# ADDENDUM TO MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

For

# APALACHEE EROSION CONTROL PROJECT PHASE 3B

EL DORADO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

State Clearinghouse #99122015 October 2005

# **BACKGROUND/LOCATION**

In 1999, the El Dorado County Department of Transportation (EDOT) prepared an Initial Environmental Study and a Mitigated Negative Declaration (IES/MND) for the Apalachee Erosion Control Project (Project) to satisfy requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) grant application process. The CTC grant would provide partial project funding. The Project is located in El Dorado County on the south shore of Lake Tahoe. It includes Tahoe Paradise Additions Unit Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 Subdivisions, as well as the Rolling Woods Heights Subdivision. Pioneer Trail lies to the south and east of the Project area with the Upper Truckee River to the west, Trout Creek to the east, and a tributary that runs into Trout Creek to the north (see Figure A). For funding and construction purposes, this Project area is divided into three phases, which are depicted on Figure A.

The objectives of this Project are to improve water quality by reducing erosion problems identified in the project area and treating roadway run-off. This will be accomplished through source control measures, improved hydrologic design, and treatment measures and will include stabilizing existing sediment contributors, revegatating denuded and disturbed areas, capturing mobilized sediment and road sand and cinder, and conveying and treating storm water and snow melt runoff.

The IES/MND was circulated for public review between December 7, 1999 and January 5, 2000. Comments from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board-Lahontan Region (Lahontan) were received during the public review period. Responses to these comments were developed and sent to Lahontan. Following incorporation of the comments and associated responses into the IES/MND, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved the IES/MND on February 8, 2000, and a Notice of Determination (NOD) was filed on February 11, 2000.

In February 2004, EDOT prepared an addendum (State Clearinghouse No. 99122015) to Phase 1 related to minor modifications to improvement designs. In February 2005, DOT prepared an addendum (State Clearinghouse No. 99122015) to Phase 2 related to minor modifications to improvement designs. The EDOT is concurrently planning improvements for Phase 3B. This addendum for Phase 3B is required because modifications have been made to the Phase 3B improvement designs. The modifications and associated environmental effects are described below.

### **NEW PROJECT MODIFICATIONS**

The IES/MND was prepared at the conceptual design stage to satisfy CEQA and the CTC grant requirements. Design modifications to Phase 3B improvements were made after the NOD was filed. Proposed modifications that warrant discussion are detailed below. The Figures from the CEQA initial Study for the Public Property and Right-of-way (ROW) Acquisition Map (Figure B-3) and the Proposed Improvements (Figure E-3) are included in this addendum. The revised versions showing the modifications to these figures as part of Phase 3B are depicted in Figures B-3R and E-3R, respectively. Figures C-3 and D-1 through D-3 of the CEQA Initial Study depicting the land capability areas remains unchanged.

## DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

Originally, the Project was funded under the CTC guidelines that require projects to meet the sediment reduction efficiency criteria of 6.4 pounds / per dollar cost of improvement to qualify for funding. DOT and the CTC agreed to implement the preferred design approach required under newer CTC guidelines. To that end, a hybrid form of the Draft Formulating and Evaluating Alternatives (FEA) process developed through the Storm Water Quality Improvement Committee (SWQIC) is being implemented. The intention is that this process would allow funding, regulatory, and implementing agencies to reach consensus on the most effective alternatives for water quality and erosion control and result in enhanced projects. DOT began implementation of this process for Phase 1 in April 2003.

The hybrid FEA process has been implemented for Phase 3B of the Project. Proposed Phase 3B enhancements are similar to those developed for Phases 1, 2, 2A, and 3A in their types and intensity. Some proposed Phase 3 enhancements will be located on newly identified CTC parcels within the same study Project area boundary evaluated in the IES/MND. During Phase 3B planning, the enhancement types and locations were refined from the original conceptual designs. Proposed modifications are as follows:

In Phase 3B, five CTC parcels and have been added. The Assessors Parcel Numbers (APN) and associated improvements are:

- Install vegetated channel on APN 33-873-22 on Tooch St. and a culvert, flared end section would be installed in the County ROW fronting this parcel;
- Install a vegetated channel, culvert section, and flared end section on APN 33-873-27 on Tooch St.;
- Install a culvert, flared end section, infiltration gallery, and vegetated channel on APN 33-873-32 on Susquehana Dr.;
- Install a vegetated channel on APN 33-884-12 and APN 33-884-13 on Jicarilla Dr.

