California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region

CEQA Environmental Checklist

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

Project Title:	**Regulatory Approvals for the Blackwood Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project Phase IIIB**
Lead agency name and address:	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Contact person and phone number:	Robert Larsen, (530) 542-5439 RLarsen@waterboards.ca.gov
Project Location:	Blackwood Creek, near Forest Service Road 15N38, Placer County
Project sponsor's name and address:	US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) 35 College Drive South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation.)	The U.S. Forest Service – Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) has undertaken a multi-phase restoration effort to restore portions of the Blackwood Creek watershed affected by historic disturbances including in-stream gravel mining in the 1960s and nearly 100 years of grazing and logging. In previous Blackwood Creek restoration phases, the LTBMU removed a dilapidated fish ladder, replaced an undersized culvert with a bridge span, and restored 2800 linear feet of degraded stream channel. This final phase of the LTBMU Blackwood Creek restoration effort (Phase 3B) is expected to reduce excessive bank erosion and channel incision, improve floodplain connectivity, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore degraded riparian plant communities. The LTBMU will accomplish these goals by constructing rock and log structures in the channel and on the floodplain, realigning select channel segments, restoring connectivity to historic channels, grading floodplain surfaces, and revegetating with native riparian species. A bypass channel constructed in the early 1960s will be plugged with coarse river substrate and the stream will be redirected to the historic main stem channel. Floodplain surfaces will be regraded as needed and stabilized with coarse native substrate. The LTBMU has prepared a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that describes Best Management Practices (BMPs) that it will implement to control discharges of sediment from the site, identifies staging and access areas, and defines construction and post-project inspection and monitoring plans. The LTBMU's SWPPP and Environmental Assessment, when considered together describe measures the LTBMU will use to avoid or substantially lessen adverse environmental impacts associated with the Blackwood Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project Phase 3B. The restoration work will involve the discharge of waste earthen materials to waters of the State in the

	Project area. Such discharges are subject to regulation pursuant to the California Water Code section 13263. The Water Board will regulate discharges from the Project by: (1) granting coverage under the Water Board's General Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity in the Lake Tahoe Basin; and (2) issuing Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification. Therefore, the Water Board is the Lead Agency under CEQA.
Surrounding land uses and setting; briefly describe the project's surroundings:	Forested settings with adjacent recreational land uses. The lands within the Blackwood Creek watershed are managed by the LTBMU for resources, recreation, and transportation routes.
Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g. permits, financial approval, or participation agreements):	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, United States Army Corps of Engineers

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project. Please see the checklist beginning on page 3 for additional information.

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

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☑	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☐	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
☐	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
☐	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required

Signature:	**Date:**
Printed Name: HAROLD J. SINGER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER	

CEQA Environmental Checklist

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. In many cases, background studies performed in connection with the projects indicate no impacts. A NO IMPACT answer in the last column reflects this determination. Where there is a need for clarifying discussion, the discussion is included either following the applicable section of the checklist or is within the body of the environmental document itself. The words "significant" and "significance" used throughout the following checklist are related to CEQA, not NEPA, impacts. The questions in this form are intended to encourage the thoughtful assessment of impacts and do not represent thresholds of significance.

Environmental Review Requirements

The Project is subject to the requirements of both the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The LTBMU is the NEPA Lead Agency. The LTBMU has developed a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Project, pursuant to NEPA.

Section 15221 of the CEQA Guidelines directs that when a project requires compliance with both NEPA and CEQA, state Lead Agencies should use the FONSI rather than preparing a separate Negative Declaration, as long as the EA and FONSI comply with the requirements of CEQA. Water Board staff has reviewed the information contained in the EA for compliance with CEQA, and determined that additional mitigation measures, described in the LTBMU's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and project plans, are needed to comply with CEQA requirements.

Therefore, the Water Board is circulating a CEQA checklist, along with the EA and SWPPP to support a Mitigated Negative Declaration in compliance with CEQA guidelines. This CEQA checklist was developed by Water Board staff to inform the public and interested agencies of the additional mitigation measures identified as necessary by the Water Board and summarizes the mitigation measures contained in EA and the LTBMU SWPPP. A discussion of growth inducing impacts and mandatory findings of significance, as required by CEQA, is also included in the CEQA checklist.

I. AESTHETICS: Would the project:

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

There are no scenic vistas in the Project area.

Selective conifer removal will result in less than significant impacts to the scenic resources of the Blackwood Creek watershed.

Short term, less than significant impacts to the existing visual character of the site will occur during active construction due to presence of heavy equipment and earth moving activities.

The Project will not create any new light or glare sources.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST 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 the 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	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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

There are no agricultural resources in or adjacent to the Project area.

