INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Conditional Use Permit CUP26-0002 (USS Yuba Beale Solar)

Project Title:	Conditional Use Permit CUP26-0002 (USS Yuba Beale Solar)
Lead Agency Name and Address:	County of Yuba Planning Department 915 8th Street, Suite 123 Marysville, CA 95901
Project Location:	Assessor's Parcel Number: 019-190-104 Address: 6738 Hackberry Way, Linda CA 95901
Applicant:	Ben Peters, US Solar Development, LLC 323 Washington Ave N, Suite 350 Minneapolis, MN 55401
General Plan Designation(s):	Natural Resources
Zoning:	"AE-80" Exclusive Agricultural
Contact Person:	Alex Becerra, Planner II
Phone Number:	(530) 749-5470
Date Prepared	November 2026

Project Description

The project site is at 6738 Hackberry Way (APN 019-190-104) in the Linda area of unincorporated Yuba County, approximately six miles east of the City of Marysville. The approximately 35.5-acre parcel is south of Hammonton-Smartsville Road and west of Hackberry Way, in Section 13, Township 15 North, Range 4 East of the Browns Valley USGS quadrangle, with Beale Air Force Base to the east. The parcel is currently in agricultural production as a working almond orchard. It also contains a single-family residence with ancillary structures near the southern property line, gravel farm roads, and an existing PG&E overhead distribution line. Two man-made borrow pits in the northwest and southwest corners of the site hold standing water after rain, and a field-delineated wetland lies along the northwestern edge of the parcel. The site is generally flat, ranging from about 84 to 95 feet above mean sea level. Surrounding land uses include rural residences and pasture to the north, orchard to the east, and pistachio orchards, flooded rice fields, an irrigation pond, and commercial beehives to the south.

The applicant, US Solar Development, LLC, on behalf of USS Yuba Beale Solar LLC, requests a Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a community solar photovoltaic (PV) facility with a capacity of approximately 2.7 megawatts alternating current (MWac) / 3.5 megawatts direct current (MWdc). The facility would supply renewable electricity to off-site subscribers in Yuba County through a community solar program. The project has been accepted into PG&E's

Disadvantaged Communities program, which allows income-qualified residents in Yuba County to receive utility bill discounts from the energy the project generates. The fenced project area would cover approximately 15 acres, and the solar racking would occupy approximately 7.79 acres within it. Approximately 16 to 17 acres of the existing almond orchard would be removed for the project, and the rest of the orchard would stay in production.

The facility would consist of 6,076 bifacial solar modules (580 watts each) mounted on single-axis tracker racking. The tracker rows would be spaced approximately 23 feet apart and would reach a maximum height of approximately 15 feet. The racking would be supported by galvanized steel piles driven into the ground, with no concrete footings. Twelve string inverters (250 kVA each) would be mounted on racks within the array, at least 300 feet from the parcel boundary, and would be FCC Part 15 Class A compliant. A medium voltage transformer and associated electrical equipment would be placed on a concrete equipment pad near the center of the array. Other electrical equipment would include DC combiner boxes, metering equipment, and a data acquisition system and weather station. DC and AC collection lines would run in underground conduit within the array. From there, power would be carried by overhead collection lines on new utility poles to a three-pole interconnection with PG&E's existing overhead distribution line near Hackberry Way. The PG&E interconnection facilities would be approximately 20 to 25 feet tall. The project does not include radio-frequency transmitting equipment, communication towers, or permanent buildings. A security fence would enclose the array, which would meet the 30-foot yard setbacks of the AE-80 zone. Proposed setbacks are 53 feet on the north, 40 feet on the south, 319 feet on the east, and 31 feet on the west.

Access to the facility would be provided by a new site entrance on Hackberry Way, with construction and delivery traffic reaching Hackberry Way from Hammonton-Smartsville Road. A 12-foot-wide gravel access drive would run from the entrance along the east and south sides of the array and through its center to the equipment pad. The parcel also has an existing 60-foot access easement that extends north to Hammonton-Smartsville Road. No improvements are proposed within that easement, which contains a field-delineated wetland and existing trees that would remain as part of the landscape buffer.

The Preliminary Landscape Plan shows vegetative buffers along the north and northwest sides of the project area, with depths of 37, 91, and 158 feet at the points labeled on the plan. The buffers would consist of evergreen trees, using native or regionally appropriate species where commercially practicable, to limit direct views of the array. Existing trees along the northern boundary would be kept for screening. The ground beneath and around the array would be planted with native grasses and pollinator habitat, and the site plan requires that vegetation reach 70 percent coverage before construction begins.

Construction would begin with removing the orchard trees within the project area, clearing and preparing the ground, and building the access drive from Hackberry Way. Crews would then drive galvanized steel piles to depths set by structural and geotechnical analysis, mount the racking on the piles, and attach the solar panels. Pile driving is expected to take five days or less. Construction would use standard equipment such as dozers, loaders, skid steers, pile drivers, and cranes, along with haul trucks, water trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and worker vehicles. Site preparation and installation would take approximately 8 to 12 weeks, followed by testing, inspection, and commissioning, which includes PG&E testing before the facility is energized.

The total construction period, including commissioning, is expected to last six to nine months. Construction would comply with Yuba County Ordinance Code Section 8.20.310, which prohibits operating construction equipment within 500 feet of a residential zone between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. No work would occur on Sundays or national holidays.

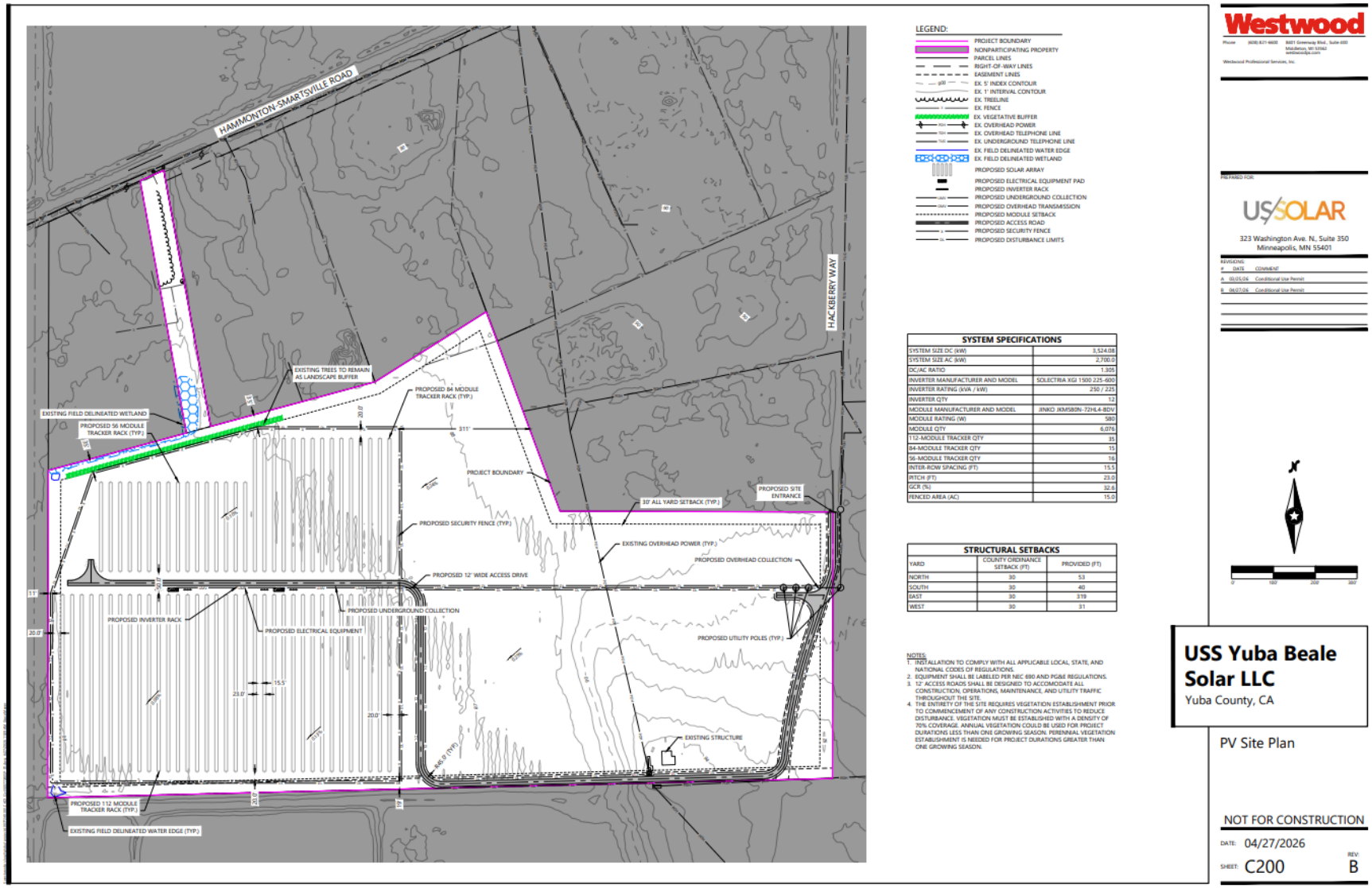
Construction workers, supervision personnel, and delivery trucks would use a temporary parking and staging area within the project fence. The applicant anticipates up to 30 deliveries for solar modules, up to 20 container truck deliveries for racking material, up to five deliveries for inverters, switchgear, and transformers, and four deliveries for balance-of-plant equipment. No more than four deliveries would occur per day, most of them during the first month. Modules would arrive on 40-foot flatbed trucks or in 40-foot containers, and the applicant would coordinate delivery times and routes with local authorities before construction begins. Portable restroom facilities would be provided during construction.

