Quality Impacts

The operation of the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would be unlikely to generate storm water flows that could exceed existing or planned storm water system capacities because the proposed project would not substantially change the existing site's hydrologic conditions; however, the proposed project could cause an increase in potential sources of water quality contaminants such as motor oil or other parking-lot-related contaminants.

Impact HYD-2: Operation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project could cause or contribute to potential sources of polluted runoff.

As described in Section 9.1.2, the Yolo Branch Library and adjacent residential parcel consist of approximately 5,900 square feet (21%) impervious surfaces. In addition, to the proposed new library building (approximately 3,800 square feet), the conceptual site plan and project design also includes driveway and parking areas (approximately 5,900 square feet), concrete walkways (approximately 2,800 square feet), and a covered activity area (800 square feet), for a total of approximately 13,300 square feet (approximately 48.5% of the site area). Thus, the proposed project could result in a net increase of approximately 7,400 square feet of impervious surface area. This estimate presumes all hardscapes (driveways, parking areas, sidewalks, etc.) would be impermeable, and also does not account for any temporary impervious surfaces that may be associated with the residential property at 14184 2nd Street, such as cars parked on the gravel driveway.

A storm water control plan has not been prepared for the conceptual project design; however, the YCL anticipates that potential storm water flows would be directed from rooftops and impervious surface areas to pervious surface areas such as lawns, other low-impact, landscaped areas, or to overflow inlets that connect to storm drains on 2nd Street and Sacramento Street. The conceptual site design also includes planter boxes and an approximately 1,020 square-foot bioswale in the northwest corner of the site that could hold and treat storm water runoff from the site. This potential bioswale is equal to eight percent of the conceptual site design's total impervious surface area (13,300 square feet).

In addition to a potential small increase in storm water flows, the conceptual site design and new, larger library building may result in more on-site vehicle parking, which could lead to oil drips and other leaks, and/or release of debris and garbage from the proposed waste/recycling enclosure if waste and recycling bins are not properly stored and sealed.

Although unlikely to occur as a result of implementation of the project, excessive and/or polluted storm water runoff or other discharges would be considered a potentially significant impact. To reduce the potential for the project to result in excess and polluted storm water flows, the YCL would implement Mitigation Measure HYD-2 below.

Mitigation Measure HYD-2: Ensure Final Project Design Avoids and Minimizes Polluted Storm Water Runoff

To reduce potential hydrology and water quality impacts from project operation, the Yolo County Library shall prepare a Storm Water Control Plan that, at a minimum:

1) Identifies the total impervious / pervious surface areas associated with the final site design and layout for the proposed project;
2) Ensures the final project design includes storm water treatment areas (e.g., bioswales, planter boxes, etc.) that are appropriately sized for the project. The treatment areas shall treat runoff by filtering it through a series of strata such as engineered permeable soil, pea gravel, and/or drain rock before directing it out to the public storm drain system via perforated sub drain piping. The treatment areas shall effectively remove trash and sediment from runoff water before it is conveyed to the storm drain system, and shall reduce runoff volumes by impounding storm water and encouraging infiltration, evaporation and evapotranspiration from vegetation
3) Identifies the Low Impact Development (LID) design details incorporated into the project. Specific LID design may include, but is not limited to: using pervious pavements and green roofs, dispersing runoff to landscaped areas, and/or routing runoff to rain gardens, cisterns, swales, and other small-scale facilities distributed throughout the site.
4) Ensures that all exterior garbage bins and receptacles are appropriately contained and kept closed when not in immediate use.

Mitigation Measure HYD-2 requires the YCL to avoid and minimize the potential for pollutants to enter site storm water flows in accordance with applicable regulations. Thus, with this measure, Impact HYD-2 would be rendered a less than significant impact.

9.3.4 Potential Flooding Impacts

Operation of the proposed project is not anticipated to cause flooding on- or off-site since the conceptual project design would not substantially change the existing site conditions (a net increase of approximately 9,500 square feet of impervious surfaces at most) and includes planters and an area for a potential bioswale. The project, however, would place a new structure within a 100-year flood plain, as well as an area identified in the County's Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan that is prone to flooding in the event of levee failure.

Impact HYD-3: The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building would be located within a special flood hazard area (Zone A) delineated on the applicable Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map.

The proposed project would place a library building within a FEMA-defined special flood hazard area (Zone A). A site-specific floodplain analysis has not been conducted for the project, and the base flood elevation is currently not known. County code (Section 8-4.501) requires that lowest floor elevation for non-residential structures be located one-foot above the base flood elevation and utilities be constructed to prevent infiltration of flood waters into utility systems and discharges from utility systems to flood waters (including septic systems).

The proposed project would not exacerbate the existing risks from flooding associated with storm events or levee failure; however, the placement of structures within a flood area is considered a potentially significant impact. To reduce the potential for the project to result in

unnecessary and excess risk from flooding, the YCL shall **i**mplement Mitigation Measure HYD-3 below.

> ***Mitigation Measure HYD-3: Raise Final Building Locations above the Base Flood Elevation***
>
> To reduce potential flooding impacts associated with the Federal Emergency Management Association Flood Rate Insurance Map special flood hazard area Zone A, the Yolo County Library shall, prior to the final project design, verify the base flood elevation for the project area and raise the lowest finished floor elevation of the new library building at least one foot above the base flood elevation.

Mitigation Measure HYD-3 would require the YCL to verify the base flood elevation at the project area so that new Yolo Branch Library Building can be raised above flood levels in accordance with applicable regulations. Thus, with this measure, Impact HYD-3 would be rendered a less than significant impact.

9.4 CHAPTER REFERENCES

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United States Geological Survey (USGS) 2011. "Cache Creek". *California Water Science Center.* USGS, Mercury, CAWSC Mercury Studies, Cache Creek Watershed. January 14, 2011. Web. June 1, 2018. < https://ca.water.usgs.gov/mercury/cacheCreek.html>

CHAPTER 10 NOISE AND VIBRATION

10.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ACOUSTICS AND VIBRATION

This section summarizes important background information regarding noise and vibration and provides context for evaluating the proposed project's noise effects.

10.1.1 Noise Definition; Sound Measurement, Characterization, and Propagation

Noise is defined as unwanted sound. Airborne sound is the rapid fluctuation of air pressure above and below atmospheric pressure. The frequency (pitch), amplitude (intensity or loudness), and duration of a sound all contribute to the effect on a listener, or receptor, and whether or not the receptor perceives the sound as "noisy" or annoying.

Sound levels are usually measured and expressed in decibels (dB). A dB is a unit of measurement that indicates the relative amplitude (i.e., intensity or loudness) of a sound, with 0 dB corresponding roughly to the threshold of hearing for the healthy, unimpaired human ear. Sound levels in decibels are calculated on a logarithmic basis. An increase of 10 dBs represents a ten-fold increase in acoustic energy, while 20 dBs is 100 times more intense, 30 dBs is 1,000 times more intense, etc. In general, there is a relationship between the subjective noisiness or loudness of a sound and its intensity, with each 10 dB increase in sound level perceived as approximately a doubling of loudness. Due to their logarithmic basis, decibels cannot be directly added or subtracted together using common arithmetic operations:

$$50\ decibels + 50\ decibels\ \neq 100\ decibels$$

Instead, the combined sound level from two or more sources must be combined logarithmically. For example, if one noise source produces a sound power level of 50 dB, two of the same sources would combine to produce 53 dB as shown below.

$$10 * \ 10\log\left(10^{\left(\frac{50}{10}\right)} + \ 10^{\left(\frac{50}{10}\right)}\right) = 53\ decibels$$

In general, when one source is 10 dB higher than another source, the quieter source does not add to the sound levels produced by the louder source because the louder source contains ten times more sound energy than the quieter source.

Humans generally can hear sounds with frequencies between 20 and 20,000 Hz; however, most of the sounds humans are normally exposed to do not consist of a single frequency, but rather a broad range of frequencies perceived differently by the human ear. Instruments used to measure sound, therefore, include an electrical filter that enables the instrument's detectors to replicate human hearing. This filter, known as the "A-weighting" or "A-weighted sound level" filters our low and very high frequencies, giving greater weight to the frequencies of sound to which the human ear is typically most sensitive. See Table 10-1 for a list of the typical human responses associated with certain A-weighted noise levels, as well as common noise sources capable of generating such noise levels.

Table 10-1 Typical Outdoor and Indoor Noise Levels

Common Outdoor Activities	Noise Level (dBA)	Common Indoor Activities
	-110-	Rock Band
Jet flyover at 1,000 feet		
	-100-	
Gas lawn mower at 3 feet		
	-90-	
Diesel truck at 50 feet at 50 mph		Food blender at 3 feet
	-80-	Garbage disposal at 3 feet
Noise urban area, daytime		
Gas lawnmower, 100 feet	-70-	Vacuum cleaner at 10 feet
Commercial area		Normal speech at 3 feet
Heavy traffic at 300 feet	-60-	
		Large business office
Quiet urban daytime	-50	Dishwasher next room
Quite urban nighttime	-40-	Theater, large conference room (background)
Quiet suburban nighttime		
	-30-	Library
Quite rural nighttime		Bedroom at night
	-20-	
		Broadcast/recording studio
	-10-	
Lowest threshold of human hearing	-0-	Lowest threshold of human hearing

Source: Caltrans, 2013a.

Sound levels vary over time. To describe the time-varying nature of environmental noise, several sound descriptors are used. The L1, L10, L50, and L90 descriptors are used to describe the sound levels exceeded 1%, 10%, 50%, and 90% of the time the measurement was performed. The continuous equivalent noise level (Leq) descriptor is used to represent the average character of the sound over a period of time. The Leq represents the level of steady-state noise that would have the same acoustical energy as the sum of the time-varying noise measured over a given time period. Leq is useful for evaluating shorter time periods over the course of a day. The most common Leq averaging period is hourly, but Leq can describe any series of noise events over a given time period.

When considering environmental noise, it is important to account for the different responses people have to daytime and nighttime noise. In general, during the nighttime, background noise levels are generally quieter than during the daytime but also more noticeable due to the fact that household noise has decreased as people begin to retire and sleep. Noise exposure over the course of an entire day is described by the day/night average sound level, DNL, and the community noise equivalent level, or CNEL, descriptors. Both descriptors represent the 24-hour noise impact on a community. For DNL, the 24-hour day is divided into a 15-hour daytime period (7 AM to 10 PM) and a 9-hour nighttime period (10 PM to 7 AM) and a 10 dB "penalty" is added to measure nighttime noise levels when calculating the 24-hour average noise level. For example, a 45 dBA nighttime sound level would contribute as much to the overall day-night average as a 55 dBA daytime sound level. The CNEL descriptor is similar to DNL, except that it includes an additional 5 dBA penalty for noise events that occur during the evening time period (7 PM to 10 PM). The artificial penalties imposed during DNL and CNEL calculations are intended to account for a receptor's increased sensitivity to noise levels during quieter nighttime periods.