In Phase 3B, two USFS parcels have been added. Associated improvements and APNs are as follows:

- Install a flared end section and vegetated channel on APN 80-092-03 on Susquehana Dr.; and
- Install vegetated channel at the end of Aravaipa St. on APN 80-050-02.
- o Install a vegetated channel at the end of lbache St on APN 80-050-02

Within the County ROW, the following modifications to improvements shown in the IES/MND are proposed:

- Install a fence section at the end of Susquehana Dr.
- o Install a fence section at the end of Guadalupe St.
- Install a fence and at the end of Aravaipa St.
- 0
- Construct curb from the first driveway on the north side of Nadowa (APN 33-874-01) onto Koyukon Drive.

- At the intersection of Tooch and Nadowa replace the existing 18" culverts and install rock inlets.
- Install a storm drain system that starts at the Nadowa and Tooch intersection and continues down Tooch to the first CTC parcel on the north side (APN 33-873-23) lot
- Install sediment traps at the southwest and southeast corners of Tooch and Nadowa.
- Install sediment trap and construct curb on the south side of Tooch Street from Susquehana to the culvert crossing located one lot west of the Susquehana intersection. Regrade the slope behind the curb and revegetate as needed.
- Install curb down both sides of Susquehana: on the west side between Nadowa and Tooch and on the east side from Nadowa to the intersection with Minniconiou.
- Install curb on the south side of Susquehana from Nadowa to Jicarilla. Regrade
  the slopes to the curb backing and revegetate as needed. Install a DI at the
  location of the existing grate (APN 033-882-05) and replace the 24" culvert.
- o Remove and replace culverts at the intersection of Sesquehana and Aravaipa St. and install a grated inlet sediment trap at the inlet of each culvert. Install rock around the perimeter of the trap and regrade the channel to drain. Attach flared end sections to the outlets and a rock dissipater.
- Revegetate the eroding channel and the eroding slopes on the south side of Susquehana past the intersection with Aravaipa St. Construct a rock bowl surrounding a grated sediment trap at the inlet of the 18" culvert (approximately at APN 080-081-26). Replace the 18" culvert and install a flared end section at the outlet.
- Install a porous pavement swale at the end of the cul-de-sac at Sesquehana. In addition, construct a wood fence around the perimeter of the cul-de-sac.
- Install curb on northeast corner of the Pioneer Trail and Jicarilla intersection.
   The curb would continue approximately 200' down Jicarilla. At the low point of Jicarilla a sediment trap would be installed on the east side to capture additional sediment.
- At the northwest corner of Pioneer and Jicarilla a double sediment trap would be installed to capture road sand and debris. The slopes at the corners would be regraded into the curb backing and revegetated.
- Remove and replace the 15" and 18" culverts and install sediment traps with grated inlets at each of the culvert inlets at the corners of Aravaipa and Guadalupe and Aravaipa and Ibache. Install rock around the perimeter of each sediment trap and regrade the channels to drain.
- Install sediment traps at drainage inlets in the middle (approximate APN 080-010-06) and at the end of Aravaipa (APN 080-010-02) and connect to a storm drain system installed the length of Aravaipa.
- o Install a porous pavement swale at the end of the cul-de-sac on Aravaipa. In addition, construct a wood fence around the perimeter of the cul-de-sac. The excess pavement beyond the end of the Aravaipa cul-de-sac would also be removed.
- Install a porous pavement swale and a gate or a fence at the end of Guadalupe.
- o Construct curb on the south side of Ibache from APN 080-008-013 to the end of the cul-de-sac. At the end of the curb install a DI, with the outflow discharging into the meadow. At the point on the cul-de-sac curb where the runoff will discharge, construct a low profile vegetated swale to convey the water out into the meadow.