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	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non- attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☑	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☑

The Project will not significantly impact air quality resources. The primary air quality impact will be a potential increase in fugitive dust during construction. The LTBMU has incorporated mitigation measures into the EA and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to limit dust from construction activities. Water Board staff have reviewed the mitigation measures described in the EA and SWPPP and have determined that dust control practices will reduce air quality impacts to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measures III.d:

EA Section 2.1.1. Design Features - Air Quality, pages 19 and 20
SWPPP Section IIIB.10- Other BMPS –Dust abatement, pages15 and 16.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	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, 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Temporary stream flow diversions may cause short term impacts to biological resources, including indirect impacts on sensitive species habitat. However, due to the short duration of Project construction and the implementation of proposed mitigation measures, adverse impacts to riparian areas and sensitive species habitats will be less than significant.

Overall, the Project will enhance biological resources within the Blackwood Creek watershed by improving riparian and floodplain habitat.

Mitigation Measures for IV,a) – IV.b):

EA Section 2.1.1. Design Features – Vegetation, Wildlife, and Fisheries, pages 16 through 19 and Appendix C-BA/BE

SWPPP Section IIIB.10- Other BMPS –Planting and Irrigation, pages15 and 16.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	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) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☑

The Project area is in close proximity to recorded heritage resources and the LTBMU EA finds there is a high probability that buried archaeological resources may be encountered during project construction.

To reduce any potential impact to less than significant levels, the LTBMU will implement Standard Resource Protection Measures to protect the archeological value of any cultural resources that may be located within the project area. Heritage Resource specialists with the LTBMU will monitor ground disturbing activities to identify any cultural resources and will evaluate any potential findings in accordance with the Heritage Resource Evaluation process outlined in the EA.

Mitigation Measures for V,a) – V.b):

EA Section 2.1.1. Design Features – Heritage Resources, page 19 and Appendix E – Monitoring Strategy.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	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 Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☑

The Project will not expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects related to earthquakes, landslides, or other seismic related ground failures, nor will the Project result in substantial soil erosion. The Project involves exaction and fill using alluvial materials to restore riparian habitat and function within the Blackwood Creek watershed. Although such materials are expected to periodically shift in response to natural geomorphic processes, such shifts are anticipated and considered less than significant.

The Project is not located on an unstable geologic unit or expansive soil, and the Project does not involve any wastewater disposal.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

The emerging role of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in addressing climate change and greenhouse gas emissions has been the subject of much discussion since the passage of Assembly Bill 32 (Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006). Although the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) drafted CEQA guidelines for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions of the effects of greenhouse emissions, they have not yet transpired into a final rulemaking. GHG is unique compared to most other potential environmental impacts, or impacts that have the potential to accumulate, which have a defined geographic assessment area which could serve as the area of focus for analysis. With GHG, the "relevant" area for assessment is earth's entire atmosphere, since the gases mix and circulate worldwide. In the absence of further regulatory or scientific information related to GHG emissions and CEQA significance, it is too speculative to make a significance determination regarding the project's direct and indirect impact with respect to climate change.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	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) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☑
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☑

The LTBMU will use excavators and other heavy equipment within the Blackwood Creek watershed during project construction. There is the potential for gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, and hydraulic fluid spills and leaks that could create a hazard to the environment. The LTBMU has prepared a spill response plan and other mitigation measures to prevent spills and leaks from negatively affecting the environment. Water Board staff have determined that the plans and mitigation measures detailed in the SWPPP will reduce the potential impact of spills and leaks of hazardous materials to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measures for VIII.b)

EA Section 2.1.1. Design Features – Soil and Water, SW9.
SWPPP Section V.F, Mitigation Measures for Hazards and Hazardous Materials, page 21 and 22.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☑	☐	☐
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☑	☐	☐
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☑
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☑
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☑
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow	☐	☐	☐	☑

Projects involving stream and floodplain restoration have the potential to cause short-term violations of water quality standards and applicable waste discharge requirements both during construction and following project completion. Previous phases of the Blackwood Creek Restoration Project, constructed in 2009 and 2010, are indicative of the potential water quality impacts associated with stream and floodplain restoration work in the Blackwood Creek watershed.

During the 2010 construction season, failed temporary best management practices and inadequate winterization methods resulted in the Water Board issuing a Notice of Violation to the LTBMU for failure to comply with SWPPP requirements and for associated threatened discharges of sediment. This Notice of Violation is an example of how, without adequate attention to SWPPP elements and effective BMP implementation, stream restoration project construction can violate waste discharge requirements and potentially degrade water quality.