Because the tracker racking can follow the existing terrain, grading and filling would be kept to a minimum and existing drainage patterns would be maintained. Before construction, the applicant would obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board Construction General Permit and prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP would cover temporary and permanent erosion and sediment control, best management practices, inspection and maintenance, pollution prevention, and final site stabilization.

Once operating, the facility would be monitored remotely 24 hours a day and would have no on-site staff. Technicians would visit about four times per year for routine maintenance and inspections, plus any unplanned repairs, with additional visits during the first few years to maintain vegetation and landscaping. Two parking spaces would be provided within the perimeter fence. The project would not generate daily traffic and would not require water, sewer, or solid waste service. No equipment or materials would be stored on site, and no advertising signage is proposed. PG&E would hold an easement to maintain its interconnection facilities.

The facility would have an expected operating life of approximately 35 years. At the end of operations, the solar panels, racking, piles, inverters, equipment pads, and other equipment would be removed and the site restored.

Figure 1. Site Plan



Environmental Setting

The project area involves approximately 35.5 acres of land located on the west side of Hackberry Way and south of Hammonton-Smartsville Road, approximately six miles east of the City of Marysville in the Linda area of unincorporated Yuba County, California. Lands affected are located within a portion of Section 13 of Township 15 North, Range 4 East, as shown on the USGS Browns Valley quadrangle. Beale Air Force Base lies to the east of the site.

The property is located at an elevation of approximately 84 to 95 feet above sea level, with generally flat topography. The region has a hot-summer Mediterranean climate, with long, hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. Summer high temperatures typically reach the mid-90s °F, and winter lows occasionally drop below freezing overnight. Average annual precipitation on the valley floor is approximately 16 inches, nearly all of it falling in the winter months. Dense tule fog can occur during winter.

The project site does not contain native or natural vegetation communities. It is almost entirely a working almond orchard, with non-native ruderal vegetation and eucalyptus trees along the edges. Native vegetation in the surrounding region consists mainly of annual grasses and forbs, with scattered blue oak woodland at higher elevations to the east.

Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

- Regional Water Quality Control Board (Construction General Permit coverage for disturbance over 1 acre)
- Yuba County Building Department (building and electrical permits)
- Yuba County Public Works Department (encroachment permit for the site entrance on Hackberry Way)
- Yuba County Environmental Health Department
- Feather River Air Quality Management District (fugitive dust control plan)

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, as indicated by the checklist and corresponding discussion on the following pages:

☐ Aesthetics	☒ Agriculture & Forestry Resources	☒ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☒ Geology/Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation/Traffic	☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

11/17/2026

Planner's Signature — Date

Alex Becerra, Planner II

PURPOSE OF THIS INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study has been prepared consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, to determine if the Conditional Use Permit CUP26-0002, as proposed, may have a significant effect upon the environment. Based upon the findings contained within this report, the Initial Study will be used in support of the preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on project-specific screening analysis).
2) All answers must take into account the whole action involved, including offsite as well as onsite, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced.
5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c) (3) (D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
    a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
    b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
    c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, development code). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) The explanation of each issue should identify:

    a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

    b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

I. AESTHETICS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality public views?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project site is in a rural agricultural area on the valley floor, with generally flat topography. The site is currently a working almond orchard with an existing residence and ancillary structures. Surrounding lands are rural residences and pasture to the north, orchard to the east, and orchards, rice fields, and an irrigation pond to the south. The Yuba County 2030 General Plan does not designate scenic vistas on or near the project site. Because the site and surrounding area are flat, the solar array would not block views of the Sierra Nevada foothills to the east or other distant features from public roads. The tracker racking would reach a maximum height of approximately 15 feet, similar to the height of the existing orchard trees. Therefore, there would be a ***less than significant impact*** on scenic vistas.

b) There are no officially designated state scenic highways near the project site, and the site is not visible from one. Hammonton-Smartsville Road and Hackberry Way are local roads. The project would remove approximately 16 to 17 acres of almond orchard, but these are commercial crop trees, not scenic resources, and no rock outcroppings or historic buildings are on the site. Therefore, there would be ***no impact.***

c) The project site is in a non-urbanized area. The project would replace part of the orchard with rows of solar panels, inverters, an equipment pad, a security fence, and a gravel access drive, which would change the visual character of that part of the site from orchard to energy facility. Public views of the site are limited. To the north, residential parcels separate the site from Hammonton-Smartsville Road. To the east, the array would be set back approximately 319 feet from the property line, with the remaining orchard between the array and Hackberry Way. The nearest views would be from the rural residences to the north and northwest. To reduce views from those properties, the Preliminary Landscape Plan includes vegetative buffers 37 to 158 feet deep along the north and northwest sides of the array. The buffers would consist of evergreen native or regionally appropriate trees and would retain the existing tree row along the northern boundary. The ground beneath and around the array

would be planted with native grasses and pollinator habitat, and no buildings or advertising signage are proposed. The tracker racking would be low profile, with a maximum height of approximately 15 feet. With the landscape buffers, setbacks, and the remaining orchard screening the array, the project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. The impact would be ***less than significant.***

d) The application materials do not propose permanent exterior lighting for the facility. Construction would occur mainly during daylight hours, and any temporary lighting would end when construction is complete.

Solar modules are designed to absorb sunlight rather than reflect it, and they use anti-reflective glass. To evaluate potential glare, the applicant submitted a Glare Study prepared by Westwood Professional Services (June 26, 2026). The study used ForgeSolar's GlareGauge software, which is based on the Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool developed by Sandia National Laboratories. Ten nearby residences were modeled at first- and second-story eye heights. Hammonton-Smartsville Road and Hackberry Way were modeled at passenger vehicle and commercial truck driver eye heights. Two approach flight paths and the air traffic control tower at Beale Air Force Base were also modeled. At the project's proposed 60-degree tracker rest angle, the study predicted no glare at any residence, road, flight path, or the control tower. The model did not account for existing trees, structures, or the proposed landscape buffers, which would further screen the array, so these results are conservative.

Because the site is adjacent to Beale Air Force Base, the County also sent the Glare Study and the Air Force's glint and glare information sheet to Beale AFB staff for review. Beale AFB did not provide comments. The project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. The impact would be ***less than significant.***

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) According to the 2022 Yuba County Important Farmland Map, prepared by the Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), most of the project site is classified as Unique Farmland. A small area in the northwest corner of the parcel is classified as Farmland of Statewide Importance. Unique Farmland is defined as lesser quality soils used to produce the state's leading agricultural crops, typically irrigated, including non-irrigated orchards or vineyards in some climatic zones, that have been cropped at some time during the four years before the mapping date. The site is currently a working almond orchard.

The project would remove approximately 16 to 17 acres of the existing orchard and place a solar facility on approximately 15 fenced acres, converting that portion of the site from agricultural use for the life of the project. The remaining orchard on the parcel would stay in production. The

Farmland of Statewide Importance area in the northwest corner is outside the fenced solar area and would not be converted.

The conversion would be temporary. The facility has an expected operating life of approximately 35 years. The racking would be supported by driven steel piles rather than concrete foundations, grading would be kept to a minimum, and topsoil would remain in place. The ground beneath and around the array would be planted with native grasses and pollinator habitat for the life of the project. These features would allow the site to return to agricultural use once the facility is removed. However, the application materials do not include a decommissioning plan or a commitment to restore the site to agricultural use. Without one, the conversion of Unique Farmland would be a potentially significant impact. Mitigation Measure AG-1 requires the applicant to prepare a Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan and provide financial assurance so the site is returned to a condition that can support agricultural production at the end of the project's life. With Mitigation Measure AG-1, the impact would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Mitigation Measure AG-1: Decommissioning and Site Restoration

Before a building permit is issued, the applicant shall submit a Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan to the Yuba County Planning Department for review and approval. The plan shall describe the removal of all project facilities, including solar modules, racking, piles, inverters, transformers, equipment pads, fencing, underground and overhead collection lines, and gravel access roads. It shall also describe how the site will be restored to a condition capable of supporting agricultural production, including soil decompaction and regrading where needed. Decommissioning shall begin within 12 months after the facility permanently stops operating or the Conditional Use Permit expires, whichever occurs first. Before a building permit is issued, the applicant shall also provide financial assurance in a form acceptable to the County, such as a bond or letter of credit, in an amount based on an engineer's cost estimate for decommissioning and site restoration approved by the Planning Department.

b) The project site is zoned Exclusive Agricultural (AE-80), which allows solar energy facilities with approval of a Conditional Use Permit. With approval of the Conditional Use Permit, the project would be consistent with the site's agricultural zoning, and the remaining orchard would stay in agricultural production. Yuba County does not participate in the Williamson Act program, so the property is not under a Williamson Act contract. There would be ***no impact***.

c) and d) The project site is not zoned for forest land, timberland, or Timberland Production, and it does not contain forest land as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g). The almond orchard is a commercial agricultural crop, not forest land. The project would not conflict with forest zoning or result in the loss or conversion of forest land. There would be ***no impact***.