- Install curb on the northern side of Pioneer Trail between Susquehana and Jicarilla that will end 800 feet west of the intersection with Jicarilla.
- Revegetate the eroding slopes within the stretch of Pioneer Trail between Susquehana and Jicari Ila

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

Project Phase 3B modifications described above will not require any changes to the responses in the 1999 Initial Study Checklist, hence, no new significant effects are identified and mitigation measures are needed.

A willow flycatcher protocol survey in identified potential habitat will be conducted in spring of 2006, in the meadow north and east of the intersection of Jicarilla Drive and Susquehana Drive extending northeast to the Project boundary. According to the protocol, the two-part flycatcher survey will be scheduled as follows. One survey will take place between June 15 – 25. The second survey will take place either between June 1 – 14, or between June 26 – July 15. The biologist conducting the survey will make the determination of when to survey based on the weather (i.e. late spring snows and/or slow snowmelt will make the later survey more appropriate). A copy of the survey results would be submitted to the CTC. If flycatcher protocol surveys have been conducted and no willow flycatchers have been detected, operations may proceed during the breeding season (May 1 - August 31). If the flycatcher protocol survey determines that willow flycatchers are nesting in or adjacent to the project impact area, a consultation with CDFG will be necessary, and the probable restrictions would be:

- No ground or vegetation disturbing project activity within 300 feet of the habitat during the breeding season (May 1 - August 31).
- Any operations conducted within or adjacent to suitable willow flycatcher habitat shall not damage or destroy willows or other riparian shrubs.

Known nest locations in the Project vicinity for northern goshawk were identified through a search of the California Natural Diversity Database. A survey was conducted in 2005. No northern goshawk activity was found near the Project area. A copy of the survey results is attached. EDOT will contact the USFS LTBMU raptor biologist two weeks prior to the commencement of construction related activities to verify that no new nests have been identified in the vicinity. If any active nests are known within the area, consultation with USFS would be undertaken regarding regulation and timing of construction activities.

Since the 1999 approval of the Project IES/MND, the El Dorado County General Plan was legally challenged and set aside by the Sacramento Superior Court. To address the Court's findings, the County prepared a new General Plan, which was adopted on July 19, 2004. The County cannot implement a new General Plan until the Superior Court lifts the Writ of Mandate. The County anticipated that process to be complete by the end of 2004. However, subsequent to plan adoption, a referendum measure that would also affect implementation of the plan was filed with the County. That referendum, which appeared on a March 8, 2005, ballot, will ask county voters to either uphold or reject the Board's adoption of the new plan. As a result, the County voters approved the Board's adoption of the new plan.

As the following addendum to the CEQA Checklist explanation details, the Project is authorized and valid under the County General Plan and will not result in the significant increase in traffic or water consumption.

## Land Use and Planning

a) The determination of no impact under Land Use/Planning remains the same. However the following explanation is added to the original CEQA Checklist under Land Use and Planning.

> El Dorado County's General Plan contains goals, objectives, and policies that guide growth and development within areas under the County's jurisdiction, including the project area. The 1996 General Plan was set-aside in September 1999 as a result of a determination by the Sacramento County Superior Court that, in certain respects, the County had not fully complied with CEQA in preparing the EIR and findings for the General Plan. A hearing was held on the form of the Writ to be issued, that included the scope of remedy to be imposed while the County worked to correct these CEQA violations. The court issued a Writ of Mandate that governs the County's land use decisions during the interim period between the issuance of the Writ and the completion of a new General Plan. The Project is authorized under the Writ in that it does not have the effect of allowing the commencement, expansion, or intensification of any new use on property; does not result in a significant increase in traffic or water consumption; and the Project approval and permitting falls within the purview of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

#### VI. Transportation/Circulation

b) The determination of "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation" for transportation/circulation from the Project IES/MND remains unchanged; however the following items satisfy requirements of the current CEQA Checklist for this topic:

In 1998, voters adopted Measure Y. Measure Y added several new policies in the Circulation Element of the General Plan. Specifically, traffic from residential development projects of five or more units must not result in level of service F or worse traffic congestion during weekday, peak-hour periods on any highway, road, interchange, or intersection in the unincorporated areas of the County. The Project is consistent with the provisions of Measure Y, since it is not a residential development project and will not permanently increase traffic congestion.

# FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, as applicable to an IES/MND, DOT draws the following conclusions regarding the proposed Phase 3B modifications:

- The proposed Project will not result in substantial changes that would lead to the identification of new or previously unidentified significant environmental effects that require major revisions of the previous IES/MND.
- 2) There has been no substantial change with respect to the circumstances under which the Project is being undertaken that would require a major revision of the previous IES/MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects.
- 3) No new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the IES/MND was adopted, shows that the Project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous IES/MND. Furthermore, the mitigation measures adopted in the IES/MND remain the same.

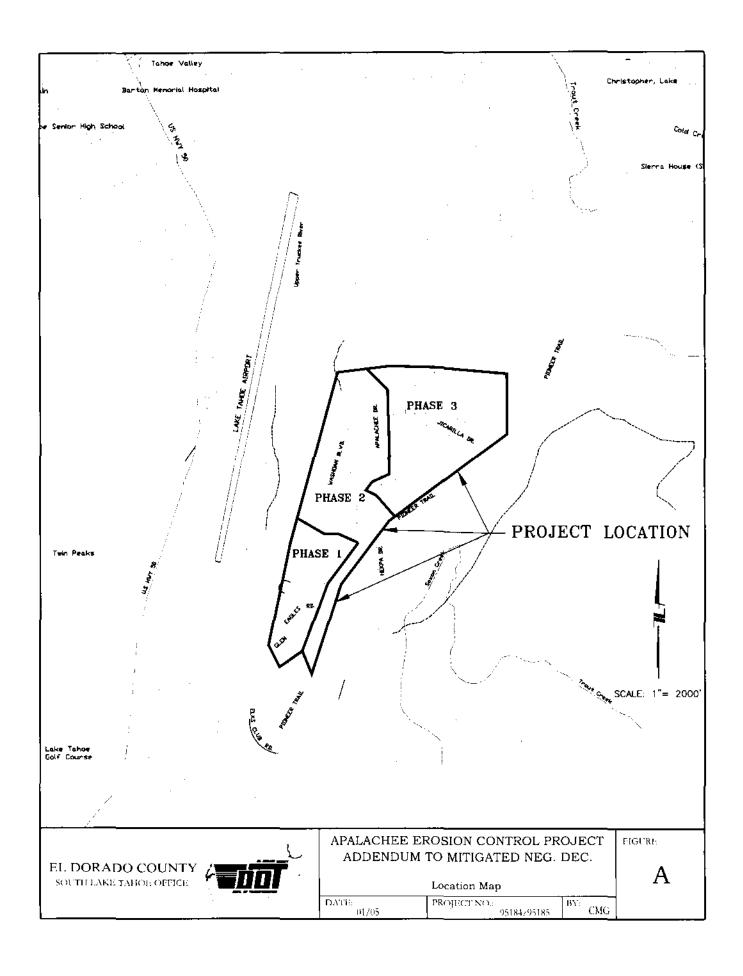
Based on these findings, DOT has concluded that preparation of a subsequent IES/MND for the Project is unnecessary and that preparation of an Addendum is appropriate in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15164. DOT accordingly approves this Addendum and the associated Project modifications.