Water quality monitoring conducted by the LTBMU during the 2009 construction season indicated several violations of water quality standard for turbidity. Post construction turbidity monitoring also noted elevated turbidity downstream of the project area during a high intensity rain event in October 2009. These data, summarized in the "Analysis of Impacts of Blackwood Creek Reach 6 Stream Channel and Floodplain Restoration on Sediment Loading to Lake Tahoe during the 2009 and 2010 Water Years" (LTBMU 2012) further demonstrate that projects of this nature can cause short term water quality standard violations and that such violations are possible both during construction and following construction.

Finally, water quality data collected near the mouth of Blackwood Creek by the United States Geological Survey as part of the Lake Tahoe Interagency Monitoring Program indicate elevated sediment loading from Blackwood Creek during the 2009 and 2010 water years. The LTBMU analyzed the available data to determine whether the noted sediment increase was related to LTBMU project implementation. The LTBMU report entitled "Analysis of Impacts of Blackwood Creek Reach 6 Stream Channel and Floodplain Restoration on Sediment Loading to Lake Tahoe during the 2009 and 2010 Water Years" (LTBMU 2012) concludes that the elevated sediment loading could not be linked to restoration activities and that restored floodplain surfaces effectively reduced fine sediment particle loading in Blackwood Creek. Although the LTBMU acknowledges some short-term water quality impacts associated with previous restoration phases, the Blackwood Creek restoration effort is expected to result in long-term water quality benefits.

For this project phase, the LTBMU has incorporated design features and best management practices (described in its SWPPP) to reduce potentially significant impacts noted in previous phases to less than significant levels. Water Board staff have also incorporated monitoring and site inspection requirements into the Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification to address deficiencies noted in previous project phases. The stream channel is expected to be dry during the construction period, but should there be surface flow in Blackwood Creek during construction, the LTBMU will install monitoring stations to continuously measure turbidity upstream and downstream of the project area and provide summary data reports to Water Board staff on a weekly basis. Should monitoring data indicate elevated turbidity, Water Board staff will work with the LTBMU to adjust BMP implementation to address identified problems.

Mitigation Measures for IX.a), IX.c , IX.f.)

EA Section 2.1.1. Design Features – Soil and Water, pages 15 and 16. Specific design features include limiting the area of floodplain and channel disturbance and providing a clear specification for gravel/cobble material to armor constructed channel and floodplain surfaces.

SWPPP Section III. Best Management Practices- A,B, C, and D, pages 5 through 19.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b)Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑

The Project is consistent with applicable laws, regulation, and policies.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

There are no known mineral resources or locally-important mineral resource recovery sites within the Project area.

XII. NOISE: Would the project result in:

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

The Blackwood Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project Phase 3B may cause minor, short-term noise impacts from equipment usage. To ensure that noise impacts are reduced to less than significant levels, the LTBMU will restrict significant noise-generating activities (such as chainsaw or jackhammer operation) to the hours between 8:00 AM and 6:30 PM in accordance with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Code of Ordinances.

To protect its workers from potential adverse noise impacts, the LTBMU will follow the noise standards sets forth in the federal occupational health standards which are at least as stringent as those prescribed in California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Subchapter 7, Group 15 Occupational Noise.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the project:

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

The Project does not incorporate plans which would influence population growth, housing, businesses, or infrastructure.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES:

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☑

The Project does not include provisions for new or physically altered governmental facilities.

XV. RECREATION:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

The Project area does not include activities within existing neighborhood or regional parks. Forest recreational users could be displaced from sites where Project activities are taking place for short periods of time, generally not lasting more than a few weeks. Taken in context of the duration of the Project this temporary impact would be so small as to be insignificant.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☑

The transportation system supports Project activities by providing access to, from, and within the Project area. The Project will not impact air traffic patterns.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:

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

The Project will not produce waste or storm waters which require the use of wastewater treatment facilities.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially 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) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Without adequate mitigation, the LTBMU Blackwood Creek Phase 3B project has the potential to degrade the environment. Specifically, temporary stream flow diversions may cause short term impacts to biological resources, heritage resources may be encountered during construction, gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, and hydraulic fluid spills and leaks from construction equipment are possible, and short-term violations of water quality standards may occur during and immediately following project construction.

However, due to the short duration of Project construction and the implementation of proposed mitigation measures described in the LTBMU's SWPPP, EA, and project plans, identified potential impacts will be reduced to less than significant levels.

The Blackwood Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project Phase 3B is the final phase of the LTBMU's four-phase in-stream restoration effort in the Blackwood Creek watershed. Although all phases have resulted in temporary, short term environmental impacts associated with construction, the cumulative effect will be environmental enhancement.