e) The project would not extend roads, water lines, or other infrastructure that could encourage the conversion of nearby farmland. Surrounding orchards, rice fields, and pasture would continue in agricultural use. The project would not generate daily traffic, use water, or store materials on site, so it would not interfere with farming on adjacent properties. The native grasses and pollinator habitat planted within the array may also benefit nearby agricultural operations,

including the commercial beehives south of the site. The project would not involve other changes that could result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project site is in the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin, under the jurisdiction of the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD). FRAQMD and the other air districts in the Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Area adopted the 2024 Triennial Air Quality Attainment Plan, which reports progress on the previous plan and sets out strategies to attain the California ambient air quality standards. The plan is available at https://www.fraqmd.org/california-air-quality-plans. Air quality plans for the basin rely on the growth projections in local general plans, mainly population growth and the vehicle travel that comes with it. The project is a solar facility that would be consistent with the site's AE-80 zoning upon approval of the Conditional Use Permit. It would not add housing, employees, or population. Once operating, the facility would be monitored remotely, with technicians visiting about four times per year, and would not generate daily traffic. Construction emissions would be temporary and subject to FRAQMD rules and the measures in Mitigation Measure AQ-1. The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

b) Under FRAQMD's 2026 area designations, Yuba County is designated nonattainment for the state PM10 standard and attainment for the federal PM10 standard. For ozone, Yuba County is designated attainment for both the state 1-hour and 8-hour standards. The county is designated attainment or unclassified for the remaining pollutants. Under FRAQMD guidelines, a project would have a significant impact on air quality if it generates 25 pounds per day or more of reactive organic gases (ROG), 25 pounds per day or more of nitrogen oxides (NOx), or 80 pounds per day or more of PM10. ROG and NOx are ozone precursors.

Operational emissions would be minimal. The facility would produce electricity without combustion, and the only operational emission source would be maintenance vehicles. The applicant's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis (Westwood Professional Services, August 2026) estimates that inspections and maintenance would require a pickup truck and an all-terrain vehicle for an average of about two full days per year. Emissions at that level would be well below FRAQMD's thresholds.

Construction would generate temporary emissions. Exhaust would come from equipment such as dozers, loaders, skid steers, pile drivers, cranes, and water trucks, from worker vehicles, and from up to four delivery trucks per day. Fugitive dust would come from orchard removal, site clearing, access drive construction, and travel on unpaved surfaces. Site preparation and installation would take approximately 8 to 12 weeks, followed by testing and commissioning, which involves little heavy equipment. Grading would be kept to a minimum because the tracker racking can follow the existing terrain, and pile driving is expected to take five days or less. Without controls, dust and equipment exhaust during construction could contribute to the county's nonattainment status for PM10.

In its comments on the project, FRAQMD noted that the applicant must comply with District Rule 3.16, which requires the developer or contractor to keep dust from earthmoving, material handling, and storage from leaving the property. FRAQMD also recommended a Fugitive Dust Control Plan for the construction phase. In addition, FRAQMD noted that District Rule 2.0.K.3 prohibits open burning of natural vegetation on land being developed for industrial or commercial purposes, so orchard trees removed for the project may not be burned on site. Other FRAQMD and state requirements would apply during construction, including permits or state registration for portable equipment over 50 horsepower such as pile drivers and generators, and the five-minute idling limits for on-road and off-road diesel vehicles. These requirements are listed in FRAQMD's Rules and Regulations Statement, which will be included as a condition of approval.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1 requires the applicant to obtain FRAQMD approval of a Fugitive Dust Control Plan before construction, carry out FRAQMD's construction phase mitigation measures, and dispose of orchard material without burning. With Mitigation Measure AQ-1, construction emissions would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of PM10 or ozone precursors. The impact would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: FRAQMD Construction Measures

Before construction begins, the applicant shall submit a Fugitive Dust Control Plan to the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) for review and approval, and shall provide a copy of the approved plan to the Yuba County Planning Department. The applicant and contractors shall carry out the approved plan and the following FRAQMD construction phase mitigation measures for the duration of construction:

1. All construction equipment shall be properly tuned and maintained before and during onsite operation.

2. Existing power sources (such as line power) or clean fuel generators shall be used rather than temporary power generators.
3. A traffic plan shall be developed to minimize traffic flow interference from construction activities, including scheduling operations that affect traffic for off-peak hours and minimizing obstruction of through-traffic lanes.
4. All grading operations shall be suspended when winds exceed 20 miles per hour or when winds carry dust beyond the property line despite implementation of all feasible dust control measures.
5. Work areas shall be watered or treated with dust suppressants as necessary to prevent fugitive dust violations.
6. An operational water truck shall be available at all times and used as needed to prevent visible emissions violations and offsite dust impacts.
7. Onsite dirt piles or other stockpiled material shall be covered, wind breaks installed, and water or approved non-toxic soil stabilizers applied to reduce wind-blown dust.
8. All transfer processes involving a free fall of soil or other particulate matter shall be operated to minimize the free fall distance and fugitive dust emissions.
9. Approved chemical soil stabilizers shall be applied according to manufacturer specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 96 hours), including unpaved roads and employee and equipment parking areas.
10. Wheel washers or a gravel bed shall be installed where vehicles and equipment exit onto paved roads to prevent track-out.
11. Paved roads shall be swept if soil material is carried onto them from the project site.
12. Temporary traffic control shall be provided as needed during all phases of construction, as determined by the Yuba County Public Works Department.
13. Vehicle speeds on all unpaved surfaces shall be limited to 15 miles per hour or less, and unnecessary vehicle traffic shall be restricted, with appropriate signage, training, and onsite enforcement.
14. Ground cover shall be reestablished on disturbed areas as soon as possible through seeding and watering.
15. The applicant shall submit to FRAQMD for approval, before work begins, a plan demonstrating that the heavy-duty (50 horsepower or greater) off-road equipment used for the project, including owned, leased, and subcontractor equipment, will achieve a project-wide fleet-average 5 percent ROG reduction, 20 percent NOx reduction, and 45 percent particulate reduction compared to the most recent CARB fleet average at the time of construction. The applicant shall provide FRAQMD a monthly summary of heavy-duty off-road equipment use during construction.
16. Vegetation removed from the site, including orchard trees, shall not be burned. Vegetative material shall be chipped, mulched, composted, delivered to a permitted biomass facility, or otherwise disposed of in compliance with FRAQMD rules.

c) Sensitive receptors are places where people more vulnerable to air pollution are likely to be, such as residences, schools, hospitals, and daycare facilities. The nearest sensitive receptors are the rural residences north and northwest of the project site. Construction would temporarily generate dust and diesel exhaust near these residences. However, construction would be short-term, heavy equipment use would be concentrated in the first several weeks, and pile driving would take five days or less, so residents would not be exposed to diesel exhaust over a long

period. Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would control dust leaving the site and reduce equipment exhaust through equipment maintenance, idling limits, and the fleet emission reductions in item 15. Once operating, the facility would not emit pollutants apart from occasional maintenance vehicle trips. With Mitigation Measure AQ-1, the impact would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

d) Construction equipment exhaust could create temporary diesel odors near the work area. These odors would be short-term, would dissipate quickly in the open rural setting, and would end when construction is complete. Burning of orchard trees, which could otherwise cause smoke and odor, is prohibited under FRAQMD Rule 2.0.K.3 and Mitigation Measure AQ-1. The solar facility would not produce odors or other emissions once operating. The project would not result in emissions that adversely affect a substantial number of people. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The applicant submitted a Biological Assessment prepared by Westwood Professional Services (July 24, 2026). The assessment included a review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) species list, a California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) search of the Browns Valley USGS quadrangle, and a field investigation of the site by a Westwood biologist on June 18, 2026.

The project site consists almost entirely of a working almond orchard, with compacted clayey soils around the orchard, gravel farm roads, and an existing residence with ancillary structures. No native or natural vegetation communities are present. Vegetation outside the cultivated orchard is mostly non-native ruderal species, such as Johnson grass, wild oat, and Himalayan

blackberry, along with river redgum eucalyptus trees. Adjacent lands include rural residences with lawns and pasture, pistachio orchards, flooded rice fields, an irrigation pond, and commercial beehives south of the site.

The IPaC species list identified eight federally listed or proposed species, plus the bald eagle, which is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The CNDDB search returned 60 occurrences of 14 species of concern and one natural community (Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool) within the Browns Valley quadrangle. None of these species have been recorded within the project site. The assessment rated each species' potential to occur on the site as follows:

Birds: The bald eagle, burrowing owl, California black rail, Swainson's hawk, and tricolored blackbird were rated as having a low potential to occur. The site lacks large trees near water suitable for bald eagle nesting, grasslands and soils suitable for burrowing owl burrows, and the shallow marsh habitat used by black rail and tricolored blackbird. Mature orchards generally support low prey populations and are not typically used by Swainson's hawks for foraging.

Reptiles and amphibians: The giant garter snake and northwestern pond turtle were rated low. The rice fields and irrigation pond south of the site may provide marginal habitat, but the site itself contains no aquatic habitat or suitable upland refuge for either species. The western spadefoot was rated zero, because the site's compacted clay soils cannot support the burrows the species depends on.

Fish: Green sturgeon and steelhead were rated zero. The site contains no aquatic resources, and the nearest potential habitat is the Yuba River, approximately 2.5 miles north.