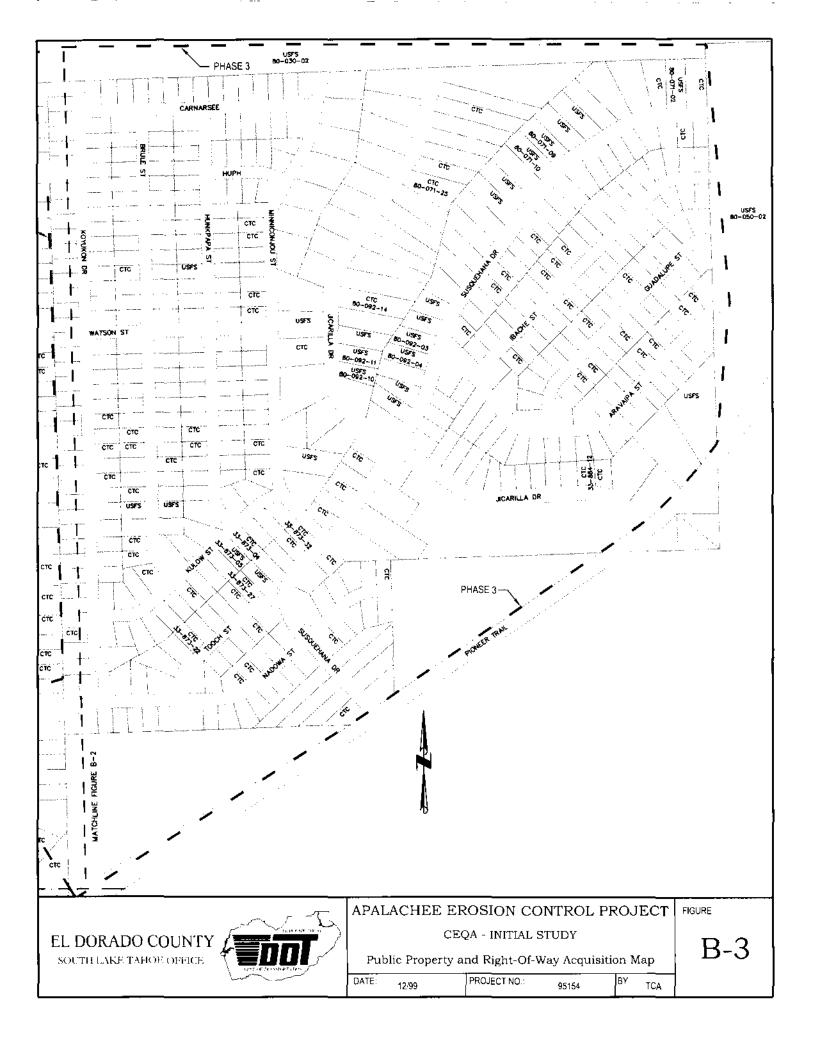
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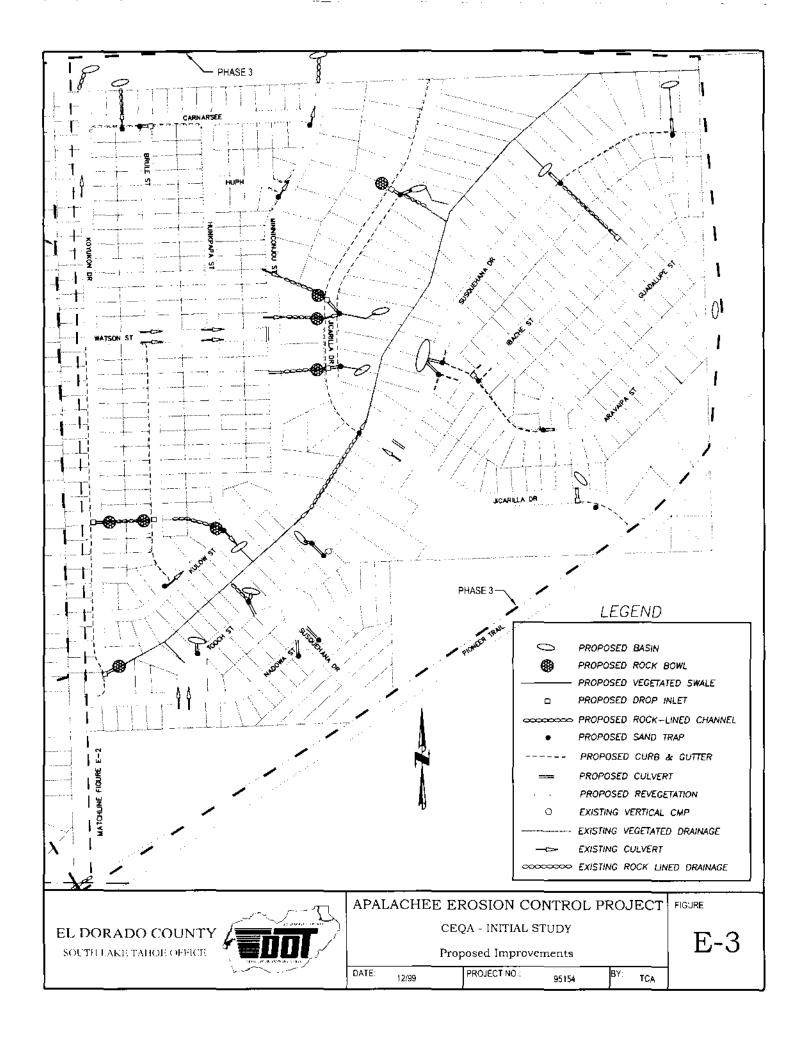
Department of Transportation Representative

