Final

NEPA (HUD) Environmental Assessment

Ramsay Park Renaissance Project

City of Watsonville

October 7, 2024

EMC PLANNING GROUP INC.
A LAND USE PLANNING & DESIGN FIRM

Prepared by

EMC Planning Group

FINAL
NEPA (HUD) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

RAMSAY PARK RENAISSANCE PROJECT

CITY OF WATSONVILLE

PREPARED FOR

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Environmental Assessment
Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects
24 CFR Part 58

Project Information

Project Name: Ramsay Park Renaissance Project (proposed action)

Responsible Entity:
City of Watsonville
231 Union Street
Watsonville, CA 95076

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):

State/Local Identifier: California

Preparer: EMC Planning Group under contract to Verde Design

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Suzi Merriam, Director, Community Development Department (City of Watsonville)

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):

Consultant (if applicable): EMC Planning Group under contract to Verde Design

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Project Location:
Ramsay Park, an existing 26-acre, public regional park, is located in the City of Watsonville (city) south of Main Street (State Route 152), north of Harkins Slough Road, and west of Watsonville Slough. Ramsay Park is the largest park space in the city. The park site has a Watsonville 2005 General Plan (general plan) land use designation of "Public/Quasi-Public" and is zoned "PF: Public Facilities." The park is bordered to the west by a large commercial shopping center, to the north across Main Street by a combination of commercial and residential neighborhoods, to the east by Watsonville Slough and a new shopping center currently under construction, and to the south by residential neighborhoods across Harkins Slough Road. Ramsay Park offers recreational experiences ranging from passive use walking trails to active use athletic fields.

Current park facilities include:

- Athletic fields including the Sotomayor Soccer Fields and Ramsay Park Softball field;
- An indoor soccer facility (Soccer Central);
- Paved and unpaved walking paths throughout the park;
- Picnic areas located in the hilltop area of the park;
- Two playgrounds located in the hilltop area and on the southeastern slopes of the hilltop area near the outdoor amphitheater;
- A skatepark located near the Main Street parking lot entrance;
- A 20,000 square foot paved pump track course;
- A basketball court and a volleyball court;
- Watsonville Nature Center;
- Ramsay Park Family Center; and
- Tennis courts on the south side of Harkins Slough Road.

Existing park lighting includes softball field lighting and security lighting and cameras on various buildings and in both parking lots.

Description of the Proposed Action [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]**:**
The Ramsay Park Renaissance Project (proposed action) consists of several new and enhanced amenities at Ramsay Park, including enhancements to existing soccer and softball fields, playground equipment and picnic areas, and parking lots. The project also includes the construction of a new 3,675± square-foot Watsonville Exploration/Nature Center to replace the former Watsonville Nature Center, which was demolished in 2022. Overall development includes installing new or modified onsite circulation, lighting, site drainage and stormwater facilities, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paths of travel, landscaping and irrigation, site furnishings, trash receptacles and enclosure, and signage. Project entitlements consist of an Administrative Use Permit and Design
Review Permit with Environmental Review

Proposed park improvements are described below and are presented in detailed, 100 percent construction plans included in Appendix A. The proposed improvements would take place entirely within the existing park boundaries. The proposed action is not expected to increase traffic to the park and no new vehicle trips are anticipated as the project would ensure that park

quality is maintained so users aren't required to travel to more distant parks for certain amenities and recreational opportunities. Construction would result in temporary traffic.

Background/Current Status of Improvements and Previously City-Adopted Mitigation Measures

On September 8, 2022, Robert Berry, applicant, on behalf of the City of Watsonville Parks and Community Services Department and the City of Watsonville (City), property owner, applied for an Administrative Use Permit and Design Review Permit with Environmental Review (PP2022-4245) for implementing the Ramsay Park Renaissance Project, including the construction of a new Watsonville Exploration/Nature Center to replace the former Watsonville Nature Center. The proposed action underwent a comprehensive environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for which an initial study/mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) was prepared in September 2022. After a public review process, the City of Watsonville Zoning Administrator considered the proposed action at an August 16, 2023 Administrative Hearing. At this August 16, 2023 hearing, the Zoning Administrator approved the Administrative Use Permit and Design Review Permit with Environmental Review (with conditions of approval) and adopted a mitigated negative declaration and mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP). A CEQA Notice of Determination was filed with the Santa Cruz County Clerk of the Board on August 31, 2023. Appendix B includes the complete CEQA documentation for the proposed action, which includes the public review IS/MND (dated September 28, 2022); a response to comments memo prepared by the City's environmental consultant, EMC Planning Group (dated July 7, 2023); a subsequent review of proposed design changes to the proposed action (dated July 10, 2023); and the MMRP adopted at the August 16, 2023 Administrative Hearing.

In June 2024, the City began implementation of certain park improvements and associated construction activities commenced. Any and all pre-construction requirements, conditions of approval, and mitigation measures have and are currently being followed and documented for compliance by City staff and the City's consultant(s).