Invertebrates: Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp were rated zero, since there are no vernal pools on the site. The valley elderberry longhorn beetle was rated low because no elderberry shrubs, its host plant, were found. The monarch butterfly was rated low. No monarchs or milkweed were observed, although flowering plants along the site margins and in nearby pastures could provide foraging. The native grasses and pollinator habitat planted within the array would increase foraging resources for monarchs and other pollinators.

Plants: Dwarf downingia and legenere, both associated with vernal pools, have no suitable habitat on the site.

During the field investigation, the biologist observed black-tailed jackrabbit, desert cottontail, and a number of common bird species, including American crow, mourning dove, western kingbird, and Brewer's blackbird. No dens, burrows, or bird nests were found on the site. The assessment concluded that the project would not affect special-status plant or wildlife species and recommended no avoidance or mitigation measures for them.

However, removing approximately 16 to 17 acres of orchard trees, along with clearing and construction activity, could disturb birds nesting in the orchard or in nearby trees, including the mature eucalyptus trees just north of the northeastern site boundary. Native nesting birds are

protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513. The Biological Assessment recommends pre-construction nest surveys if vegetation removal occurs during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31). Although Swainson's hawk is unlikely to forage on the site, the species is state listed as threatened and could nest in large trees near the site. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 requires pre-construction nesting bird surveys, including a wider survey area for Swainson's hawk, and buffers around any active nests. With Mitigation Measure BIO-1, the impact would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Pre-Construction Nesting Bird Surveys

If tree removal, vegetation clearing, or ground disturbance will occur during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey no more than 14 days before the work begins. The survey shall cover the construction area and a 250-foot buffer for nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, a 500-foot buffer for raptors, and a 0.25-mile buffer for Swainson's hawk, where access allows. If an active nest is found, the biologist shall establish a no-disturbance buffer around it based on the species, nest location, and type of construction activity. No construction shall occur within the buffer until the biologist determines that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active. If construction stops for more than 14 days during the nesting season, the survey shall be repeated before work resumes. The biologist shall submit the survey results to the Yuba County Planning Department before vegetation removal or ground disturbance begins. If all vegetation removal and ground disturbance occur outside the nesting season (September 1 through January 31), no survey is required.

b) The project site contains no riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or USFWS. The Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool community identified in the CNDDB search was not found on the site. The project would remove almond orchard trees and non-native ruderal vegetation, neither of which is a sensitive natural community. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

c) The national Wetlands Inventory maps a small portion of a riverine feature, less than 0.01 acre, at the southwestern corner of the site. No waterbodies or flowlines are mapped on the site in the National Hydrography Dataset. The Biological Assessment identified two man-made borrow pits in the northwestern and southwestern corners of the site that hold temporary standing water, and it found that neither would qualify as a vernal pool. The project site plan shows a field-delineated wetland in the northwestern corner of the site, within the 60-foot access easement and along the northwestern edge of the parcel, along with field-delineated water edges in the southwestern corner.

The project has been designed to avoid these features. The solar array and other facilities would be outside them, and no improvements are proposed within the 60-foot access easement. However, a formal wetland delineation has not been submitted, and construction activity near these features could cause accidental fill or sedimentation if not controlled. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 requires the features to be fenced off and avoided during construction, and requires the

applicant to obtain any necessary permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, or CDFW if avoidance is not possible. The SWPPP required under the Construction General Permit would also include erosion and sediment controls to protect these features. With Mitigation Measure BIO-2, the impact would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Wetland and Water Feature Avoidance

Before construction begins, the applicant shall install high-visibility exclusion fencing along the boundary of the field-delineated wetland and water features in the northwestern and southwestern corners of the site, as shown on the project site plan. No construction equipment, vehicles, materials, stockpiles, or ground disturbance shall be allowed within the fenced areas. The fencing shall stay in place and be maintained until construction is complete. Erosion and sediment control measures, such as silt fencing or fiber rolls, shall be installed between construction areas and these features as part of the project SWPPP. If any project activity would place fill in or otherwise directly affect these features, the applicant shall first obtain all required permits or authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and CDFW, as applicable, and provide copies to the Yuba County Planning Department.

d) The project site is a working orchard surrounded by agricultural fields, rural residences, and roads, and it does not contain streams, riparian corridors, or other features that serve as wildlife movement corridors. The site does not support native wildlife nursery sites, and the Biological Assessment found no dens, burrows, or nests on the site. The security fence around the approximately 15-acre array would keep larger animals out of that area, but the remaining orchard and the surrounding agricultural lands would remain open to wildlife movement. The native grasses and pollinator habitat within the array would continue to support birds, small mammals, and insects. The project would not substantially interfere with wildlife movement or the use of wildlife nursery sites. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

e) Yuba County General Plan Action NR5.3 requires development to maintain a 150-foot setback from open watercourses. The project site does not contain streams or other open watercourses. The field-delineated wetland and water features on the site are associated with man-made borrow pits, and the project would avoid them under Mitigation Measure BIO-2. The project would remove almond orchard trees and non-native vegetation but no oak trees or other trees protected by County policy. The project would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

f) No adopted habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans apply to the project site. Yuba and Sutter Counties ended their participation in the joint Yuba-Sutter Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan, and no conservation strategies have been proposed that would conflict with the project. There would be ***no impact***.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The applicant submitted a Phase I Archaeological Resources Survey prepared by Westwood Professional Services (July 28, 2026). The survey covered a 37-acre Area of Potential Effects (APE) that includes all areas of proposed ground disturbance, plus a one-mile study area around the project. Records from the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) and the Built Environment Resources Directory were obtained through the California Office of Historic Preservation. The investigation also reviewed historic USGS topographic maps from 1947 and 1949, Bureau of Land Management General Land Office plats from 1855 and 1860, historic aerial photographs from 1947 through 2024, and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database.

The records search found no previously recorded cultural resources within the APE, and no previous cultural resource surveys overlap the project site. Eleven previously recorded resources are within the one-mile study area, all historic-era: houses, a transmission line, survey monuments, farmsteads, roads, irrigation features, and scatters of historic material. Each of these that has been evaluated was found not eligible for the NRHP, and no NRHP-listed or eligible properties are within the study area. Historic maps and aerial photographs show that the project area has been in agricultural use since at least 1947.

The existing residence on the parcel was built between 1984 and 1993, based on historic aerial photographs reviewed by the United Auburn Indian Community (see Section XVIII, Tribal Cultural Resources). It is not old enough to be considered a historical resource. The residence and its ancillary structures are also outside the solar facility and would not be demolished or altered. The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

b) A Westwood archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology surveyed the APE on June 30, 2026, walking transects spaced 15 meters apart. Ground surface visibility in the orchard was close to 95 percent. No archaeological resources were found. The survey noted that the ground between the orchard rows has been heavily modified over decades of agricultural use. The report concluded that no further cultural resource work is needed and the project may proceed as designed. The United Auburn

Indian Community also conducted a tribal survey of the project area on September 24, 2026, and identified no tribal cultural resources (see Section XVIII, Tribal Cultural Resources).

Although no resources were found, Yuba County has a long history of Native American and historic-era use, and previously unknown archaeological resources could be buried below the surface. Ground disturbance from pile driving, trenching for underground collection lines, and grading for the access drive and equipment pad could uncover them. Consistent with General Plan Goal NR6, Cultural Resources, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 requires work to stop and a qualified archaeologist to evaluate any resources discovered during construction. Mitigation Measure TCR-2 also requires all construction personnel to receive cultural awareness training before work begins, so they can recognize potential resources and know whom to contact. With Mitigation Measure CUL-1, the impact would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Inadvertent Discovery of Cultural Resources

If any prehistoric or historic-era cultural resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 100 feet of the find shall stop immediately. Such resources include flaked or ground stone tools, shell, bone, midden soils, ceramics, glass, metal, or structural remains. The applicant shall notify the Yuba County Planning Department and retain an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards to evaluate the find. If the archaeologist determines that the find may be a historical resource or unique archaeological resource under CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 or Public Resources Code Section 21083.2, the archaeologist shall recommend appropriate treatment, such as avoidance, preservation in place, or data recovery, in consultation with the County. If the find is prehistoric or of Native American origin, the procedures in Mitigation Measure TCR-1 shall also apply, including notification of the United Auburn Indian Community and the Tribe's role in evaluating and treating the find. Work within 100 feet of the find shall not resume until the County approves it, and any treatment measures shall be implemented.

c) No known cemeteries or human remains are on the project site, and none were found during the archaeological survey or UAIC's tribal survey. However, ground disturbance could uncover previously unknown human remains. If human remains are found, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that work stop and the County Coroner be notified. If the remains are determined to be Native American, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 requires the Native American Heritage Commission to be notified and a Most Likely Descendant to be identified. Mitigation Measure CUL-2 puts these requirements in place for the project. With Mitigation Measure CUL-2, the impact would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains

If human remains are discovered during construction, all work within 100 feet of the find shall stop immediately, and the area shall be protected from further disturbance. The applicant shall immediately notify the Yuba County Coroner, the Yuba County Planning Department, and the United Auburn Indian Community. Consistent with California Health and Safety Code Section

7050.5, no further disturbance shall occur until the Coroner has determined the origin and disposition of the remains. If the Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours. The NAHC shall then identify the person it believes to be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD may inspect the site and shall make recommendations for the treatment and disposition of the remains and any associated grave goods within 48 hours of being granted access, as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. Work within 100 feet of the find shall not resume until the remains have been treated in accordance with these requirements and the County has approved resuming work.