The energy contained in a sound pressure wave dissipates and is absorbed by the surrounding environment as the sound wave spreads out and travels away from the noise generating source. The strength of the source is often characterized by its "sound power level." Sound power level is independent of the distance a receiver is from the source and is a property of the source alone. Knowing the sound power level of an idealized source and its distance from a receiver, sound pressure level at the receiver point can be calculated based on geometrical spreading and attenuation (noise reduction) as a result of distance and environmental factors, such as ground cover (asphalt vs. grass or trees), atmospheric absorption, and shielding by terrain or barriers.

10.1.2 Noise Effects

Noise effects on human beings are generally categorized as:

- Subjective effects of annoyance, nuisance, and/or dissatisfaction
- Interference with activities such as speech, sleep, learning, or relaxing
- Physiological effects such as startling and hearing loss

Most environmental noise levels produce subjective or interference effects; physiological effects are usually limited to high noise environments such as industrial manufacturing facilities or airports.

Predicting the subjective and interference effects of noise is difficult due to the wide variation in individual thresholds of annoyance and past experiences with noise; however, an accepted method to determine a person's subjective reaction to a new noise source is to compare it the existing environment without the noise source, or the "ambient" noise environment. In general, the more a new noise source exceeds the ambient noise level, the more likely it is to be considered annoying and to disturb normal activities.

Under controlled conditions in an acoustical laboratory, the trained, healthy human ear is able to discern 1-dB changes in sound levels when exposed to steady, single-frequency ("pure-tone") signals in the mid-frequency (1,000–8,000 Hz) range. In typical noisy environments, changes in noise of 1 to 2 dB are generally not perceptible. However, it is widely accepted that people are able to begin to detect sound level increases of 3 dB in typical noisy environments. Further, a 5 dB increase is generally perceived as a distinctly noticeable increase, and a 10 dB increase is

generally perceived as a doubling of loudness that would almost certainly cause an adverse response from community noise receptors.

10.1.3 Vibration

Vibration is the movement of particles within a medium or object such as the ground or a building. Vibration may be caused by natural phenomena (e.g., earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, sea waves, landslides) or humans (e.g., explosions, machinery, traffic, trains, construction equipment). Vibration sources may be continuous, such as factory machinery, or transient, such as explosions. As is the case with airborne sound, groundborne vibrations may be described by amplitude and frequency. Vibration amplitudes are usually expressed in peak particle velocity (PPV) in inches per second (in/sec). PPV represents the maximum instantaneous positive or negative peak of a vibration signal and is most appropriate for evaluating the potential for building damage. As with airborne sound, the groundborne velocity can also be expressed in decibel notation as velocity decibels (FTA 2006).

10.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Yolo Branch Library property is located at 37750 Sacramento Street in the Town of Yolo, in unincorporated Yolo County. The Town of Yolo is a rural agricultural community, encompassing approximately 1.5 square miles near the center of the County, with a population of 450 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). The library property is located near the center of the Town, and the northwest corner of the Sacramento Street and 2nd Street intersection. The library property and adjacent residential parcel at 14184 2nd Street are adjacent to the Yolo Fire Station, located west of the site, but otherwise mostly surrounded by single-family residential homes. Some commercial land uses are located to the south and east of the project area, along Sacramento Street and 1st Street, and Cache Creek High School is located approximately 400 feet south of the library property.

Cache Creek is located to the east of 1st Street, approximately 600 feet to the east of the project area, and agricultural lands extend north of Washington and Jackson Streets (approximately 175 feet from the project area). The California Northern freight rail line, County Road 99W, and I-5 corridor are located approximately 0.20 miles (1,025 feet), 0.21 miles (1,125 feet), and 0.27 miles (1,400 feet) to the southwest of the Yolo Branch Library property.

The Town of Yolo is not located near an airport. The nearest public or private airport or airfield is the Watts-Woodland Airport, located approximately five miles southwest of the Town in Woodland. The Sacramento International Airport is located 11 miles east of the Town.

10.2.1 Existing Ambient Noise Environment

The 2030 Countywide General Plan Noise Element identifies that major roadways, rail activity, aircraft, and industrial and agricultural operations are the major contributors to the County's ambient noise environment (Yolo County, 2009). According to the General Plan:

- The segment of I-5 in the vicinity of the Town has an average daily traffic volume of 12,200 vehicles. The distance to the 60 DNL noise contour for this portion of I-5 is approximately 316, increasing to 907 feet under future County build-out conditions. Given I-5 is more than 1,000 feet from the Yolo Branch Library property, it is not considered a major contributor to the ambient noise environment at and near the library property.

- The California Northern freight rail line averages approximately two trains per day, usually between 1 and 2 locomotive engines and 1 to 50 rail cars. Trains travel at a speed of 15 miles per hour. The distance to the 45 DNL noise contour is 100 feet. Given the rail line is approximately 1,000 feet from the Yolo Branch Library property, it is not considered a major contributor to the ambient noise environment at and near the library property.

The General Plan identifies that the primary noise sources associated with agricultural operations and farming activities include nighttime diesel pump operations, nighttime harvesting, crop-dusting aircraft, and bird deflection devices. The typical noise level associated with tractor operations is approximately 78 dBA to 106 dBA Lmax, with an average of about 84 dBA Lmax, as measures at a distance of 50 feet. The nearest agricultural field is approximately 175 feet north of the residential property at 14184 2nd Street, with buildings present between the property and the agricultural field. Unshielded noise levels from tractor operations at this distance would be approximately 73 dB Lmax based on the average tractor.

Based on the information in the General Plan and the distance between the Yolo Branch Library property and nearby noise sources such as the California Northern rail line and I-5, the ambient noise level at and near the Yolo Branch Library property is presumed to be in the range of 55 to 60 DNL, with hourly average noise presumed to range between 50 dBA and 70 dBA Leq given local noise activities (i.e., street traffic, aircraft fly overs, agricultural operations, Yolo Fire Station operations, etc.).

10.2.2 Noise Sensitive Receptors

Noise sensitive receptors are buildings or areas where unwanted sound or increases in sound may have an adverse effect on people or land uses. The County's definition of "sensitive receptor" includes residentially designated land uses (as opposed to individual homes), hospitals, nursing/convalescent homes and similar board and care facilities, hotels and lodging, schools and daycare centers, and neighborhood parks (Yolo County, 2009).

There are several residential receptors adjacent or within close proximity to the project area. The closest sensitive receptor is the residential home immediately to the north of the project boundary, approximately 10 feet from common property line. Other nearby residential receptors include the residences across Sacramento Street and 2nd Street, approximately 45 feet from the project boundary. Fire fighters working at the adjacent Yolo Fire Station working overnight shifts would also be considered a sensitive noise receptor location. Finally, Cache Creek High School is located approximately 400 feet to the south of the project area.

10.3 REGULATORY SETTING

10.3.1 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

The California Department of Transportation' (Caltrans) *Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual* provides a summary of vibration criteria that have been reported by researchers, organizations, and governmental agencies (Caltrans, 2013b). Chapters six and seven of this manual summarize vibration detection and annoyance criteria from various agencies and provide Caltrans' recommended guidelines and thresholds for evaluating potential vibration impacts on buildings and humans from transportation and construction projects. These thresholds are summarized in Table 10-2 and Table 10-3.

Table 10-2 Caltrans' Vibration Threshold Criteria for Building Damage		
Structural Integrity	**Maximum PPV (in/sec)**	
	Transient	**Continuous**
Extremely fragile buildings, ruins, monuments	0.12	0.08
Fragile buildings	0.2	0.1
Historic and some older buildings	0.50	0.25
Older residential structures	0.50	0.30
New residential structures	1.00	0.50
Modern industrial and commercial structures	2.00	0.50
Source: Caltrans, 2013b		

Table 10-3 Caltrans' Vibration Threshold Criteria for Human Response		
Human Response	**Maximum PPV (in/sec)**	
	Transient	**Continuous**
Barely perceptible	0.035	0.012
Distinctly perceptible	0.24	0.035
Strongly perceptible	0.90	0.10
Severely perceptible	2.00	0.40
Source: Caltrans, 2013b		

10.3.2 County of Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan

The County's General Plan Health and Safety Element contains goals and policies intended to ensure appropriate consideration of natural and human-made hazards and risks are factored into land use decisions. This element of the General Plan includes the following goals and policies related to noise and vibration that are relevant to the proposed project:

- Goal HS-7: Noise Compatibility. Protect people from the harmful effects of excessive noise.
    - Policy HS-7.1: Ensure that existing and planned land uses are compatible with the current and projected noise environment. However, urban development generally experiences greater ambient (background) noise than rural areas. Increased density, as supported by the County in this General Plan, generally results in even greater ambient noise levels. It is the County's intent to meet specified indoor noise thresholds, and to create peaceful backyard living spaces where possible, but particular ambient outdoor thresholds may not always be achievable. Where residential growth is allowed pursuant to this General Plan, these greater noise levels are acknowledged and accepted, notwithstanding the guidelines in Figure HS-7 of the General Plan.

- Policy HS-7.4: For proposed new discretionary development, where it is not possible to reduce noise levels in outdoor activity areas to 60 dB CNEL or less using practical application of the best-available noise reduction measures, greater exterior noise levels may be allowed, provided that all available reasonable and feasible exterior noise level reduction measures have been implemented.
- Action HS-A62: Regulate the location and operation of land uses to avoid or mitigate harmful or nuisance levels of noise to the following sensitive receptors: residential areas, hospitals and nursing/convalescent homes, hotels and lodging, and appropriate habitat areas.
- Action HS-A63: Review proposed development projects for compatibility with surrounding and planned uses in accordance with the Noise Compatibility Guidelines; however, these guidelines shall not be applied to outdoor activity areas nor shall they be used to prohibit or preclude otherwise allowed density and intensity of development.

The County adopted the noise compatibility standards of the State Office of Noise Control Guidelines and the California State Noise Insulation Standards. These standards set the following noise exposure limits:

- 60 CNEL/DNL is the normally acceptable noise exposure limit for low density, single-family, duplex, and mobile home residential land uses;
- 65 CNEL/DNL is the normally acceptable noise exposure limit for multi-family residential land uses; and
- 70 CNEL/DNL is the normally acceptable noise exposure limit for library land uses.