Title

# **FIGURES**







# **APPENDICES**

Table 1 Special Status Wildlife Species Recorded in the General Apalachee 3B Project Area\*

					:			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Status	Other	Habitat Requirements	period	Potential for occurrence III Project area	Results of Survey
Federally Listed and Federal Candidate Species	eral Candidate Species							
Hahaeelus feucocephalus	bald eagle	F	 B		F	N/A	Unlikely. Known nests are on the shore of Lake Tahoe. Little or no appropriate habitat in project area	No survey conducted
Martes pennant pacifica	Pacific fisher	J.	င်္လ	S. S	Large areas of intermediate to large-tree stages of conflerous forests and deciduous riparian areas with high degree of cosure Caritie in stages, logs and rocks	¥ Z	Unlikely to be near project area due No survey conducted to high human density	Na survey conducted
Oncortynchus darki henshaw	Lahonian cuthroat trout	E			cold waters and in a emspa and gravel riffles	March-June	Potential habital present with reintroduction but encountering the species is very unlikely.	No survey conducted
California Listed Species								
Empidonāx traillir	willow flycatcher		3		Nests in thickets of low dense willows on edge of well meadows. ponds or backwaler 2000-8000 ft elevation	May - Aug	Potential habilat present.	Protocol survey scheduled for summer of 2008.
Guío guío	Calitomia wolverine		5	CFP 1	Wide variety of high elevation habitats near water. Uses caves logs, burrows for den. Hunts in open areas. Can travel far.	N/A	Unikely to be near project area due No survey conducted to high ruman density.	No survey conducted
Кірала прала	bank swallow		55		ter in vertical banks or e-textured sandy soils y, rivers, fakes, ocean ole	Feb -May	Very unlikely. No appropriate habitat in jproject area.	No survey conducted
Other Special Status Species	Cies							
Accpiter gentitis	northern goshawk		၁ၭ၁	S	Uses old nests in confer forests on Mar. Aug north stopes near water in red fir. lodgepole pine, jeffrey pine communities. Preys on birds		Appropriate habilat present adjacent to project area. May forage but not expected to nest in project area due to high human hancin.	Not encountered, no nests detected. Nearest known nest sites are over 0.5 mi away to the northwest and to the southeast.
Aquria chrysaetos	golden eagle		csc		rolling footbill mth areas, sage- juniper flats, deserts. Usually nests in clift-walled canyons or larde frees in open areas	Feb - Aug	Unikely to be present. Habitat of project area very marginal for this species	No survey conducted
Capnia lacustra	Lake Tahoe benthic stone fly		oso		at depths	summer	Not present. Project not in the Lake	No survey canducted
Cypseloides niger	black swift		282		mall colonies on cliffs discent to waterfalls in ns and sea bluffs.	May · Sept	Very unlikely. na appropriate habilat	No survey conducted
Helisoma newberryi	Great Basin rams-horn		_	FS L	id slow nvers, lar and spring-fed	spring/ summer	Very unlikely, no appropriate habitat.	No survey conducted
Lepus americanus lahoensis	Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare		csc		riparian areas and young thickets of Sierra Nevada	N/A	Appropriate habitat present adjacent in project area but not expected due to high human expected due to high human density and presence of large dogs.	No survey conducted