VI. ENERGY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) Construction would use energy mainly as fuel for construction equipment, delivery trucks, and worker vehicles. The applicant's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis (Westwood Professional Services, August 2026) estimates that construction would use approximately 15,509 gallons of diesel fuel and 24,880 gallons of gasoline. That fuel use would be temporary and limited to the construction period. Construction would not use more fuel than a project of this type and size typically requires, and the equipment and methods proposed are standard for ground-mounted solar facilities. Mitigation Measure AQ-1 requires equipment to be properly tuned and maintained and requires line power or clean fuel generators to be used rather than temporary diesel generators, both of which reduce fuel use. State regulations also limit idling of on-road and off-road diesel vehicles to five minutes.

During operation, the facility would generate electricity rather than consume it. The only operational energy use would be fuel for maintenance vehicles, which the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis estimates at approximately 1,624 gallons of gasoline over the 35-year life of the project. The analysis estimates the facility would generate approximately 7.4 gigawatt-hours of electricity in its first year of operation, far more energy than the project would use during construction, operation, and decommissioning. Decommissioning would use fuel at about the same level as construction. The project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during construction or operation. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

b) California’s Renewables Portfolio Standard and Senate Bill 100 (2018) require 60 percent of the state's retail electricity to come from eligible renewable sources by 2030, and 100 percent of retail electricity to come from renewable and zero-carbon sources by 2045. The project would add solar generation to PG&E's distribution system and would serve customers through PG&E's Disadvantaged Communities program. The project would support state renewable energy goals and would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) Seismic related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Section 1803.5.3 to 1808.6 of the Currently Adopted California Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) i-iii) According to the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist (Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42), Yuba County is not one of the cities or counties affected by Earthquake Fault Zones, as of August 16, 2007. No known active faults cross the project site. Like the rest of the region, the site could experience ground shaking from earthquakes on more distant faults. The solar arrays, inverters, transformer, and

equipment pad would be designed and built to meet the seismic requirements of the California Building Code, and the County would review the plans during the building permit process. The tracker racking would be supported by steel piles driven to depths set by structural and geotechnical analysis. The facility would have no buildings or on-site staff and would be visited by technicians only about four times per year, so very few people would be on the site during an earthquake. Seismic ground shaking and seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, would result in a ***less than significant impact.***

iv) The Yuba County General Plan identifies the area as one that has a low risk for landslides, and states that grading ordinances adopted by Yuba County and based on Appendix J of the California Building Code are effective measures for dealing with landslide exposure. The project site is on the flat valley floor, at an elevation of about 84 to 95 feet, and the project would require minimal grading. The project would not expose people or structures to landslide hazards. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

b) Construction would disturb soil during orchard removal, site clearing, access drive construction, pile driving, and trenching for underground collection lines. The site is generally flat, and because the tracker racking can follow the existing terrain, grading would be kept to a minimum and topsoil would stay in place. Because the project would disturb more than one acre, the applicant must obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board Construction General Permit and prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with temporary and permanent erosion and sediment controls. The FRAQMD construction measures in Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would also stabilize exposed soil. Once construction is complete, the ground beneath and around the array would be planted with native grasses and pollinator habitat, and the site plan requires that vegetation reach 70 percent coverage before construction begins. The permanent vegetation would protect the soil from erosion over the life of the project. The project would not result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

c) and d) The project site is on low alluvial terraces on the valley floor. According to the archaeology report prepared for the project, the soils are mainly the San Joaquin series, deep soils formed in alluvium from mostly granitic sources, with some Kimball series soils that may also be present. Both are found on low terraces with gentle slopes. The site is flat and not subject to landslides or lateral spreading, and the project would not include excavation, fill, or groundwater pumping that could cause subsidence or collapse. The project would not include buildings or occupied structures. The pile depths for the tracker racking and the foundations for the equipment pad would be based on structural and geotechnical analysis. When application is made for a building permit, Yuba County Building Department staff will determine the appropriate foundation systems for all proposed structures, in accordance with the requirements of the currently adopted California Building Code. The Building Official may require additional soils testing, if necessary. Impacts related to unstable or expansive soils would be ***less than significant***.

e) The project would not include septic tanks, alternative wastewater disposal systems, or any other wastewater facilities. Portable restroom facilities would be provided during construction and removed when construction is complete. Once operating, the facility would have no on-site

staff or restrooms. The existing residence on the parcel would continue to use its existing wastewater system, which the project would not change. Any future septic system on the property would be subject to the Yuba County Environmental Health Department Sewage Disposal Ordinance (Sections 7.07.440 through 7.07.530), which regulates the installation, design, and type of septic system required. There would be ***no impact***.

f) No known paleontological resources or unique geologic features are on the project site. The archaeology report places the site on Quaternary alluvial deposits on low terraces of the valley floor. Older alluvial deposits in the Sacramento Valley have produced vertebrate fossils elsewhere in the region. Most project disturbance would be shallow, limited to orchard removal, minimal grading, and trenching for collection lines. The driven piles would extend deeper, but each pile would disturb only a small area. Even so, construction could encounter fossils buried below the surface. Mitigation Measure GEO-1 requires work to stop and a qualified paleontologist to evaluate any fossils found during construction. With Mitigation Measure GEO-1, the impact would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Inadvertent Discovery of Paleontological Resources

If fossils or suspected paleontological resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 50 feet of the find shall stop immediately, and the applicant shall notify the Yuba County Planning Department. The applicant shall retain a qualified paleontologist to evaluate the find. If the paleontologist determines the find is significant, the paleontologist shall recommend appropriate treatment, such as recovery, documentation, and curation at an accredited institution, in consultation with the County. Work within 50 feet of the find shall not resume until the County approves it, and any treatment measures shall be implemented.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) Greenhouse gases (GHGs) trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to global climate change. The primary GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. GHG emissions are typically reported as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) so that the different gases can be compared using a single measure. An individual project rarely produces enough GHG emissions to affect global climate on its own. For that reason, CEQA evaluates whether a project's contribution to the cumulative effect of all past, present, and future GHG emissions would be cumulatively considerable.

In 2006, the California State Legislature adopted Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which required statewide GHG emissions to be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. Senate Bill (SB) 32 (2016) set a further target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and AB 1279 (2022) requires the state to reach carbon neutrality by 2045 and to reduce human-caused GHG emissions to at least 85 percent below 1990 levels. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality to meet these targets. A central strategy of the plan is replacing fossil fuel electricity generation with renewable sources.

The Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) has not adopted a significance threshold or analysis method for GHG emissions from development projects, and Yuba County has not adopted one either. Instead, FRAQMD recommends that local agencies use guidance from the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), the Attorney General's Office, and the California Natural Resources Agency when evaluating GHG emissions under CEQA.

The applicant submitted a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis prepared by Westwood Professional Services (August 2026). The analysis estimated emissions from fuel use by construction equipment, delivery and haul trucks, and worker vehicles during construction; from maintenance vehicles during operation; and from equipment and trucks during decommissioning. The analysis estimated the following emissions:

Construction would generate approximately 433 tons of CO2e over the construction period. Once operating, the facility would produce electricity without combustion. The only operational emissions would come from maintenance vehicles, estimated at approximately 0.47 tons of CO2e per year, or about 17 tons over the 35-year life of the project. The analysis conservatively assumes that decommissioning would use the same equipment and schedule as construction, generating approximately 433 tons of CO2e. Total emissions over the life of the project would be approximately 883 tons of CO2e, or an average of about 25 tons per year when amortized over 35 years.

These emissions would be small, and they would be offset by the electricity the project generates. The analysis estimates that the facility would generate approximately 7.4 gigawatt-hours of electricity in its first year, which would be supplied to PG&E's distribution system in place of electricity that could otherwise come from fossil fuel sources. Based on life cycle data from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory included in the analysis, solar generation produces approximately 11 times less CO2e per kilowatt-hour than natural gas generation and approximately 23 times less than coal. Over its operating life, the project would produce a net reduction in GHG emissions compared to fossil fuel generation. The project would not generate GHG emissions that may have a significant impact on the environment. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

b) The project would support the state's GHG reduction goals under AB 32, SB 32, and AB 1279, along with the renewable electricity requirements of SB 100, by adding solar generation to the electricity supply. The project is also consistent with the Air Quality and Climate Change policies in the Public Health and Safety Element of the Yuba County 2030 General Plan. The project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions. There would be ***no impact***.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) and b) During construction, the project would use small amounts of common hazardous materials, including diesel fuel, gasoline, motor oil, hydraulic fluid, and lubricants for construction equipment and vehicles. These materials would be transported, stored, and handled in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) required under the Construction General Permit would include best management practices for storing materials, refueling equipment, and preventing and cleaning up spills. These materials would be used only during construction.

Once operating, the facility would not use, store, or produce hazardous materials in significant quantities. The medium voltage transformer would contain insulating oil sealed inside the

equipment. Any hazardous materials on the site would be subject to the requirements of the Yuba County Environmental Health Department. The project does not include battery energy storage. The applicant states that no equipment or materials would be stored on site during operation. The solar modules are made mainly of glass, aluminum, and silicon, with their materials sealed inside the panels, and they do not release hazardous substances during normal operation. At the end of the project's life, modules and other components would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with state waste regulations, including the Department of Toxic Substances Control's universal waste rules for solar panels, as part of the Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan required by Mitigation Measure AG-1.