10.4 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Consistent with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, this EIR focuses on the potentially significant direct and indirect impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project, as described in Chapter 2. The YCL has determined, based on the characteristics of the proposed project and the environmental conditions described in Section 10.2, that:

- The New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not have the potential to expose people to or generate noise levels in excess of applicable standards or result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project for the following reasons:
  - The ambient noise environment at and near the Yolo Branch Library property is presumed to be less than 60 CNEL/DNL, which is within the acceptable noise exposure limit for the proposed library land use established by the County's General Plan;
  - The 60 CNEL/DNL ambient noise environment is also within all acceptable noise exposure limits for residential land uses established by the County's General Plan;
  - The proposed project would not result in a substantial change in on-site noise levels (either through the addition of new equipment, or a substantial change in operating hours, or visitation levels) such that the project would cause or

contribute to a permanent substantial increase in the ambient noise environment at and in the vicinity of the Yolo Branch Library property. The proposed does not result in a significant change in an underlying land use and would not substantially alter the Yolo Branch Library operating hours; the new Yolo Branch Library building would continue to operate four days a week (21 hours) during the daytime period. In addition, the proposed meeting room would be used on a temporary and periodic basis only, and would not result in permanent increases in ambient noise levels. The project's potential temporary or periodic increases in hourly noise levels associated with community use of the library is evaluated under Impact NOI-2; however, the overall operation of the project is not expected to change 24-hour noise exposure levels in the Town of Yolo.

- The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not have the potential to expose people to excessive, airport-related noise levels because there are no public or private airstrips or airports within two miles of the Yolo Branch Library property and the proposed project would not be located within any noise-impacted or other planning area associated with an airport land use compatibility plan. The closest airport to the proposed new library building, the private Watts-Woodland Airport, is located approximately five miles southwest of the Town.

For these reasons, these issues are not discussed further in this EIR. The potentially significant impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project are described below.

10.4.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on CEQA Guidelines Appendix G and thresholds applicable to the project, the implementation of the proposed project would have a significant environmental impact related to noise and vibration if it would:

- Expose people to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels; or
- Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

10.4.2 Potential Impacts from Construction Noise and Vibration

Implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would involve the use of construction equipment to demolish/deconstruct buildings, prepare work areas, and build or install new facilities. Furthermore, the potential controlled-burn training exercise by the Yolo Fire Protection District would require the use of fire control apparatuses (trucks, pumps, etc.). The use of heavy machinery and equipment would generate noise and vibration on a temporary basis.

Impact NOI-1: Implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would generate temporary, construction-related noise and vibration.

The implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would require the use of heavy-duty construction equipment that could temporarily increase noise and vibration levels near the project area. Potential construction activities would generally involve demolition/deconstruction of the existing Yolo Branch Library building and single-family residence at 14184 2nd Street, site preparation (clearing, grubbing), grading and excavation work,

trenching and paving, and building construction. These activities would require the use of typical construction equipment such as backhoes, a small grader, small compactors/rollers, material lifts, and employee and vendor delivery vehicles, including large trucks. The project would not involve any drill rig or pile driving equipment; however, the Yolo Fire Protection District's potential controlled-burn training exercise would require pumps, water trucks, and other fire-fighting apparatus, possibly including sirens.

Table 10-4 lists typical construction equipment and the corresponding noise level that would be produced during construction of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project. This list is not meant to be exhaustive; rather, it is intended to provide information on the general noise levels associated with the type of equipment typically associated with a small construction project such as the proposed project, which is less than one acre in size and involves construction of a 3,800 square-foot library building.

Table 10-4 Estimated Construction Equipment Noise Levels

Equipment	Noise Level (L_{max}) @ 50 feet[A]	Usage Factor[B]	Calculated Noise Levels (L_{eq})[C]			
			25 feet	50 feet	100 feet	200 feet
Air compressor	80	40%	82	76	70	64
Air tamper	80	40%	84	78	72	66
Backhoe	80	40%	82	76	70	64
Boom Truck	84	40%	86	80	74	68
Grader	85	40%	87	81	75	69
Concrete Mixer	85	40%	87	81	75	69
Flatbed truck	84	40%	86	80	74	68
Tractor Trailers	85	40%	87	81	75	69

Sources: Caltrans, 2013a and FHWA, 2010.

(A) L_{max} noise levels based on manufacturer's specifications.

(B) Usage factor refers to the amount of time the equipment produces noise over the time period

(C) Estimate does not account for any atmospheric or ground attenuation factors. Calculated noise levels derived by: L_{eq} (hourly) = L_{max} at 50 feet – 20log (D/50) + 10log (UF), where: L_{max} = reference L_{max} from manufacturer or other source; D = distance of interest; UF = usage fraction or fraction of time period of interest equipment is in use.

As shown in Table 10-4, the Leq and Lmax construction equipment noise levels are predicted to be approximately 76 and 81 dBA, respectively, at 50 feet, which is approximately 6 to 21 dB higher than the presumed exterior ambient noise levels near the Yolo Branch Library property (see Section 10.2.1); however the actual magnitude of the project's temporary and periodic increase in construction noise levels would depend on the nature of the construction activity (*i.e.*, demolition, site preparation, foundation installation, or building construction) and the distance between the construction activity and sensitive outdoor areas. Demolition and foundation installation activities are expected to generate the highest noise levels because they involve the heaviest equipment usage, whereas building construction is expected to generate the lowest noise levels because typically heavy equipment is not needed to frame or finish a building, although lifts or other equipment may be used to tilt-up building materials and components.

In addition to typical construction equipment, the proposed project may involve the use of pumps, saws, trucks, and other fire control apparatus during the potential controlled-burn training exercise that may occur during project construction. A study of fire fighter noise exposure during training activities and general equipment use revealed that most equipment used by fire fighters generates noise levels of 85 dBA or higher at a distance of 3 feet, and then combined exposure during a training activity can be as high as 91 dB over short periods of time, with the highest noise levels measured at the front of a fire engine (Root, Schwenker, et al., 2013). These noise levels are consistent with magnitude of construction equipment noise presented in Table 10-4.

As described in Section 2.2.2, the construction of the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project is estimated to take up to approximately 156 work days, or about 6 to 8 months, to complete, with the demolition and site preparation and grading activities, which are typically the loudest construction phases, lasting approximately 3 to 4 weeks. Although not certain, the potential controlled burn is presumed to last only one day. Although short in duration, construction noise levels that are up to 21 dBs higher than the normal ambient environment in the Town would represent a potentially significant impact. This impact would be greatest at the residence just north of the project area (14179 2nd Street), and at the residences across Sacramento Street and 2nd Street. These residences are approximately 10 and 45 feet from the project boundary.

In addition to noise, construction equipment can generate groundborne vibration that may be perceptible at nearby sensitive receptor locations. Human response to groundborne vibration is subjective and varies from person to person, but vibration can also damage structures, particularly older structures that known to be present in the pioneer-era Town of Yolo (see Section 4.1.2.4); Caltrans' guidelines for threshold criteria for human response to and potential damage from continuous or frequent intermittent sources of vibration, such as compactors and pile drivers are summarized in Table 10-2 and Table 10-3.

Potential demolition, site preparation, and building construction activities that could result in groundborne vibration would occur usually at least 60 feet from any adjacent structure, although it is possible some equipment could operate as close as 10 feet from the residence immediately north of the project (as measured from the project property line to the adjacent structure). Table 10-5 lists the estimated groundborne vibration levels associated for the type of construction equipment the YCL would likely use to build the new library project.

Table 10-5 Estimated Ground-Borne Vibration Levels from Construction Equipment

Equipment	Peak Particle Velocity (in/sec) [(A),(B)]				
	10 feet	**25 feet**	**60 feet**	**75 feet**	**100 feet**
Small bulldozer	0.010	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.000
Jackhammer	0.115	0.016	0.011	0.008	0.006
Loaded truck	*0.250*	0.035	0.024	0.018	0.013
Large bulldozer	*0.293*	0.042	0.029	0.021	0.015
Vibratory roller	***0.691***	0.098	0.067	0.050	0.035

Sources: Caltrans, 2013b and FTA, 2006.

(A) Estimated PPV calculated as: PPV(D)=PPV(ref*(25/D^1.3 where PPV(D)= Estimated PPV at distance; PPVref= Reference PPV at 25 ft; D= Distance from equipment to receiver; and n= ground attenuation rate (1.3 for competent sands, sandy clays, silty clays, and silts).

(B) A bold value indicates the estimated PPV would exceed Caltrans' criteria for historic and some older buildings (0.5 PPV). An italicized value indicates the estimated PPM would exceed Caltrans' criteria for distinct perception (0.24 PPV)

As shown in Table 10-5, construction equipment vibration levels from vibratory rollers, large bulldozers, and loaded trucks (such as a fire truck) would exceed Caltrans' threshold for "distinctly perceptible" vibration levels when operating in close proximity to the residence to the immediate north of the project area (i.e., at a distance of 10 feet); however, this would occur for a very limited time (likely not more than one day), if at all. At a distance of 25 feet, vibration levels drop below this threshold, and may be "barely perceptible" according to Caltrans' criteria, and at 50 feet, most construction equipment would generate vibration levels that are not perceptible by human beings. The exception to this a vibratory roller, which could generate vibration levels that may be barely to distinctly perceptible up to 100 feet from the work area. This equipment could be used as part of grading (estimated to take approximately seven days) or paving operations (estimated to take four days), and would not involve prolonged operations. Although potentially perceptible, construction-related groundborne vibration is considered less than significant from a human annoyance perspective because it would be intermittent (occurring only when equipment was in operation), infrequent (equipment would not operate every day), and short in duration (heavy equipment capable of generating perceptible vibration levels could be used during demolition and site preparation, grading, foundation and paving phases which would last approximately 35 days in total). Therefore, these vibration levels are not considered excessive or significant.

In addition to being potentially perceptible, the estimated groundborne vibration levels associated with the operation of a vibratory roller within 10 feet of the residence to the immediate north of the project area would exceed Caltrans' threshold for potential damage to a historic or older building. Using the equation shown in Table 10-5, compaction equipment such as roller would need to be prohibited from operating within 15 feet of the adjacent residence in order to avoid potential structural damage. At this distance, estimated vibration levels would be 0.41, less than the Caltrans' threshold of 0.5. Although the use of a roller or other compaction equipment within 10 feet of the residence to the immediate north of the project area is unlikely to occur because there are no paved or other hardscaped surfaces necessitating the use of vibratory

roller or other compacting equipment within 10 feet of the residence, structural damage to a nearby building or buildings is considered a potentially significant impact.