Sotomayor Soccer Field Improvements

The two existing soccer fields located at the northern edge of the park fronting Main Street are full-size, natural grass soccer fields utilized by youth and adult soccer leagues. The fields feature a chain link fence perimeter with netting along Main Street. Approximately one-half of the soccer fields are located in the 100-year flood plain and are currently at a natural slope that is not ideal for play. In order to address the existing flooding and drainage issues associated with the location of the soccer fields, the following improvements are proposed:

- Redesign the field with natural turf;
- Level out the fields using tall curbs to provide for a maximum slope of 1.2 percent, which is ideal for soccer play;
- Provide terraced concrete seating that can accommodate up to 150 spectators along the south side of the field that would work with the existing slope to retain the hillside; and
- Add field lighting, new maintenance building at the southwestern corner of the soccer fields, and possibly concessions.

New field lighting would consist of six lighting poles measuring between 70 and 80 feet in height and containing between 5 and 8 luminaires per pole for a total of 36 luminaires.

According to Musco Sports Lighting, the average footcandle will be 37.30 with a maximum of 57. A footcandle is a unit of illuminance on a surface that is everywhere one foot from a uniform point source of light of one candle and equal to one lumen per square foot (Merriam-Webster 2022).

Dog Park

The city has been awarded funding through the State's Prop 68 Per Capita Grant Program to construct a new dog park on the hilltop area of the park, as a dog park is one of the few site elements that could work with the varying steep terrain. Areas for small dogs and large dogs, an accessible path of travel to the entry into the dog park from the Main Street parking lot, and perimeter fencing and amenities are planned.

Exploration/Nature Center

A new 3,675 square foot, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified Exploration/Nature Center is proposed at the site of the existing play area at the southeast corner of the park. The center will include a building and plaza adjacent to the renovated outdoor amphitheater, ADA-accessible paths, and associated landscaping and stormwater improvements. In addition, the Exploration/Nature Center will feature:

- Open shared office space;
- Interactive conservation and natural history exhibits throughout the entire building;
- Multi-purpose teaching space to accommodate up to 30 people for workshops with round tables for community meetings, up to 75 people for lectures with chairs for community members and a podium for a speaker to present using a drop-down projector screen;
- Two gender neutral bathrooms;
- Kitchenette for staff and demonstrations;
- Storage space for art and office supplies;
- Roof structure outfitted with photovoltaic solar panels, water heating panels, living roof, and rainwater catchment system draining into water retention tank behind the center; and
- Utilities rooms serving both the center and other areas of the overall Ramsay Park Renaissance project.

The goal for the new Exploration/Nature Center is to serve as a Conservation Resource Center engaging visitors in energy conservation, waste reduction, water-use efficiency, wastewater management, recycled water, watershed protection, and climate action to ensure the long-term quality of life, health and well-being of the Watsonville community. In addition, the Exploration/Nature Center includes a number of features that would directly or indirectly serve to reduce GHG emissions. These include:

1. Internal pedestrian network the connects to the adjacent trail and to existing sidewalks bordering the site;
2. Extensive tree plantings that will help to sequester carbon dioxide over time;
3. Electric vehicle charging stations; and
4. Exploration/Nature Center improvements that include photovoltaic solar panels, water heating panels, a living roof (a form of "cool roof" to reduce building energy demand), all electric powered facilities (eliminating using natural gas support conversion to use of electricity provided by renewable sources); and a rainwater catchment system (to reduce energy demand for water pumping).

See Appendix C for a complete set of construction plans for the Exploration/Nature Center.

Inclusive Playground

The play area is planned at the summit of the hilltop, which includes an observation landing overlooking the slough. This location was also selected because it is somewhat visible from Soccer Central, the multi-use field, and the proposed Exploration/Nature Center. The play area will be split into two zones to provide play experiences for both young and older children. Based on public feedback, the goal of this play area would be to provide an inclusive play area. Potential design elements include:

- Reuse or redesign large existing slide;
- Rope play elements;
- Inclusive play elements; and
- Natural style climbing elements.

Picnic Areas Redesign

The picnic areas located on the hilltop will be redesigned. The proposed design uses the spaces around the play area as pockets for small group picnic experiences where parents would have a comfortable space to watch their children play. The hilltop area also includes two larger group picnic areas, one of which could be for rentals, and some picnic areas that overlook the soccer field for use while watching the games going on below.

Central Plaza

A new paved Central Plaza has been constructed immediately north of the existing Soccer Central indoor facility near the exiting restroom building.

Multi-Use Sports Field

The proposed action includes a redesign of the existing softball field as a synthetic turf multi-use field. A new basketball court has been built replacing the existing basketball/volleyball courts in this area. The new multi-use field will provide a field space for not only softball and baseball teams that currently use the field, but also soccer teams as the field would have the ability to convert to a soccer field. Permanent striping for both baseball and soccer would be provided. The other amenities include bullpens, new bleachers, longer outfields, temporary outfield fencing, picnic area between the new field and Soccer Central, and a new and smaller prefabricated score booth to replace the existing score booth building. Improvements would also include replacement of existing field lighting poles with new field lights and poles measuring between 60 and 70 feet in height with a total of 35 luminaires with an average footcandle of 32.52 and a maximum footcandle of 44 (Musco Sports Lighting 2022).