The project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving their release. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

c) There are no existing or proposed schools within one-quarter mile of the project site. There would be ***no impact***.

d) The project site is not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Searches of the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker database and the Department of Toxic Substances Control's EnviroStor database found no cleanup sites on the parcel or in the immediate vicinity. The site has been in agricultural use since at least 1947. The project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment from a listed hazardous materials site. There would be ***no impact***.

e) The project site is within Safety Zone 6 of the Beale Air Force Base Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, the zone with the fewest land use restrictions in the plan. The site is not within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The facility would be low profile. The tracker racking would reach a maximum height of approximately 15 feet, and the PG&E interconnection facilities would be approximately 20 to 25 feet tall. The facility would not include radio-frequency transmitting equipment, communication towers, or lighting that could interfere with aircraft operations. It would also have no buildings or on-site staff, so no one would be living or working in the project area.

The applicant submitted a Glare Study prepared by Westwood Professional Services (June 26, 2026), which modeled two approach flight paths and the air traffic control tower at Beale Air Force Base. At the project's proposed 60-degree tracker rest angle, the study predicted no glare at either flight path or at the control tower. The County sent the Glare Study and the Air Force's glint and glare information sheet to Beale Air Force Base staff for review, and Beale did not provide comments. The facility would produce no noise once operating apart from low-level inverter and transformer hum, and construction noise would be temporary. The project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

f) The Yuba County Emergency Operations Plan sets out the County's procedures for responding to emergencies, including evacuations. The project would be accessed from a new site entrance on Hackberry Way and would not close or block any public roads. During construction, delivery

trucks would be limited to no more than four per day, and Mitigation Measure AQ-1 requires a traffic plan to minimize interference with through traffic. Once operating, the facility would generate only occasional maintenance trips and would not add residents or employees who would need to be evacuated. The project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with the Yuba County Emergency Operations Plan or any emergency evacuation plan. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

g) The project site is not within a State Responsibility Area or a Fire Hazard Severity Zone mapped by CAL FIRE. The site is in an irrigated agricultural area on the valley floor and is served by the Linda Fire Protection District. The solar facility would be built in accordance with the California Fire Code and the electrical codes, and the inverters, transformer, and other electrical equipment would be installed on equipment pads and racks with gravel access drives for emergency vehicles. Vegetation beneath and around the array would be maintained as part of routine site maintenance. The facility would have no on-site staff or residents. The project would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) Result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project would disturb more than one acre and is within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), which develops and enforces water quality objectives and implementation plans that protect the quality of water resources in its region. Before construction, the applicant must obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit, Order WQ 2022-0057-DWQ). To obtain coverage, the applicant must file a Notice of Intent with the State, prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and monitor how well the plan works. The SWPPP would identify

potential pollutants from construction, such as sediment, fuels, and building materials, and the best management practices that would keep them out of stormwater and surface waters. The fugitive dust controls in Mitigation Measure AQ-1 and the wetland and water feature avoidance requirements in Mitigation Measure BIO-2 would further reduce sediment from construction areas.

Once operating, the facility would not generate wastewater, and no hazardous materials would be stored on site. The ground beneath and around the array would be planted with native grasses and pollinator habitat, which would filter rainwater and hold soil in place over the life of the project. Compared with the existing orchard, the project would also reduce the agricultural fertilizers and pesticides applied to that part of the site. With compliance with the Construction General Permit, the project would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

b) The project would not include wells and would not use water once operating. During construction, water would be used for dust control on a temporary basis. The project would add only a small amount of impervious surface, limited to the concrete equipment pad, the steel piles, and the compacted gravel access drive. Rain falling on the solar panels would drip onto the vegetated ground below and soak in. The project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge such that it may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

c) i-iv) The project site is generally flat, and no streams or rivers cross it. Because the tracker racking can follow the existing terrain, grading would be kept to a minimum and the site's existing drainage patterns would be maintained. The project would add little impervious surface, and the vegetation beneath and around the array would slow runoff and allow it to soak into the ground. During construction, the SWPPP would include erosion and sediment controls, and the site plan requires that vegetation reach 70 percent coverage before construction begins. The site is in a rural agricultural area with no municipal stormwater drainage system, and the project would not send runoff to one. The site is not within a regulatory floodway or a Special Flood Hazard Area, and the project would not place structures in a location that would impede or redirect flood flows. The project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area in a way that would cause substantial erosion or siltation, increase runoff and cause flooding, exceed drainage system capacity, provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, or impede or redirect flood flows. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

d) According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel 06115C0375D (effective February 18, 2011), the project site is in Zone X, an Area of Minimal Flood Hazard. Yuba County is an inland area not subject to seiche or tsunami. The facility would not store hazardous materials that could be released if the site were flooded. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

e) The Central Valley RWQCB's Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan) sets water quality objectives for surface and groundwater in the region. The project would comply with the Basin Plan through coverage under the

Construction General Permit and implementation of the SWPPP. The project would not use groundwater, so it would not affect groundwater levels or interfere with the applicable groundwater sustainability plan for the basin. The project would not conflict with or obstruct a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation

a) The project site is in a rural agricultural area of unincorporated Yuba County, outside the Valley Growth Boundary. The solar facility would be built entirely within the existing parcel and would not include new roads, fences across public rights-of-way, or other features that would separate neighborhoods or block access between areas. Access to surrounding properties along Hammonton-Smartsville Road and Hackberry Way would not change. The project would not physically divide an established community. There would be ***no impact***.

b) The project site has a General Plan designation of Natural Resources and is zoned Exclusive Agricultural (AE-80). Solar energy facilities are allowed in the AE-80 zone with approval of a Conditional Use Permit. The array would meet the 30-foot yard setbacks required in the AE-80 zone, and the remaining orchard on the parcel would stay in agricultural production. The solar facility would be a temporary use of the site, with an expected operating life of approximately 35 years. Mitigation Measure AG-1 requires a Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan, with financial assurance, so the site is returned to a condition capable of supporting agricultural production when operations end.

The project site is within Safety Zone 6 of the Beale Air Force Base Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. The facility would have no occupied buildings, its structures would be low profile, and the project's Glare Study predicted no glare at the base's flight paths or control tower. Beale Air Force Base staff reviewed the Glare Study and did not provide comments.

As discussed in Section IV, Biological Resources, no habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan applies to the project site, and the project would not conflict with General Plan Action NR5.3. With approval of the Conditional Use Permit, the project would be consistent with the General Plan and zoning for the site. It would not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted to avoid or mitigate an environmental effect. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) and b) According to the Yuba County 2030 General Plan EIR, known mineral resource zones in Yuba County are located mainly along the Yuba River between Marysville and Smartsville, where alluvial sand, gravel, and gold deposits are classified as MRZ-2 (General Plan EIR Exhibit 4.6-6). The project site is south of Hammonton-Smartsville Road and outside the mapped MRZ-2 area, and it is not known to contain mineral resources of value to the region or residents of the state. The site has been in agricultural use since at least 1947, and no mining has occurred on it. The project would not involve excavation or the removal of earth materials beyond minimal grading, pile driving, and trenching for underground collection lines. The solar facility would also be a temporary use. At the end of its approximately 35-year operating life, the facility would be removed under the Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan required by Mitigation Measure AG-1, so the project would not permanently prevent future access to any mineral resources in the area. The project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or a locally important mineral resource recovery site. There would be ***no impact***.

XIII. NOISE Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project site is in a rural agricultural area. Existing noise in the area comes mainly from farm equipment, traffic on Hammonton-Smartsville Road and Hackberry Way, and aircraft operations at Beale Air Force Base to the east. The nearest sensitive receptors are the rural residences on parcels north and northwest of the site. The solar array would be set back at least 53 feet from the northern property line, and these residences are farther away.

Construction would temporarily increase noise near the site. Construction equipment would include dozers, loaders, skid steers, pile drivers, cranes, and trucks. Based on the Federal Highway Administration's Roadway Construction Noise Model, most of this equipment generates maximum noise levels of about 80 to 85 dBA at 50 feet, and an impact pile driver can reach about 101 dBA at 50 feet. Noise levels drop by about 6 dBA for each doubling of distance from the source. Pile driving would be the loudest activity, but it is expected to take five days or less, and the equipment would move continuously across the array, so no single residence would be exposed to it for long. Site preparation and installation would take approximately 8 to 12 weeks, followed by testing and commissioning, which involves little heavy equipment. Construction would comply with Yuba County Ordinance Code Section 8.20.310, which prohibits operating construction equipment within 500 feet of a residential zone between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., and no work would occur on Sundays or national holidays.

Once operating, the facility would be quiet. The main noise sources would be a low hum from the inverters and transformer, which would operate only during daylight hours when the panels produce electricity, and the small motors that slowly rotate the trackers. The inverters would be at least 300 feet from the parcel boundary, and the transformer would be on the equipment pad near the center of the array. Maintenance visits would occur about four times per year. Operational noise would not be noticeable at nearby residences over existing background noise.