To reduce the potential for construction activities to result in temporary noise and vibration impacts at nearby sensitive receptor locations, the YCL shall implement Mitigation Measures NOI-1A and NOI-1B.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1A: Reduce Potential Temporary Construction Noise Impacts

To reduce potential temporary, construction-related noise levels at sensitive residential receptors, the Yolo County Library (YCL) shall, to the maximum extent feasible:

1) Restrict construction activities to the hours of 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday and 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday. Construction activities on Sunday shall be prohibited.

    a. The YCL shall, to the maximum extent feasible, prohibit non-critical construction-related deliveries from occurring before 7:00 AM.

    b. Deliveries related to critical path construction activities that require timely completion to keep the project on schedule and budget, such as, but not limited to, concrete deliveries for pouring a concrete pad, specialized equipment rentals, etc., may occur prior to 7:00 AM; however, the YCL shall, to the maximum extent feasible, minimize such deliveries.

2) At least 10 days prior to the start of construction activities, provide a written notice to sensitive noise receptors within 250 feet of the project area that describes the approximate start date and schedule for the construction activities and a contact name and phone number for the construction contractor and/or YCL staff person responsible for handling construction-related noise complaints.

3) Phase demolition activities to take advantage of the noise shielding provided by existing structures (i.e., start from the side of the building the farthest away from nearby sensitive receptors and consider removing the Yolo Branch Library building first, before the residence).

4) Provide electrical hook-ups to the construction site and prohibit the use of diesel-powered generators to the extent it is logistically and technically feasible to do so.

5) Impact tools such as jack hammers shall be hydraulically or electrically powered wherever possible to avoid noise associated with compressed air exhaust from pneumatically powered tools. When use of pneumatic tools is unavoidable, they shall include a noise suppression device on the compressed air exhaust.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1B: Reduce Potential Temporary Construction Vibration Impacts

To reduce potential temporary, construction-related vibration levels at sensitive residential receptors, the Yolo County Library (YCL) shall, to the maximum extent feasible:

1) Prohibit the operation of vibratory rollers, plate compactors, and other large compaction equipment within 15 feet of all adjacent residential structures.

a. If it is not feasible to avoid the operation of large compaction equipment within 15 feet of adjacent residential structures, the YCL shall develop and implement a Vibration Mitigation Plan that identifies the vibration control measures the construction contractor would take to ensure construction does not damage any adjacent residential structures. Such measures may include the use of before and after photos, vibration monitoring, barriers, pre-compaction activities, use of smaller equipment, or other measures that limit groundborne vibration to levels that would not result in structural damage (approximately 0.5 inches per second peak particle velocity)**.**

Mitigation Measure NOI-1A would limit construction activities to daytime hours, require advance notice of construction activities, and require the implementation of control that would reduce construction noise levels at sensitive receptor locations. Mitigation Measure NOI-1B would prohibit certain vibration-generating activities or require procedures to be developed to ensure structural damage does not occur as a result of construction activities. Thus, the implementation of these measures would render impact NOI-1 a less than significant impact.

10.4.3 Potential Temporary or Periodic Impacts from Library Operations

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would be approximately 2,800 square feet larger than the existing library building; however, the proposed project would not substantially change the existing library operations. The exception to this is the planned community room, which would be available for group use, and outdoor covered activity area. While the existing Yolo Branch Library building is available for community/group use, the planned community room would likely expand the ability of the library to hold community meetings by providing dedicated meeting space. The community room would be open to the public during normal library hours, and would be available by reservation during periods when the library is closed.

Impact NOI-2: The new Yolo Branch Library building could result in temporary and periodic increase in noise levels associated with use of the library's community room.

Community room use would generate noise from human speech and meeting participants' vehicle travel and parking activities. These activities would, in and of themselves, not be substantial noise generating activities. Meeting participants would arrive in a dispersed manner and park on- or off-site over a period of time, and meeting activities would occur inside the library building. The YCL would allow community room use between the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM, Monday – Friday and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays with a reservation. Although unlikely, there is a small potential for community meetings to run late into the evening and/or involve the use of amplified sound devices, such as a megaphone or other public address system, which would have the potential to temporarily and periodically increase noise levels in the vicinity of the library building and/or annoy adjacent residential areas. This is considered a potentially significant impact. To reduce the potential for temporary and period increase in noise levels associated with community meetings, the YCL shall implement Mitigation Measures NOI-2.

Mitigation Measure NOI-2: Reduce Potential Community Meeting Noise

To reduce potential community meeting noise levels, the Yolo County Library shall incorporate, as part of a reservation or other agreement, a condition stipulating

community meetings shall conclude no later than 9:00 PM and a condition stipulating the use of amplified sound devices (megaphones, portable public address systems) are prohibited during meetings. This condition shall not apply to small portable radios or other media players that are used in conjunction with a presentation or other planned meeting activity.

Mitigation Measure NOI-2 would provide an enforceable means for the YCL to control when community meetings would end and prohibit the use of devices that could generate substantial amplified sound levels. This would reduce the potential for the new library building to generate temporary and periodic increase in ambient noise levels. Thus, the implementation of this measure would render Impact NOI-2 a less than significant impact.

10.5 CHAPTER REFERENCES

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U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) 2010. "Construction Noise Handbook, Chapter 9 Construction Equipment Noise Levels and Ranges." *U.S. Department of Transportation FHWA.* August 24, 2017. Accessed April 1, 2018 at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/handbook/handbook09.cfm

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Yolo County 2009a. *County of Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan Land Use and Community Character Element*. Yolo County, CA. November, 2009.

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CHAPTER 11 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

CEQA requires that an EIR evaluate a project's cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts are the project's impacts combined with the impacts of other related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. As set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, the discussion of cumulative impacts must reflect the severity of the impacts, as well as the likelihood of their occurrence; however, the discussion need not be as detailed as the discussion of environmental impacts attributable to the project alone. As stated in CEQA, "a project may have a significant effect on the environment if the possible effects of a project are individually limited but cumulatively considerable" (PRC §21083(b)).

11.1 METHODOLOGY

CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 describes two different methodologies (the list and projections approaches) for a cumulative impact analysis:

- The list approach permits the use of a list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, including projects both within and outside the project area; and
- The projections approach allows the use of a summary of projections contained in an adopted plan or related planning document, such as a regional transportation plan, or in an EIR prepared for such a plan. The projections may be supplemented with additional information such as regional modeling.

This EIR uses the list method to evaluate potential cumulative impacts. The YCL considered the following geographic areas for the purposes of evaluating potential cumulative impacts using the list approach described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15130:

- A 0.5-mile buffer around the Town of Yolo for cumulative impacts that are primarily local in nature, including impacts on: Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, and Utilities and Service Systems.
- The County boundary for cumulative impacts that are local and countywide in nature, including impacts on: Agricultural Resources, Biological Resources, Cultural/Tribal Cultural Resources, and Mineral Resources.
- The boundaries of the YSAQMD for cumulative air quality impacts which are local and regional in nature, and the state boundary for cumulative GHG impacts are global in nature.

The cumulative analysis list approach is based on a list of past, present, and probable future projects compiled using publicly available data. The analysis includes projects that would result in similar impacts as the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project, due to their potential to collectively to potential significant cumulative impacts. Projects which did not have publicly available information released regarding their environmental effects are not analyzed because their impacts are considered speculative.

The YCL requested a list of all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects that could combine with the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project's impact from the County's Planning Divisions. The Planning Division indicated there are no past, present, or

probable future projects within the Town of Yolo to consider for a cumulative impact analysis purposes (Yolo County, 2018a). The Planning Division's website contains a list of recent and current projects, which are summarized in Table 11-1 below (Yolo County, 2018b).

Table 11-1 List of Past, Present and Probable Future Projects

Project Name	Project Location	Distance and Direction from Proposed Project
Sacred Oaks Youth Treatment Center	Intersection of County Road 93A and County Road 31	Approximately 13 miles southwest
2017 General Plan and Zoning Code Amendments	Countywide, including 36670 Sacramento Street in the Town of Yolo	Approximately 375 feet west
CSA-6 Maintenance Plan	Snowball County Service Area, near Knights Landing	Approximately 6 miles northeast
Ravine Bar and Grill Use Permit	Northeast corner of County Road 87 (Yolo Ave) and Capay Street in Esparto	Approximately 11.5 miles west
King Flat Meteorological Towers Use Permit	Capay Hills	Approximately 16 miles west
Esparto Gas Station	Northwest corner of State Route 16 and County Road 21A in Esparto	Approximately 11.7 miles west
Ag Commercial Zoning Amendment	Countywide	Approximately 175 feet north at minimum
Specific Plans General Plan Amendment and Rezoning	Elkhorn, Madison, and Knights Landing Specific Plan Areas	Approximately 6.5 miles away at minimum
Sakata Seed Woodland Station Project	Three miles north of Woodland, on the east side of County Road 100/113 and north of County Road 17	Approximately 2.3 miles east
Bogle Wind Turbine Project	49762 Hamilton Road (unincorporated Yolo County)	Approximately 27 miles southeast

Source: Yolo County, 2018b.

In addition to the Planning Division website, the YCL reviewed and considered the following additional projects and plans for inclusion in the cumulative impact analysis:

- **Yolo County Library Facilities Master Plan 2018-2035.** This Facilities Master Plan (FMP) identifies recommendations for facility improvements to meet the library services needs of the County's growing population, changing demographics, and new technologies.

The FMP recommends the following improvements to library services facilities over three phases from 2018 to 2035, as follows (Yolo County, 2017):

- Phase 1 (2018 to 2025): Renovations to Library Central Services/Archives and Records in Woodland; a new roof on both the Davis and Knights Landing Branch Library, and a new building for both the Yolo (the proposed project) and South Davis Branch Library; new Library on Wheels service in the West Sacramento and outlying areas of the County (Dunnigan, Guinda, Rumsey, Capay Valley).
- Phase 2 (2025 2030): Renovations to the Davis, Winters, Clarksburg, and Knights Landing Branch Library; a new building in the West Sacramento Southport area.
- Phase 3 (2030 to 2035): Relocation of Library Archives and Records; expansion of the Esparto, Winters, and West Sacramento Branch Library.