Table 1 Special Status Wildlife Species Recorded in the General Apalachee 3B Project Area\*

Scientífic Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Other	Habitat Requirements	Sensitive period	Potential for occurrence in Project area	Results of Survey
Lepus townsendii	western white-tailed jackrabbit		csc		sagebrush, subalpine conifer, juniper, shrub and grassland; open areas with scattered shrubs	N/A	Very unlikely. Potential habitat present but has not been recorded since 1915	No survey conducted
Martes americanà	American pine marten				Mixed conifer forest / old growth with over 40% crown classure and snag cavilies for dens	N/A	Appropriate habitat present adjacent to project area but not expected due to high human density.	No survey conducted
Pandion haliaetus	osprey		CSC		nests on shores, bays, freshwaler lakes, and large streams in treetop or snag within 15 miles of good fish producing body of water	N/A	Possible Project is within 15 miles of Lake Tahoe and appropriate trees are present.	No survey conducted
Speyena nokomis carsonensis	Carson Valley silverspot				l	spring/ summer	Unlikely, project probably out of range	No survey conducted
Taxidia taxus	American badger		CSC		Dry open areas in shrubland, forest, and herbaceous habitat with friable soils for den. Preys on burrowing rodents.	N/A	Potentially present. Some appropriate habital in and adjacent to project area.	No survey conducted
Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus	yellow-headed blackbird				Nests in freshwater emergent wetland vegetation and deep water, often along borders of takes or ponds where large insects are abundant	spring/ summer	Unlikely, insufficient habitat in project area	No survey conducted

#### Status Legend

Federal Status
FT = Federally listed Threatened
FC = Candidate for federal listing

California Status
CT = California Threatened
CE = California Endangered

CSC = California Species of Special Concern

CFP = California Fully Protected

Other Status

FS - Forest Service Sensitive

<sup>•</sup> A "9-quad search" of CNDDB records was conducted for the USGS project quad. South Lake Tahoe. CNDDB records were for Meeks Bay, Emerald Bay, Echo Lake, South Lake Tahoe, Freel Peak, Minden and Woodfords. The two quads to the north and northwest are in Nevada and are not tracked by CNDDB.

# Apalachee 3B

Northern goshawk (Accipiter gentiles)
FSC (nesting), USFS-SS, CSC (nesting), and TRPA

Northern goshawk is a raptor of mid to high elevation mature coniferous forest throughout the Sierra Nevada, and is a year-round resident species in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Goshawks also occur in the foothills during winter, in northern deserts with pinon-juniper woodland, and in lower elevation riparian habitats. Optimal nesting habitat for goshawk is dense forest with a closed canopy (>50%) for protection and thermal cover, and open spaces to allow maneuverability in flight. Nesting territories are often characterized by dense stands of large diameter trees with interconnected canopies, along drainages. Nests trees are usually in the densest part of stands, on north slopes near water. Goshawk reproductive season begins by mid-February in northern California. They prey mostly on birds, using snags and dead treetops as observation platforms. Northern goshawks are susceptible to human disturbance such as recreational activities and urbanization.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) has designated twelve areas as northern goshawk population sites within the Lake Tahoe Basin. The TRPA prohibits operating activities within 0.5 mile of active goshawk nests between March 1 and August 31. There are no TRPA population sites within 0.5 mile of the Apalachee 3B Project area.

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) regulates activities within 0.25 -0.5 mile of known active nests, depending on nature of activity, from February 15 – September 15. The LTBMU designated 300 acres as Protected Activity Centers (PACs) around all known northern goshawk-nesting areas. The Project area is not located within a PAC.

There are three California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records of northern goshawk nests within a ten-mile radius of the Project area, occurrence numbers 125, 126, and 127. The last update of these occurrences in the CNDDB was 1995, with last known activity at the nests in 1981.