The project would not generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in excess of standards in the General Plan, the Noise Ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The impact would be ***less than significant.***

b) Pile driving would be the only construction activity likely to produce noticeable ground vibration. The tracker piles are steel beams driven into the ground one at a time, with each pile taking a short time to install. Ground vibration from pile driving decreases quickly with distance. The residences north and northwest of the site are set back from the array, and pile driving is expected to take five days or less, with the equipment moving continuously across the site. Other construction equipment, such as dozers and loaders, would produce only minor vibrations. Once operating, the facility would not generate groundborne vibration. The project would not generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

c) The project site is within Safety Zone 6 of the Beale Air Force Base Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan and is not within two miles of a public airport, public use airport, or private airstrip. Aircraft operating at Beale may be heard at the site. However, the facility would have no buildings, residents, or on-site staff. Technicians would visit only about four times per year for short periods. The project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive aircraft noise. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project would not include housing or create permanent jobs. The facility would be monitored remotely, with no on-site staff, and technicians would visit about four times per year. Construction would require a temporary workforce for approximately six to nine months, including commissioning. Construction workers would most likely come from the existing regional labor force and would not need to relocate to the area. The project would not extend roads, water, sewer, or other infrastructure that could support new development. The new site entrance and access drive would serve only the solar facility, and the interconnection would connect to PG&E's existing distribution line. The electricity the facility generates would serve existing PG&E customers and would not support new growth. The project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth, either directly or indirectly. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

b) The existing residence on the parcel is outside the solar facility and would remain. The project would not remove any housing or displace any residents. There would be ***no impact***.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project site is within the Linda Fire Protection District, which provides fire protection and emergency response to the area. The site is not within a CAL FIRE State Responsibility Area. The Linda Fire Protection District was consulted during early review of the project, and no comments were received. The solar facility would have no buildings, residents, or on-site staff. It would be built in accordance with the California Fire Code and electrical codes and would include gravel access drives for emergency vehicles. Any fire risk would be limited to the electrical equipment and the vegetation beneath the array, which would be maintained as part of routine site maintenance. The project would not increase demand for fire protection services to a degree that would require new or physically altered fire facilities. With adherence to the requirements of the Yuba County Development Code and Fire Codes, impacts to fire protection would be ***less than significant***.

b) The project site is in unincorporated Yuba County and would be served by the Yuba County Sheriff's Office. The facility would be enclosed by a security fence and monitored remotely 24 hours a day, which would reduce the potential for trespassing or theft. The project would not add residents or employees and would generate only occasional maintenance trips. It would not increase demand for law enforcement services to a degree that would require new or physically altered police facilities. Impacts related to police protection would be ***less than significant***.

c) Marysville Joint Unified School District was consulted during early review of the project, and no comments were received. The project would not include housing or create permanent jobs, so it would not generate new students or increase demand for school facilities. There would be ***no impact***.

d) The project would not include housing or add residents, so it would not increase use of parks or recreational facilities. The parkland in-lieu fee under Chapter 11.45.060 of the Yuba County Development Code applies to residential subdivisions and would not apply to the project. There would be ***no impact***.

e) The project would not add residents or permanent employees and would not increase demand for libraries, social services, or other public facilities. Any applicable development fees would be collected at the time building permits are issued. With the incorporated Development Code requirements, impacts on public facilities would be ***less than significant***.

XVI. RECREATION Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) and b) The project would not include housing or create permanent jobs, so it would not add residents who would use neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities. The temporary construction workforce would most likely come from the existing regional labor force and would not substantially increase park use. The project does not include recreational facilities and would not require new or expanded recreational facilities. The parkland dedication and in-lieu fee requirements of Yuba County Development Code Chapter 11.45.060 apply to residential land divisions and would not apply to the project. There would be ***no impact***.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project site is in a rural agricultural area served by Hammonton-Smartsville Road and Hackberry Way. There are no transit routes, bicycle facilities, or pedestrian facilities along the site frontage. During construction, the project would generate temporary truck and worker trips, with no more than four delivery trucks per day, most of them during the first month. Mitigation Measure AQ-1 requires a traffic plan to minimize interference with through traffic and temporary traffic control as needed, as determined by the Yuba County Public Works Department. Once operating, the facility would generate only occasional maintenance trips, about four times per year. The project would not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

b) CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b), uses vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as the measure of a project's transportation impacts. The Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation's (formerly the Governor's Office of Planning and Research) Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA states that, absent substantial evidence that a project would generate a potentially significant level of VMT or would be inconsistent with a Sustainable Communities Strategy or general plan, projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day may generally be assumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. Once operating, the facility would be monitored remotely, with no on-site staff, and technicians would visit about four times per year, far below the 110-trip screening threshold. Construction trips would be temporary and would end when construction is complete. The project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b). The impact would be ***less than significant***.

c) Access to the facility would be provided by a new site entrance on Hackberry Way, with construction and delivery traffic reaching Hackberry Way from Hammonton-Smartsville Road. The site entrance would require an encroachment permit from the Yuba County Public Works

Department, which would review its design for sight distance and safe turning movements. The 12-foot-wide gravel access drive would be internal to the site. Delivery trucks during construction would be similar in size to the trucks and farm equipment that already use these rural roads, and no more than four deliveries would occur per day. The project would not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

d) Emergency access to the facility would be from Hackberry Way through the new site entrance, with a gravel access drive running along the east and south sides of the array and through its center to the equipment pad. Site access would be reviewed for compliance with the California Fire Code as part of the building permit process. The project would not close or block any public roads, and access to surrounding properties would not change. The project would not result in inadequate emergency access. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) and b) Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080.3.1, enacted by Assembly Bill (AB) 52, requires the lead agency to consult with California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a project, if the tribe has requested notice of projects in that area. On August 26, 2026, the Yuba County Planning Department sent AB 52 notification letters for the project to the three tribes that have requested notice of projects in Yuba County: the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), the Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, and the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California. The Colusa Indian Community and Enterprise Rancheria did not request consultation within the 30-day response period. UAIC requested consultation, and the County and UAIC engaged in government-to-government consultation under AB 52.

As part of consultation, UAIC Tribal Archaeologist Luz Salazar and Tribal Preservation Committee Member Chelsea Rey conducted a tribal survey of the project area on September 24, 2026, using archaeological and tribal methods to identify tribal cultural resources or areas of cultural significance. According to UAIC's Tribal Historical Resources Information System (THRIS), five tribal cultural resources are recorded within one mile of the project area. Ground surface visibility during the survey was 100 percent, and the exposed ground was a consistent red-brown silt loam. The soils within the orchard were heavily compacted and treated with lime around the trees, indicating past disturbance, and no native plants were observed.

UAIC also reviewed historic aerial photographs and USGS historic topographic maps. Agricultural use of the land has remained the same from 1947 to the present, and the existing residence was built between 1984 and 1993. The topographic maps show that the residence sits

on the only high point in the area, a type of location that was historically favored for villages, so UAIC gave that area particular attention during the survey. No tribal cultural resources were identified within the survey area. These results are consistent with the Phase I Archaeological Resources Survey prepared for the project, which found no cultural resources on the site (see Section V, Cultural Resources).

Although no tribal cultural resources were identified, five known tribal cultural resources are within one mile of the site, and previously unknown tribal cultural resources could be buried below the surface. Ground disturbance from pile driving, trenching, and grading could uncover them. To address this possibility, UAIC recommended Mitigation Measures TCR-1 and TCR-2. On October 2, 2026, the County agreed to these measures, and consultation with UAIC was concluded pursuant to PRC Section 21080.3.2(b)(1). With Mitigation Measures TCR-1 and TCR-2, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. The impact would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Mitigation Measure TCR-1: Unanticipated Discoveries of Tribal Cultural Resources

If any suspected tribal cultural resources (TCRs) or resources of cultural significance to UAIC are discovered by any person during construction activities, including ground-disturbing activities, all work shall pause immediately within 100 feet of the find, or an agreed-upon distance based on the project area and nature of the find. Such resources include, but are not limited to, features, anthropogenic or cultural soils, cultural belongings or objects (artifacts), shell, bone, shaped stones or bone, or ash or charcoal deposits. Work shall cease in and within the immediate vicinity of the find regardless of whether the construction is being actively monitored by a Tribal Monitor, cultural resources specialist, or professional archaeologist.

A Tribal Representative and the Yuba County Planning Department shall be notified immediately. The Tribal Representative, in coordination with the County, shall determine whether the find is a TCR (PRC Section 21074) and shall make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary. If a TCR, or a resource with the potential to qualify as a TCR, is discovered during ground-disturbing activities by a Tribal Monitor, whether within or outside the initially designated monitoring area, the treatment and documentation procedures below shall apply. Based on the nature, extent, and significance of the discovery, UAIC may expand the scope or duration of tribal monitoring, in coordination with the County, to additional areas as appropriate to ensure adequate identification and protection of TCRs.

Treatment and Documentation: The culturally affiliated Tribe shall consult with the County to (1) identify the boundaries of the new TCR; (2) if feasible, identify appropriate preservation in place and avoidance measures, including redesign or adjustments to the construction process, and long-term management; or (3) if avoidance is infeasible, identify a reburial location near the find where no future disturbance is anticipated. Permanent curation of TCRs shall not take place unless approved in writing by the culturally affiliated Tribe.

The construction contractor(s) shall provide secure, on-site storage for culturally sensitive soils or objects that are components of TCRs found or recovered during construction. Only Tribal Representatives shall have access to the storage. Storage size shall be determined by the nature

of the TCR and may range from a small lock box to a conex box (shipping container). A secure, locked, fenced area may also provide adequate on-site storage if larger amounts of material must be stored. The construction contractor(s) and the County shall facilitate the respectful reburial of the culturally sensitive soils or objects. This includes providing a reburial location consistent with the Tribe's preferences, excavating the reburial location, and assisting with the reburial, upon request.