- **Environmental Justice Coalition for Water Grant.** The Central Valley Water Quality Community Grants Program approved a grant request for a project to promote public awareness, pollution prevention, watershed assessment, and water quality assessment in the Upper and Lower Clear Watersheds. This will be accomplished with four main strategies: 1) disadvantaged community identification and water quality needs assessment; 2) community outreach and education in disadvantaged communities; 3) supporting community participation in watershed planning; and 4) providing technical assistance to disadvantaged communities, including the creation of community advocacy resources and organizing tools. This grant does not propose physical improvements to build facilities that would result in physical environmental effects that could combine with the potential impacts of the proposed project and, therefore, is not considered further in this cumulative impact analysis.

11.2 ANALYSIS OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The cumulative impact analysis considers the combined impacts of the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project and the past, present, and probable future projects described in Section 11.1. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b), the discussion of cumulative impacts describes the likelihood and severity of impacts associated with the projects identified in Section 11.1 and, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines 15130(a), determines whether the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable when assessed in conjunction with these other projects. In addition, as stated in CEQA Guidelines, it should be noted that:

> "The mere existence of significant cumulative impacts caused by other projects alone shall not constitute substantial evidence that the proposed project's incremental effects are cumulatively considerable (14 CCR §15064(h)(4))."

As described in Chapters 4 – 10 of this EIR, implementation of the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would have the following significant and unavoidable impact:

- ***Impact CUL-1: The proposed project would result in the demolition of the existing Yolo Branch Library Building, a known historical resource.***

Implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would result in no impact, a less than significant impact, and/or a potentially significant impact that would be mitigated to less than significant levels on all other resource areas considered in this EIR. Impacts that are

individually or incrementally minor may become significant when combined with impacts associated with past, present, and other anticipated future projects. The potential cumulative impacts in each resource area of concern are described below.

11.2.1 Aesthetics

As described in Chapter 5, the proposed project could result in one potentially significant aesthetic/visual resources impact (Impact AES-1); however, as described in Section 11.1 and shown in Table 11-1, there are no past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects within 0.5 miles of the Yolo Branch Library project that could result in potential cumulative aesthetic/visual resource impacts. The rezoning of the property at 36670 Sacramento Street may result in the construction of a new residence; however, even if this were to occur, this residential structure would generally not be within the same viewshed/vantage points as the new Yolo Branch Library building due to trees that line Sacramento Street and block views into both properties. Therefore, the potential combined aesthetic/visual resource impacts of the proposed project and other potential past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects would be less than significant.

11.2.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would have no impact to agriculture and forestry resources (see Section 3.3.1) and, therefore, would not contribute to cumulative impacts on these resources.

11.2.3 Air Quality

The construction and operation of the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would generate air quality emissions that would combine with emissions from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects throughout the YSAQMD's jurisdictional boundaries. As discussed in Chapter 6, the proposed project would not result in construction or operational emissions that exceed YSAQMD thresholds of significance with the inclusion of Mitigation Measures AIR-1A and AIR-1B. In developing its CEQA significance thresholds, the YSAQMD considered the emission levels at which a project's individual emissions would be cumulatively considerable (YSAQMD, 2007). The YSAQMD considers projects that result in emissions that exceed its CEQA significance thresholds to result in individual impacts that are cumulatively considerable and significant. The proposed project would not individually exceed any YSAQMD CEQA significance thresholds and, therefore, would not result in a cumulative considerable net increase in emissions.

11.2.4 Biological Resources

As discussed in Chapter 7, the proposed project would involve redevelopment of an existing site currently used for library and residential that is surrounded by residential, commercial and public facility land uses. Although Cache Creek is located approximately 600 feet east of the Yolo Branch Library property, there are no sensitive habitats in or immediately adjacent to the project area, and the proposed project does not have the potential to have a substantial adverse effect on special-status species. Potential impacts to nesting birds and roosting bats from tree removal would be reduced to less than significant levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1A and 1B. The other projects listed in Table 11-1 could have construction- and development-related impacts to nesting birds, roosting bats, and other special-status species and their habitat. Therefore, the potential exists for biological impacts from implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project to combine with impacts from the projects listed in

Table 11-1, resulting in cumulative impacts to sensitive biological resources; however, the YCL would implement mitigation measures intended to avoid and/or minimize as appropriate all significant impacts on biological resources, including requirements to conduct pre-construction surveys by qualified personnel and avoid special-status. With the implementation of these measures, the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project's contribution to impacts on biological resources would not be cumulatively considerable.

11.2.5 Cultural/Tribal Cultural Resources

As described in Chapter 4, the proposed project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact due to the demolition of the existing Yolo Branch Library building, a recorded historic resource (Impact CUL-1). The Yolo Branch Library property is also surrounded by other recorded historic properties associated with the Town's pioneer-era history, only one of which, (a historic church on Second Street, YOL-HRI-4-133) is no longer present. The demolition of the existing Yolo Branch Library would, therefore, be the second historic resource to be removed from the Town of Yolo. The existing Yolo Branch Library building was constructed in 1918 and is a later addition and not as representative of the rural, small pioneer-era Town that the earlier buildings represent. The YCL would implement Mitigation Measures CUL-1A, CUL-1B, and CUL-1C, and CUL-1D, which incorporate the recommendations of the Historical Resource Report prepared for the project by JRP Historical Consulting and require the YCL to implement measures that would: 1) Document the significant physical characteristics of the property; 2) Inform the community and public at large about the 100-year history of the Yolo Branch Library and link the historic library building to the continued future use of the property for community library services; and 3) Identify and plan for the salvaging and reinterpretation of important, existing architectural elements into the proposed project's final design. This would result in a new building design that is in harmony with the Yolo Branch Library's 100-year history and the historic characteristics of the surrounding community. With these measures, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact on recorded historic resources in the Town of Yolo or throughout the County.

As described in Chapter 4, the proposed project has the potential to disturb unrecorded historical archaeological, paleontological, and tribal cultural resources and/or unrecorded human remains during construction activities. All other projects listed in Table 11-1 would have a similar potential to disturb unrecorded resources; however, implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to impacts on cultural and tribal cultural resources. The YCL would implement Mitigation Measures CUL-3A through 3F to avoid and/or minimize as appropriate all significant impacts on unrecorded cultural/tribal cultural resources, including requirements for training, monitoring, and protocols to follow in the event an unrecorded resource is discovered. With the implementation of these measures, the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project's contribution to impacts on cultural/tribal cultural resources would not be cumulatively considerable.

11.2.6 Geology and Soils

Geologic and soils hazards are largely site specific; however, the Town of Yolo and the County in general are subject to potential regional geologic and soils risks. All other projects listed in Table 11-1 could be subject to potential soils and geologic hazards such as erosion and fault rupture; however, the magnitude of this risk would be dependent on the site-specific conditions present at each specific project area. Regardless of the potential risk, each cumulative project

would be required to implement design and construction practices intended to reduce and or avoid site-specific geologic and soils risks (either through compliance with general plan policies and local building code, or through the implementation of site specific mitigation measures developed as a result of required site investigations). These design and construction practices would render the site-specific risks posed by local and regional hazards such as ground shaking, liquefaction, and other soils and geologic-related conditions less than significant for each project and would prevent significant cumulative impacts from occurring.

11.2.7 Greenhouse Gases and Energy

Unlike air quality, which is influenced by local and regional factors and is therefore considered on the local or regional scale, the effects of global climate change are the result of GHG emissions worldwide; individual projects do not generate enough GHG emissions to influence global climate change. Thus, the analysis of GHG emissions is by nature a cumulative analysis focused on whether an individual project's contribution to global climate change is cumulatively considerable. As described in Section 3.3.3, the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not result in direct or indirect GHG emissions that have a significant effect on the environment or conflict with an applicable GHG reduction plan, policy, or regulation and, therefore, would not result in cumulatively considerable GHG impacts.

11.2.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

As described in Chapter 8, the proposed project could result in one potentially significant hazard/hazardous materials-related impact (Impact HAZ-1); however, as described in Section 11.1 and shown in Table 11-1, there are no past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects within 0.5 miles of the Yolo Branch Library project that could result in potential cumulative hazard/hazardous materials impacts. Therefore, the project does not have the potential to result in this cumulative impact.

11.2.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

As described in Chapter 9, the proposed project could result in three potentially significant hydrology-related impacts (Impact HYD-1 to HYD-3); however, as described in Section 11.1 and shown in Table 11-1, there are no past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects within 0.5 miles of the Yolo Branch Library project that could result in potential cumulative hydrology and water quality impacts. In general, the proposed projects listed in Table 11-1 could have similar potential construction- and operation-related impacts to hydrology and water quality as the proposed project and would be required to comply with the same regulations as the proposed project to prevent water pollution or increases in storm water run-off per County and regional requirements. This could include the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP, Erosion Control Plan, and Storm Water Control Plan or similar measures as applicable to the individual project. Thus, the proposed project would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts to hydrology and water quality when combined with the other projects listed in Table 11-1.

11.2.10 Land Use and Planning

The proposed project includes the acquisition, merger, general plan land use amendment, and rezoning of an adjacent residential parcel with the existing library property. The proposed project's general plan land use amendment and rezoning were evaluated for environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts in a separate CEQA Initial Study/ Negative Declaration for the adoption of text and map amendments to the Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan and to

the Yolo County Zoning Ordinance (Yolo County, 2018c and 2018d). The project analyzed the rezoning of 475 individual parcels in the County, including the proposed project and the property at 36670 Sacramento Street, and found that the proposed changes to the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance would not conflict with or exceed the General Plan growth projections. Therefore, no significant cumulative impacts would result.

11.2.11 Mineral Resources

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would have no impact to Mineral Resources (see Section 3.3.5) and, therefore, would not contribute to cumulative impacts on these resources.

11.2.12 Population and Housing

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would have no impact to Population and Housing Resources (see Section 3.3.6) and, therefore, would not contribute to cumulative impacts on these resources.

11.2.13 Public Services

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would have no impact to Public Services (see Section 3.3.7) and, therefore, would not contribute to cumulative impacts on these resources.

11.2.14 Recreation

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would have no impact to Recreation (see Section 3.3.8) and, therefore, would not contribute to cumulative impacts on these resources.

11.2.15 Transportation

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would have a less than significant impact on transportation and traffic (see Section 3.3.9) and as described in Section 11.1 and shown in Table 11-1, there are no past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects within 0.5 miles of the Yolo Branch Library project that could result in potential cumulative transportation-related impacts. Therefore, the project does not have the potential to result in this cumulative impact.