Occurrence 125 is along Angora Creek, about 3.5 miles west of Apalachee 3B Project boundary. Two young were fledged there in 1981.

Occurrence 126 (Figure 1) is about 0.5-mile southeast of the Apalachee 3B Project area. Per CNDDB, this nest was active in 1981, but was abandoned because of land use changes.

Occurrence 127 (Figure 2) is approximately 500 feet northwest of the Lake Tahoe Airport, about 1.25 miles northwest of Apalachee 3B Project boundary. That nest fledged three young in 1981.

In June and August of 2005 ENTRIX, Inc. biologists consulted with the LTBMU avian biologist Victor Lyon about goshawks in the Apalachee 3B Project. Mr. Lyon provided the following information.

There are several known goshawk territories in the vicinity of the Apalachee 3B Project area. An USFS PAC is located east of Pioneer Trail, outside of the Apalachee 3B Project boundary. The nearest known recently active nest in this PAC was approximately 0.95 mile east of Guadalupe St. in 2003. Another nest 2.13 miles east of Pioneer Trail was active in 2003.

#### Results

In June and July of 2005, ENTRIX, Inc. biologists assessed the Project area for potential goshawk nesting habitat. Although there is marginal potential habitat in the form of forested parcels or limited strips within the project boundaries, they are not dense, the canopy cover is not closed, and existing human activity in the area is high. The Apalachee 3B Project area does not contain sufficient appropriate nesting habitat for northern goshawk and they are not expected to nest within the project boundaries, although they may forage there.

No northern goshawk was detected during the biological surveys conducted in June and August of 2005. Activities related to the Apalachee 3B erosion control project is not expected to affect northern goshawk, as no known, recently active nests are located within 0.5 mile of the planned Project activities. However, two weeks in advance of any Project construction activities scheduled between the dates of February 15 and September 15, EDOT should contact the USFS LTBMU raptor biologist regarding any newly active northern goshawk nest sites within 0.5 miles of the Project area limits. If any active nests are known within the area, consultation with USFS should be undertaken regarding regulation and timing of construction activities.

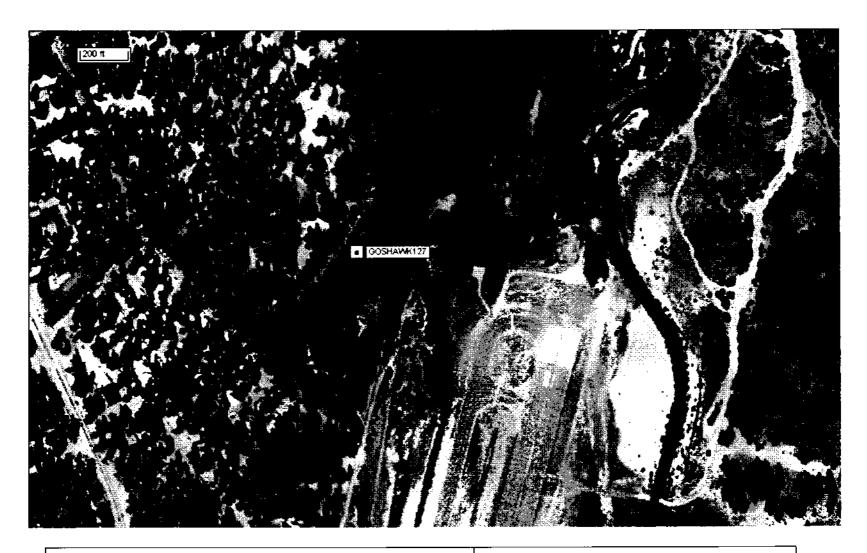




El Dorado County Department of Transportation Apalachee Erosion Control Project Phase 3B Figure 1 Northern Goshawk CNDDB Nest Occurrence 126

GOSHAWK126

CNDDB Nest Occurrence Location



El Dorado County Department of Transportation Apalachee Erosion Control Project Phase 3B Figure 2 Northern Goshawk CNDDB Nest Occurrence 127

GOSHAWK127

...CNDDB Nest Occurrence Location