Any discoveries shall be documented on a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 form within two weeks of the discovery and submitted to the appropriate California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) center in a timely manner. The DPR 523 forms shall be completed and submitted by the project archaeologist. If the project does not require an archaeologist, the forms shall be completed and submitted by UAIC. If completed by the project archaeologist, UAIC shall have an opportunity to review the completed forms. Work at the TCR discovery location shall not resume until authorization is granted by the County in coordination with the culturally affiliated Tribe.

If articulated or disarticulated human remains, or human remains in any state of decomposition or skeletal completeness, are discovered during construction activities, the Yuba County Coroner and the culturally affiliated Tribe shall be contacted immediately. If the Coroner determines that the find is Native American in origin, the Native American Heritage Commission will assign the Most Likely Descendant, who will work with the project proponent to define appropriate treatment and disposition of the burials, as further described in Mitigation Measure CUL-2.

Mitigation Measure TCR-2: Tribal Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity Training

The applicant or contractor shall provide Tribal Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity Training for all personnel involved in project construction, including field consultants and construction workers, at the applicant's or contractor's expense. The training shall be developed in coordination with interested Native American tribes and shall be conducted before any project-related construction activities begin at the project site. It shall include relevant information about sensitive cultural resources and tribal cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and the consequences of violating state laws and regulations. The training shall also describe appropriate avoidance and impact minimization measures for cultural resources and tribal cultural resources that could be located at the project site, and shall explain what to do and whom to contact if any potential cultural resources or tribal cultural resources are encountered. The training shall emphasize the requirement for confidentiality and culturally appropriate treatment of any discovery of significance to Native Americans, and shall discuss appropriate behaviors and responsive actions consistent with Native American tribal values. The training may be done in coordination with the project archaeologist. All ground-disturbing equipment operators shall receive the training and sign a form acknowledging receipt of the training.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project would not require new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. The facility would not use water or generate wastewater once operating, and the site's existing drainage patterns would be maintained, with no connection to a municipal storm drain system. The only new utility facilities would be electric power facilities that are part of the project itself. These include underground collection lines within the array, overhead collection lines on new utility poles, and a three-pole interconnection with PG&E's existing overhead distribution line near Hackberry Way. The environmental effects of building these facilities are evaluated throughout this Initial Study as part of the project and would be less than significant or reduced to less than significant with the mitigation measures identified. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

b) The project would not use water once operating and would not require a water supply. During construction, water would be used for dust control on a temporary basis. The project would not affect water supplies available to serve reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

c) The project would not generate wastewater once operating, and no wastewater treatment provider would serve the project. Portable restroom facilities would be provided during construction and serviced by a private contractor. There would be ***no impact***.

d) and e) Construction would generate solid waste, including packaging materials such as pallets and cardboard, along with orchard trees removed from the project area. Under Mitigation Measure AQ-1, orchard material would be chipped, mulched, composted, delivered to a permitted biomass facility, or otherwise disposed of without burning. Once operating, the facility would generate very little solid waste, limited to occasional replacement components. Solid waste in the area is collected by Recology. Recyclable materials are taken to a materials recovery facility on State Route 20, outside the City of Marysville, and all other waste is taken to the Ostrom Road landfill, which has adequate capacity to serve the project.

At the end of the project's life, the solar modules, racking, inverters, and other equipment would be removed under the Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan required by Mitigation Measure AG-1. The modules would be recycled or disposed of in accordance with the Department of Toxic Substances Control's universal waste rules for solar panels, and steel and aluminum components could be recycled. The project would comply with federal, state, and local solid waste regulations, including the waste diversion requirements of the California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939). The project would not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards or the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. The impact would be ***less than significant***.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a)–d) According to CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone mapping, the project site is not within a State Responsibility Area or lands classified as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The site is in an irrigated agricultural area on the flat valley floor, surrounded by orchards, rice fields, pasture, and rural residences, and it is served by the Linda Fire Protection District.

The project would not impair an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. As discussed in Section IX, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, the project would not close or block public roads and would not add residents or employees. The site's flat terrain and the surrounding irrigated farmland would not worsen wildfire risk or expose people to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire, and the facility would have no occupants. The project's new infrastructure would be limited to a gravel access drive, a security fence, underground and overhead collection lines, and a three-pole interconnection with PG&E's existing distribution line. That infrastructure would be built in accordance with the California Fire Code and electrical codes, and vegetation beneath and around the array would be maintained as part of routine site maintenance. Because the site is flat and outside any mapped fire hazard area, the project would not expose people or structures to downslope or downstream flooding or landslides from post-fire slope instability or drainage changes. There would be ***no impact***.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

NOTE: If there are significant environmental impacts which cannot be mitigated and no feasible project alternatives are available, then complete the mandatory findings of significance and attach to this initial study as an appendix. This is the first step for starting the environmental impact report (EIR) process.

Does the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) As discussed in Section IV, Biological Resources, the project site is a working almond orchard that contains no native vegetation communities, riparian habitat, or critical habitat. The Biological Assessment rated all special-status species reviewed as having a low or zero potential to occur on the site. Removing orchard trees and clearing the site could disturb nesting birds, and construction near the field-delineated wetland and water features could cause accidental fill or sedimentation. Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2 would reduce these impacts to ***less than significant with mitigation***. The project would not conflict with local policies, ordinances, or adopted habitat conservation plans.

As discussed in Section V, Cultural Resources, the archaeological survey found no cultural resources on the project site, but ground disturbance could uncover previously unknown archaeological resources or human remains. As discussed in Section VII, Geology and Soils, construction could also encounter paleontological resources in the alluvial deposits beneath the site. Mitigation Measures CUL-1, CUL-2, and GEO-1 would reduce these impacts to ***less than***

significant with mitigation. Impacts to tribal cultural resources are addressed in Section XVIII, Tribal Cultural Resources.

With the mitigation measures identified in this Initial Study, the project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce fish or wildlife habitat, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b) The project's impacts would be small in scale and mostly temporary. Construction emissions and dust would end when construction is complete, and Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would keep the project from making a cumulatively considerable contribution to the region's nonattainment status for PM10. The project would convert approximately 15 acres of Unique Farmland to a solar facility for the life of the project. Because the conversion would be temporary and Mitigation Measure AG-1 requires the site to be restored to a condition capable of supporting agricultural production, the project would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to the loss of farmland in the region. Once operating, the facility would generate no daily traffic, use no water, and produce no emissions apart from occasional maintenance trips. It would also contribute to a cumulative reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by generating renewable electricity. With the mitigation measures identified in this Initial Study, the project's incremental effects would not be cumulatively considerable when viewed in connection with past, current, and probable future projects. The impact would be ***less than significant with mitigation***.

c) The project would not expose people to flooding, wildfire, hazardous materials, or geologic hazards, and the facility would have no residents or on-site staff. The main potential effects on people would be temporary construction dust, diesel exhaust, and noise affecting the rural residences north and northwest of the site. These effects would be short-term, and Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would control dust and reduce equipment exhaust through FRAQMD's construction measures. Construction would also comply with the County's construction noise restrictions in Ordinance Code Section 8.20.310. With Mitigation Measure AQ-1, the project would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. The impact would be ***less than significant with mitigation***.

REFERENCES

1. Yuba County 2030 General Plan, AECOM.
2. Yuba County 2030 General Plan Environmental Impact Report, AECOM.
3. Yuba County Development Code.
4. Yuba County Ordinance Code, Chapter 8.20, Noise Regulations.
5. Yuba County Emergency Operations Plan.
6. Beale Air Force Base Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.
7. Yuba County Important Farmland Map 2022. California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.
8. State of California Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites "Cortese" List; State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker; Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor.
9. Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel 06115C0375D, effective February 18, 2011.
10. CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps.
11. California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form.
12. Feather River Air Quality Management District. Comment letter on CUP26-0002.
13. Feather River Air Quality Management District. Construction Phase Mitigation Measures, July 2016; Rules and Regulations Statement: New Development, April 2016; Fugitive Dust Control Plan.
14. Feather River Air Quality Management District. Area Designations, 2026.
15. Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Area 2024 Triennial Air Quality Attainment Plan.
16. California Air Resources Board. 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality.
17. Governor's Office of Planning and Research. Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA, December 2018.
18. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins.
19. State Water Resources Control Board. Construction General Permit, Order WQ 2022-0057-DWQ.
20. US Solar. USS Yuba Beale Solar Project Description and Conditional Use Permit Application, CUP26-0002.
21. Westwood Professional Services. USS Yuba Beale Solar LLC Site Plans (Sheets C100 and C200), April 27, 2026.
22. US Solar. USS Yuba Beale Solar LLC Preliminary Landscape Plan.
23. Westwood Professional Services. Glare Study, USS Yuba Beale Solar, June 26, 2026.
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26. Westwood Professional Services. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis, USS Yuba Beale Solar LLC, August 7, 2026 (revised September 30, 2026).
27. US Solar. Electromagnetic Fields Project Report, USS Yuba Beale Solar.
28. United Auburn Indian Community, Tribal Historic Preservation Department. AB 52 consultation correspondence and tribal survey results, CUP26-0002, September–Oct 2026.