11.2.16 Utilities and Service Systems

The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would have a less than significant impact to utilities and service systems (see Section 3.3.10) and as described in Section 11.1 and shown in Table 11-1, there are no past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects within 0.5 miles of the Yolo Branch Library project that could result in potential cumulative utility-related impact. Therefore, the project does not have the potential to result in this cumulative impact.

11.3 CHAPTER REFERENCES

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_____2009b. *County of Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report*. Yolo County, CA. April, 2009.

_____2017a. *Yolo County Library Facilities Master Plan (2018-2035).* Yolo County, CA. September 11, 2017.

_____2018a. Phone communication between Eric Parfrey, Principal Planner, Yolo County and Chris Dugan, MIG. April 2, 2018.

_____2018b. "Current Projects". Yolo County, Community Services, Planning Division. 2018. Web. June 14, 2018. < http://www.yolocounty.org/community-services/planning-public-works/planning-division/current-projects>

_____2018c. *Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration and Notice of Public Hearing*. Yolo County Community Services Department. February 2018.

_____2018d. *Initial Study/Negative Declaration File #2017-035 2017 General Plan and Zoning Code Amendments*. Yolo County Community Services Department. February 2018.

Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District 2007. *Handbook for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts.* Davis, CA. July 2007

CHAPTER 12 ALTERNATIVES

12.1 ALTERNATIVES SELECTION

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6 states that an EIR shall describe a range of reasonable alternatives to a project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. An EIR does not need to consider every conceivable alternative, but must foster informed decision making and public participation. CEQA intends for the alternatives discussion to focus on alternatives that are capable of avoiding or substantially reducing any significant effects of the project, even if these alternatives would impede to some degree attaining the objectives of the project.

In selecting the range of reasonable alternatives analyzed by this EIR, the YCL identified potential alternatives that could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives for the proposed new Yolo Branch Library Building Project and potentially avoid or substantially lessen the proposed project's significant effects. The YCL considered alternative designs, locations, and library service strategies. The YCL also considered the No Project Alternative required by CEQA. The selection of these alternatives was informed by written comments received during the EIR scoping process (see Section 3.2). In total, the YCL identified seven alternatives, five of which were rejected for economic, logistical, or environmental reasons. The project objectives, significant effects to be avoided or lessened, and alternatives are discussed below. Table 12-3 at the end of this chapter compares the proposed project against the two alternatives analyzed in detail in Sections 12.3 and 12.4.

12.1.1 Summary of Project Objectives and Significant Effects

The YCL's objectives for the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project are to:

- Eliminate the substantial structural and safety issues identified at the existing Yolo Branch Library Building;
- Construct a new, larger library building that incorporates the look, feel, character, and history of the existing Yolo Branch Library building and the Town of Yolo;
- Construct a new, larger library building that provides programming flexibility and that can be operated by a limited amount of YCL staff;
- Upgrade and improve Yolo Branch Library services to meet County library operating goals as much as feasible;
- Expand the Yolo Branch Library's total book and media collections (both storage capacity and actual volume); and
- Provide a dedicated meeting room and/or other space that supports the concept of a library as a community-gathering place.

As described in Chapter 4 to Chapter 11 of this EIR, the implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would result in up to 12 potentially significant environmental impacts in seven different resource areas. One impact was found to be an unavoidable, significant impact of the project, even with the application of feasible mitigation measures. This impact is:

- ***Impact CUL-1: The proposed project would result in the demolition of the existing Yolo Branch Library Building, a known historical resource.***

Impact CUL-1 identifies that implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would result in the demolition of the existing Yolo Branch Library building, a known historical resource. The demolition of a historical resource is considered a significant impact under CEQA. Mitigation Measures CUL-1A, CUL-1B, CUL-1C would lessen the potentially significant adverse impact resulting from the demolition of the existing, historic Yolo Branch Library building, and Mitigation Measure CUL-1D would require the YCL to make a good faith attempt to preserve the building for ultimate relocation; however, these measures would not avoid the demolition of the building and the effectiveness of Mitigation Measure CUL-1D is speculative and cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, these measures would not avoid the significant, adverse, material change to the historic Yolo Branch Library building that would occur with implementation of the proposed project. Impact CUL-1, therefore, is considered a significant and unavoidable impact of the proposed project.

In addition, implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would result in 11 potentially significant impacts, but the inclusion of mitigation measures renders these impacts less than significant:

- ***Impact AES-1: The proposed project could change the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings***
- ***Impact AIR-1: Implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would generate emissions of criteria air pollutants, toxic air contaminants, and odors.***
- ***Impact BIO-1: The proposed project could cause adverse impacts to nesting birds and roosting bats.***
- ***Impact CUL-2: The proposed project could indirectly adversely affect surrounding historic resources.***
- ***Impact CUL-3: Project construction could disturb unrecorded historical, archaeological, paleontological, and tribal cultural resources and/or unrecorded human remains.***
- ***Impact HAZ-1: Construction of the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project could result in the release or potential release of hazardous materials that pose a risk to human health and/or the environment.***
- ***Impact HYD-1: Construction activities associated with the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project could result in erosion, siltation and other temporary hydrology and water quality impacts.***
- ***Impact HYD-2: Operation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project could cause or contribute to potential sources of polluted runoff.***
- ***Impact HYD-3: The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building would be located within a special flood hazard area (Zone A) delineated on the applicable Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map.***
- ***Impact NOI-1: Implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would generate temporary, construction-related noise and vibration.***

- ***Impact NOI-2: The new Yolo Branch Library building could result in temporary and periodic increase in noise levels associated with use of the library's community room.***

The YCL considered both siting and design alternatives that could avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects listed above.

12.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED

CEQA Guidelines establish that an EIR should identify alternatives considered but rejected by the Lead Agency and briefly explain the reasons the Lead Agency rejected the alternatives. Factors that may be taken into account when eliminating an alternative from detailed consideration include failure to meet most of the basic project objectives, infeasibility, or inability to avoid significant environmental impacts. Furthermore, factors affecting feasibility include site availability and suitability (for library use), economic viability, potential to lead to library over or under-utilization of services, and the YCL's obligation to meet minimum standards for library services set forth in the 2030 Countywide General Plan (Implementation Action PF-A38).

12.2.1 Rehabilitate the Existing Yolo Branch Library Building

Under this alternative, the YCL would proceed with rehabilitating the existing Yolo Branch Library building to a condition that is suitable for re-occupation and long-term use as a library. Under this alternative, the rehabilitated library would not be expanded and would remain approximately 1,000 square feet in size.

This alternative would require the YCL to make substantial upgrades to the structural integrity of the existing Yolo Branch Library building. As explained in Section 1.1, a structural review of the existing library building in 2016 identified significant signs of foundation settlement and wood decay, concluded these deficiencies created a real risk of collapse to the building's entry way roof and overall roof structure, and recommended the County consider discontinuing use of the building (Buehler & Buehler, 2016). In addition to these significant structural deficiencies, a 2013 assessment of the existing Yolo Branch Library building identified other fire and life safety, plumbing, electrical, roofing, interior/exterior deferred maintenance, and ADA compliance issues. These conditions are summarized in Table 12-1.

Table 12-1 Summary of Existing Yolo Branch Library Facility Conditions

Facility Component	Observed Conditions
Site	Site marque and benches require replacement
Roofing	Gutters require replacement
Structural	Foundation has settled and requires repairs
Exterior	Wood siding (30%) and wood windows require repair and replacement
Interior	Door hardware is not ADA compliant, wallboards require repair
Electrical	Emergency exit signage is missing, electric panel requires replacement
Plumbing	Restroom is not ADA compliant
Fire and Life Safety	Building lacks fire alarm and smoke detection systems

Source: Jacobs, 2014.

The Facility Condition Index (FCI) is an objective measure of a building's health. It is calculated by dividing the Facility Condition Cost (cost of maintenance, repair, and replacement of deficiencies), by the building's replacement costs. In general, an FCI below 10% is considered good, while an FCI above 65% would indicate a building is a candidate for replacement. In 2013, the existing library building conditions were determined to have an FCI of 47.6%. Furthermore, the 2013 building assessment estimated the cost to address all deficiencies was $188,278, with ten-year life cycle capital renewal costs of $134,194 (or a total capital outlay of $322,472). In contrast, the Replacement Value (the cost of replacing the building with one of like size) for the current building in 2013 was estimated to be $395,839. Thus, the combined expense of addressing current deficiencies and maintaining the new facilities would be approximately 81.5% of the building's value. This means the cost to address current deficiencies and address capital renewal needs is almost or nearly as much as the building is worth.

As shown in Table 12-1, the existing Yolo Branch Library building faces numerous structural and other code compliance issues. The YCL would need to address these issues consistent with current California Building Code (CBC) and California Historical Building Code (CHBC) requirements. The CHBC provides alternatives to regular CBC requirements for historical structures and properties (such as the Yolo Branch Library building). The CHBC's performance-based alternatives are intended to support the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historical buildings while providing reasonable safety for building occupants and access for persons with disabilities. For example, the CHBC excludes worst-case seismic deficiency triggers that could result in building upgrades that materially impair historical significance or result in the loss of the historical resource. The CHBC also provides, on a case-by-case basis, that ADA access standards may be rendered inapplicable if the standards threaten or destroy the historic significance of the structure. In most cases, the CHBC provides alternative regulations for the issues listed in Table 12-1 and, therefore, provides a means to rehabilitate the existing library building without adversely impacting the historical status of the building. The CHBC requires reasonably equivalent structural and safety designs; it does not permit or otherwise allow a lower level of structural safety than that prescribed by the CBC. To retain the historical status of the existing library building, the YCL, in addition to following the CHBC regulations, would need to rehabilitate the library in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation which, would increase the estimated costs to address deficiencies (e.g., by hiring firms experienced in historic building rehabilitation), further reducing the economic viability of this alternative.

This alternative also would not improve the ability of the Yolo Branch Library to provide library services to the existing and future population served by the library. As shown in Table 12-2, the existing, approximately 1,000 square-foot Yolo Branch Library does not meet the County's library service goals established by the General Plan. Therefore, under this alternative, the rehabilitated library building would continue to fall well below County goals for square footage per capita, volume per capita, and computer access.

Table 12-2 Existing Yolo Branch Library Guidelines and Benchmarks

Library Building Scenario (2015 Population)	Square Feet	Population Served	Square Feet Per Capita	Collection Volume	Volumes Per Capita	Computers	Computers Per 1,000 Residents	Seats	Seats Per 1,000 Residents
Existing Library Building	1,000	3,272	0.31	5,889	1.80	3	0.92	15	4.58
Interim Modular Building	1,350	3,272	0.41	5,889	1.80	3	0.92	15	4.58
Proposed Project Building	3,800	3,272	1.16	9,632	2.94	8	2.44	20	6.11
General Plan Goal(A)	1,000	--	0.75	6,000	2.88	10	1	-	2.5
Library Building Scenario (2035 Population)	**Square Feet**	**Population Served**	**Square Feet Per Capita**	**Collection Volume**	**Volumes Per Capita**	**Computers**	**Computers Per 1,000 Residents**	**Seats**	**Seats Per 1,000 Residents**
Existing Library Building	1,000	3,693	0.27	5,889	1.59	3	0.81	15	4.06
Interim Modular Building	1,350	3,693	0.37	5,889	1.59	3	0.81	15	4.06
Proposed Project Building	3,800	3,693	1.03	9,632	2.61	8	2.17	20	5.42
General Plan Standard(A)	1,000	--	0.75	6,000	2.88	10	1	-	2.5

Source: Yolo County, 2009 and 2017.
(A) From Public Facilities and Safety Element Implementing Action PF-A38.

In addition to continuing to provide library services that do not meet service goals, this alternative would not provide a larger library, expand the library's written and/or digital collection (since it would not increase building space), or include a community meeting space. Thus, this alternative would only meet one of the six objectives the YCL has set for the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project.

For the reasons described above, the YCL considered but rejected this alternative because it would be economically inefficient and cost prohibitive and would not achieve most of the basic objectives of the project.

12.2.2 Expand the Existing Yolo Branch Library Building

Under the Expand the Existing Yolo Branch Library Building Alternative, the YCL would rehabilitate and expand the building by adding an approximately 2,000 to 3,000 square-foot addition onto the existing historic building. Under this alternative, the County would still demolish the existing residence at 14184 2nd Street (to make way for the library addition). The final size of the new library building (3,000 to 4,000 square feet) would be similar to that of the proposed project (3,800 square feet), and the expanded building would likely include a dedicated

community room. In addition, the YCL would address all structural, fire and life safety, and other issues manifest in the existing building.

As explained in Section 12.2.1, to retain the historical status of the existing library building, the YCL, in addition to following the CHBC regulations, would need to rehabilitate the library in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. These constraints, on top of the costs associated with the new construction, render the Expand the Existing Yolo Branch Library Building Alternative economically infeasible for the YCL. A preliminary construction cost analysis prepared by WMB Architects and the County for this alternative estimated the costs associated with expanding the library building to be approximately 20.1% higher than the proposed project due to planning, design, and historical resource integration considerations.

Even if the Expand the Existing Yolo Branch Library Building Alternative were economically feasible, it would only obtain some of the objectives the YCL has set for the proposed project. This alternative would address the substantial structural and safety issues associated with the existing building, result in a newer, larger library building, upgrade and improve the branch library's service metrics, provide a dedicated community meeting space and could resolve ADA access issues; however, this alternative would require additional staff to service separate areas of the library, and would result in a library building that, while retaining the overall look, feel and character of the existing building's design (by meeting CHBC and Secretary of the Interior Standards), would contain two distinct sections and be taller than and oriented behind or around the existing library building. Such a design would, in general, not be consistent with community input on the project to date.

Under the Expand the Existing Yolo Branch Library Building Alternative, the YCL would rehabilitate and construct a substantial addition to the existing Yolo Branch Library building. In general, the YCL could avoid materially changing the historical significance of the building by designing and developing an addition that is consistent with the CHBC and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. These standards require new additions and exterior alterations to avoid destroying historic materials that characterize the property (e.g., the building's asymmetrical intersection rooflines). They also require the new addition to be "differentiated" from the existing structure, but compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features present in the existing structure. To minimize the scope of rehabilitation to the existing historical library building associated with increased vertical and lateral loads from the library expansion/addition, the expanded library structure would likely consist of a new, distinct wing or building that is separate from (i.e.,., located behind), but integrated into, the existing Yolo Branch Library building. While separating the new construction from the existing building would, presumably, help avoid destroying historic materials, some change to the character-defining features of the library may still occur (e.g., exterior walls, roof lines, and window moldings where the new construction is integrated into the existing building). In addition, to meet the size requirements of the project, the new wing would be at least twice the size, if not closer to three times the size, of the existing Yolo Branch Library building. In general, new buildings typically have a higher building plate height (vertical distance between the ground and the point where exterior walls meet structural roof components such as trusses or rafters) to accommodate contemporary structural, electrical, safety, and other building components. In addition, the ridge height for the library addition would likely increase to accommodate the larger building dimensions. Although the YCL is not certain to what extent the

library addition would be taller than the existing library building, it is certain that factors such as plate and ridge heights would result in a library addition that is taller than the existing library building. In addition, the YCL would need to design the expanded library to ensure there is sufficient space for the required septic system which could reduce the area available for expansion, creating the need to increase the building height even more.

Since the YCL could design a project that meets CHBC requirements and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, this alternative could potentially substantially lessen or avoid the proposed project's significant and unavoidable impact on the historic Yolo Branch Library building. Although unlikely, it is also possible that this alternative could result in a similar magnitude impact as the proposed project if the structural, fire, life, safety, and other improvements needed to rehabilitate the existing library result in full replacement or new construction to comply with minimum CBC/CHBC requirements for structural and life safety. The YCL would need to conduct a more detailed survey of existing gravity and lateral loads on the building and identify whether feasible means and methods are available to repair, rehabilitate, and expand the library building. If structural and other building elements cannot be rehabilitated to minimum code requirements, the YCL would have to replicate or reconstruct these features. These requirements would add to the 20% higher costs estimated for this alternative.

As noted above, the new wing's design would be differentiated from the existing building's design. Although this differentiation could be slight, the existing building's Craftsman style was regularly identified as one of the defining features of the library that should be retained during preliminary public outreach conducted for the project. A new wing with a slightly different architectural design may or may not be perceived as incompatible with the existing look and feel of not only the Yolo Branch Library property, but the other historic buildings in the Town of Yolo, which has largely retained its small, rural town character. While visual compatibility is largely a subjective issue that varies according to a viewer's individual preference, the library expansion would be the tallest structure in the immediate vicinity of the project area (even taller than the modular building and the Yolo Fire Station), and represent a change to the existing visual character of the site. Thus, even if this alternative was economically feasible, it could result in a more severe aesthetics/visual resources impact than the proposed project based on the community input received to date.

As described above, the YCL considered but rejected the Expand the Existing Yolo Branch Library Building Alternative because it is economically infeasible. In addition, this alternative would only achieve some of the objectives the YCL has set for the proposed project. While this alternative would be likely to substantially lessen or potentially avoid the significant and unavoidable impact to the historic library building that would occur under the proposed project, it could increase the severity of the proposed project's impacts on the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings.

12.2.3 Preserve the Existing Yolo Branch Library Building

Under this alternative, the YCL would preserve the existing, approximately 1,000 square-foot Yolo Branch Library building in its present location. As explained in Section 12.2.1, the existing Yolo Branch Library building has significant structural, fire and life safety, plumbing, electrical, roofing, interior/exterior deferred maintenance, and ADA compliance concerns; these concerns pose a clear and present risk of building collapse and have led the YCL to vacate the existing

building. For the purposes of this alternative, the YCL would improve the existing building enough to prevent the potential collapse of the building in a strong earthquake or wind storm; however, the YCL would not re-occupy or re-open the building. Branch library services would either continue to be served out of the existing temporary modular building or moved to a different site.

- **Preservation with On-Site Library Services:** The preservation of the existing Yolo Branch Library building with continued interim library services out of the existing temporary modular building is the No Project Alternative. This alternative is discussed in Section 12.3.
- **Preservation with Off-Site Library Services:** In this scenario, the YCL would preserve the existing Yolo Branch Library building at its current location, but relocate the library's collection and services to a new, off-site location. As explained in more detail in Section 12.2.4, the YCL evaluated several sites for development a new library building; however, no suitable sites were identified. Thus, this scenario is not considered a feasible alternative.

The YCL considered the preservation of the existing library building as a historical resource, but not as a functional library, and concluded this option was cost prohibitive and thus economically infeasible.

Under this alternative, Yolo Branch Library services would likely continue to be below County goals for square footage per capita, volume per capita, and computer access (see Table 12-2). This alternative also would not result in a larger library, expand the library's written and/or digital collection (since it would not substantially increase building space on-site and there is no viable off-site alternative), or include a community meeting space. Thus, this alternative would only meet one of the six objectives the YCL has set for the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project.

For the reasons described above, the YCL considered but rejected this alternative because it would be economically inefficient and cost prohibitive and would not achieve most of the basic objectives of the project.

12.2.4 Alternative Site Location

Under this alternative, the YCL would construct a new library at a different location in or near the Town of Yolo. The existing library building would remain on-site, but vacant, and the temporary modular building would be removed (and returned to the vendor). The YCL would not make any improvements to the existing library building which, presumably, would continue to deteriorate in condition or ultimately be removed due for liability and safety reasons.

The YCL preliminarily reviewed potential alternative sites prior to the installation of the temporary modular building at the Yolo Branch Library site in November 2017. This review identified a limited number of sites available in the Town of Yolo; however, no sites were determined to be adequate for a new library due to cost considerations. In addition, the YCL specifically evaluated the feasibility of acquiring the Community Center at 14189 1st Street in Yolo as a potential site for a new library building; however, the Community Center site was not pursued for the following reasons:

- Potential subgrade contamination associated with a buried fuel tank;

- Significant costs to repair a damaged and dilapidated building;
- Significant cost to flood-proof and structurally reinforce the building since the finished floor elevation is below the base flood elevation;
- The site's proximity to Cache Creek would require the existing wastewater system to be abandoned and replaced with an engineered septic system; and
- The desire to provide library services in the center of Town in the same location the library has been for the last 100 years and not at the edge of town where the Community Center is.

A preliminary construction cost analysis prepared by WMB Architects for the YCL estimated the costs associated with a library building at the Community Center property would be approximately 23% to 28% higher than a new building at the Yolo Branch Library site.

Finally, while a new library building at an alternate location would likely meet the objectives the YCL has set for the proposed project, it would not avoid or substantially lessen the significant and unavoidable impact on the existing library because continued deterioration of the existing building would ultimately materially impair the historical significance of the proposed project. This would be exacerbated by the fact that if the existing Yolo Branch Library property is not used by the County as a public library, the property would be deeded back to the prior land owners.

For the reasons described above, the YCL considered but rejected this alternative because it would be economically infeasible and would not avoid or substantially lessen the significant and unavoidable impact of the proposed project.

12.2.5 Temporary Service Options

The YCL considered other options for providing temporary library services, including joint use of the adjacent Yolo Fire Station or the Cache Creek High School; however, these options would not meet any of the objectives the YCL has set for the project. In addition, these options would not avoid or substantially lessen the significant and unavoidable of the proposed project because continued deterioration of the existing building would ultimately material impair the historical significance of the existing library. This would be exacerbated by the fact that if the existing Yolo Branch Library property is not used by the County as a public library, the property would be deeded back to the prior land owners.

12.3 NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Project Alternative, the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not be constructed or operated. In the short-term, the YCL would retain all existing site features including the existing historic library, temporary modular library building, adjacent residential building, and associated paving and landscaping. In addition, interim library services would continue to be provided out of the leased temporary modular building. The YCL would then need to conduct a long-term feasibility study evaluating the cost effectiveness of operating this way. If the feasibility study identified significant costs to continue utilizing the temporary modular building, library services would be suspended or consolidated. Eventually, it is likely the County Library could propose another, similar, library building project to address a permanent solution to abandoning the existing historic library building, but it is unknown how

long it would be before the County proposed another library building project, where it would be located, and exactly what features would be included in it. Under this alternative, the existing library would be minimally maintained, but would not be reinforced to prevent collapse.

The No Project Alternative would not obtain any of the objectives the YCL has set for the proposed project. It would not address the substantial structural and safety issues associated with the existing building, nor result in a new, larger structure that links modern library services to the historical building. It would also not upgrade or improve the branch library's service goals, or provide a community meeting space.

The No Project Alternative would eliminate the proposed project's potentially significant impacts to biological resources, cultural/tribal cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and noise associated with construction of the proposed project. Mitigation measures to reduce these potentially significant impacts would not be necessary. The No Project Alternative would also avoid the proposed project's operational hydrology and water quality and noise impacts, since it would not change the existing site conditions or result in expanded use of the library by the community.

Under the No Project Alternative, the existing library would continue to deteriorate. At some point, the YCL would likely need to remove the library to reduce safety risks and liability associated with the collapse because interim library services and visitors would continue to occur at the site. In the short-term, this alternative would avoid the proposed project's potentially significant aesthetic/visual resource impact, potentially significant indirect adverse effect on surrounding historic properties, and significant and unavoidable impact on the historic Yolo Branch Library. In the long-term, if the existing library building continued to deteriorate, or if the YCL could not sustain interim library services from the temporary modular building and was forced to cede the property back to the original owner, the No Project Alternative would not avoid or substantially lessen the significant and unavoidable impact to the Yolo Branch Library building that would occur under the proposed project.

As described above, the No Project Alternative would not achieve any of the objectives the YCL has set for the proposed project and, while this alternative may avoid or substantially lessen the significant and unavoidable impact to the historic library building that would occur under the proposed project in the short-term, it would not avoid or substantially lessen this significant and unavoidable impact in the long-term.

12.4 REDUCED PROJECT ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, the YCL would demolish and replace the existing, approximately 1,000 square-foot Yolo Branch Library building and the adjacent residence at 14184 2nd Street with a new, approximately 2,000 to 2,500 square-foot library building. Under this alternative, the new library would be slightly larger than the existing library but would not contain dedicated community meeting space.

The Reduced Project Alternative would obtain half of the objectives the YCL has set for the proposed project. It would address the substantial structural and safety issues associated with the existing building, result in a larger library building that likely could be operated by limited staff, upgrade and improve the branch library's service metrics, and expand the branch library's media collections, although not to the same extent as the proposed project. The Reduced Project Alternative would not, however, include a dedicated community meeting room.

The Reduced Project Alternative would not eliminate the potentially significant impacts to biological resources, cultural/tribal cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and noise associated with construction of the proposed project. Mitigation measures to reduce these potentially significant impacts would continue to be necessary. The Reduced Project alternative would also not avoid the proposed project's operational hydrology and water quality impacts, since it would change the existing site stormwater conditions, but would avoid one of the proposed project's potentially significant noise impacts (NOI-2) since it would not result in dedicated community meeting space.

Under the Reduced Project Alternative, the YCL would still demolish the historic Yolo Branch Library building. Thus, this alternative would not avoid or substantially lessen the significant and unavoidable impact to the Yolo Branch Library building that would occur under the proposed project.

12.5 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE

A comparison of the proposed Program against the two alternatives discussed in detail above is presented in Table 12-3.

Table 12-3 Comparison of Proposed Project Impacts against Project Alternatives

Resource	Proposed Project	No Project Alternative	Reduced Project Alternative
Aesthetics	LTSM	Avoided	No Change
Agriculture	No Impact	No Change	No Change
Air Quality	LTSM	Avoided	Lessened
Biology	LTSM	Avoided	No Change
Cultural	**SU**	Short-Term: Avoided Long-Term: **Same**	**Same**
Geology	LTS	Avoided	No Change
GHG	LTS	Avoided	Lessened
Hazards	LTSM	Avoided	No Change
Hydrology	LTSM	Avoided	No Change
Land Use	LTS	No Change	No Change
Minerals	No Impact	No Change	No Change
Noise	LTSM	Avoided	Avoided
Population	No Impact	No Change	No Change
Public Services	No Impact	No Change	No Change
Recreation	No Impact	No Change	No Change
Traffic	LTS	No Change	No Change
Utilities	LTS	No Change	No Change
Tribal Cultural	LTSM	Avoided	No Change
Meets Project Objectives?	**6 of 6**	**0 of 6**	**3 of 6**

Table Legend: LTS = Less than significant impact; LTSM = Less than significant impact with mitigation; SU = Significant and unavoidable impact even with mitigation.

As shown in Table 12-3, the No Project Alternative is the least environmentally damaging alternative because it avoids, at least in the short-term, the significant and unavoidable impact on the historic Yolo Branch Library building; however, it achieves none of the objectives for the proposed project and, in the long-term, would not avoid the proposed project's significant and unavoidable impact on the library building.

The proposed project would meet all objectives and result in similar impacts as the No Project Alternative (in the long-term) and the Reduced Project Alternative. For these reasons, the proposed project is considered the environmentally superior alternative.

12.6 CHAPTER REFERENCES

Buehler & Buehler 2016. "Re: Yolo Branch Library – Structural Review 37750 Sacrament St., Yolo, CA." Letter from Lawrence John Summerfield, CA SE#3605, Buehler & Buehler, to Terry Vernon, Yolo County. June 9, 2016.

Yolo County 2009a. *County of Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan Land Use and Community Character Element*. Yolo County, CA. November, 2009.

_____2009b. *County of Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report*. Yolo County, CA. April, 2009.

_____2017a. *Yolo County Library Facilities Master Plan (2018-2035).* Yolo County, CA. September 11, 2017

CHAPTER 13 OTHER CEQA CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 POTENTIALLY UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(a) and (b) require an EIR to discuss the significant environmental effects of the proposed project and the significant environmental effects which cannot be avoided if the proposed project is implemented.

All potentially significant impacts of the project are identified in Chapters 4 – 11 of this EIR, along with mitigation measures to reduce or avoid these impacts. Even with the application of mitigation measures, the proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project, if implemented, would result in one unavoidable, significant impact. This impact is:

- ***Impact CUL-1: The proposed project would result in the demolition of the existing Yolo Branch Library Building, a known historical resource.***

  Impact CUL-1 identifies that the implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would result in the demolition of the existing Yolo Branch Library building, a known historical resource. The demolition of a historical resource is considered a significant impact under CEQA. Mitigation Measures CUL-1A, CUL-1B, CUL-1C would lessen the potentially significant adverse impact resulting from the demolition of the existing, historic Yolo Branch Library building, and Mitigation Measure CUL-1D would require the YCL to make a good faith attempt to preserve the building for ultimate relocation; however, these measures would not avoid the demolition of the building and the effectiveness of Mitigation Measure CUL-1D is speculative and cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, these measures would not avoid the significant, adverse, material change to the historic Yolo Branch Library building that would occur with implementation of the proposed project. Impact CUL-1, therefore, is considered a significant and unavoidable impact of the proposed project.

13.2 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(c) and 15126.2(c) require an EIR to discuss significant irreversible changes which would be caused by implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project.

Demolition activities, by their very nature, result in irreversible changes. The removal of existing buildings from the project area, and the corresponding construction of new facilities, would result in irreversible environmental changes. In addition, implementing the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would result in using nonrenewable energy resources such as fuel (gasoline and diesel) and oil for construction equipment and staff/visitor vehicles; however, this incremental increase in the use of these resources would not interfere with regional supplies and availability of these resources.

The New Yolo Branch Library Building Project converts an existing residential land use parcel to Public and Quasi Public Land Use. While the project results in a change in land use, the change is not considered significant due to the project's characteristics (replacement of a library to meet the needs of existing residents in a small town). The project does not increase access to previously inaccessible areas since the project is located in an area with and surrounded by other development.

Implementation of the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not involve the use of large quantities of flammable or hazardous substances, which if accidentally released, could cause irreversible environmental damage. As described in Chapter 6 and Chapter 8, the YCL would implement mitigation measures to ensure hazardous materials such as asbestos and lead do not pose a risk to human health or the environment.

13.3 GROWTH INDUCING IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(d) requires an EIR to discuss the growth-inducing impact of the proposed project. As described in Section 3.3.6, the New Yolo Branch Library Building Project would not induce substantial population growth in an area, would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere, and would not displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The loss of one residential home is not considered substantial in terms of displacing residents or loss of housing. The proposed New Yolo Branch Library Building Project does not contain any other potential activity or component that would induce growth.

13.4 POTENTIAL INCONSISTENCY WITH OTHER LOCAL PLANS

CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(d) requires an EIR to discuss inconsistencies between the proposed project and applicable general plans, specific plans, and regional plans including, but not limited, to air quality plans, habitat conservation plans, and land use plans for the protection of the Coastal Zone. The proposed project's inconsistency with applicable plans is generally considered and discussed in the setting and impact discussions in Chapters 4 – 11 of this EIR. The proposed project would be consistent with relevant policies from the Countywide 2030 General Plan as well as applicable requirements contained in the County's Code of Ordinances.

CHAPTER 14 REPORT PREPARERS AND AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED

14.1 REPORT PREPARERS

This EIR was prepared under the direction and supervision of the YCL. The following individuals were involved in the preparation of this report:

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