Parking Lot Improvements

Existing (Main Street) Parking Lot Redesign

Due to the expansion of the new multi-use field, the northern (Main Street) parking lot will be reduced and redesigned. The redesigned parking lot will include 142 parking spaces as compared to the existing 152 parking spaces in the current parking lot. The parking lot will include new elective vehicle (EV) chargers. Due to the smaller size of the parking lot, the entry planting island off Main Street is to be reduced in size and an additional parking lot is proposed off Longview Drive immediately northwest of the existing Main Street park entrance (see below).

New Longview Drive Parking Lot

The City intends to provide overflow parking for Ramsay Park at a parcel along Longview Drive (across Main Street from the existing park entrance). The Longview Drive parcel is currently a 375-foot long by 80-foot wide vacant, curbed grassy median area with ten (10) blue gym eucalyptus trees and a Pacific Gas & Electric power line running through the approximate middle of the site. An illustrative plan of the Longview Drive parcel and proposed parking area is included as part of Appendix A. In addition, the following improvements and project features will be included with the Longview Drive parking area:

- Exiting utilities will be protected in place within the Longview Drive parking area;
- A new gravel parking lot with geosynthetic reinforcement surface (geosynthetic BodPave85 with pea gravel to fill each cell) will allow for approximately 26 standard parking stalls and two handicap stalls;
- A walkway will be provided to lead users to the adjacent sidewalks that connect to the City pedestrian circulation and crosswalks across Main Street to Ramsay Park;
- Storm water will be treated on site and minimal impervious surfacing will be added to the parcel; and
- No existing trees will need to be removed for this improvement at Longview Drive.

Renovated Southeastern Parking Lot and Bioretention Garden

The existing southeastern parking lot, where the current Nature Center is located, has been repaved and landscaped to feature 50 parking spaces, new tree plantings, and a new bioretention garden along the eastern edge of the parking lot fronting the existing trail that overlooks Watsonville Slough. The bioretention garden is serving as a new low impact development (LID) stormwater management design feature and will collect and filter stormwater off the repaved parking area through the use of permeable porous paving. The existing Nature Center will be demolished and replaced by the new Exploration/Nature Center to be located north of this parking lot area.

Maintenance Road/Trail Redesign and New Multi-Use Trail Improvements

Due to the expansion of the outfield fence, part of the existing maintenance road/trail would need to be redesigned and new multi-use trail improvements, which are part of the Watsonville Slough Connector Trail Project (recently completed), would be reconstructed to accommodate the expanded field.

Site Drainage/Stormwater Management

The project site has three existing outfalls that currently serve the park. These existing outfalls labeled A, B and C on project utility plans will not be disturbed but protected in place.
The best management practices (BMPs) associated with each outfall is consistent with the historical use of each of these outfalls and support the same general functions. Project BMPs include multiple approaches and techniques including: permeable paving in parking lots, plazas and pedestrian paving areas, rain gardens as a method to filter and slow the release of water from the site and bioretention basins and self-mitigating landscape areas. Mechanical solutions are not proposed within the current design. The City of Watsonville will maintain and operate the stormwater improvements as part of the park operations.

Outfall A will serve BMP Area A, which will consist of the landscape frontage along Main Street, the Main Street parking lot, family center and play courts. The parking lot improvements include pervious paving and biofiltration planters to treat the play courts and parking lot water before entering the line to Outfall A.

Outfall B serves the existing natural turf soccer field and will continue to serve the improved natural turf soccer field. The area is naturally filtered through the grass fields and the subdrain system is connected to Outfall B.

Outfall C serves the largest area and includes four biofiltration subsets to filter water before entering outfall C. Outfall C then opens into an existing biofiltration planter that pretreats water before entering the slough.

The following list provides details of the identified BMP areas:

- BMP C1 serves as a primary treatment area for the dog park (natural surfacing) and children's play area.
- BMP C2 serves as a collector of water from the natural hillside and runoff from the paved walkway on the west side of the multiuse sport field. The multiuse sport field is built on native soil with rock reservoir and is considered a permeable surfacing, only the surplus water after infiltration and saturation will be directed to the outfall.
- BMP3 serves the interior paved walk and service path.
- BMP4 serves the south parking lot which includes permeable paving to act as a collector of the parking lot water to be treated in a new biofiltration planter. This planter, due to the proximity to the slough and undetermined subsoil quality is lined to prevent potential leaching of unknown substrates below the finish surface. Once filtered the water from the biofiltration planter is released to outfall C.

Grading/Cut & Fill

Based on preliminary grading plans for the proposed improvements, a total of approximately 11.2 acres of the existing park area are anticipated to be impacted and require grading activities. The Exploration/Nature Center is expected to require a net balance of 180 cubic yards of export fill over a graded area of 0.48 acres or 20,769 square feet. For the remaining improvements at Ramsay Park, it is anticipated that approximately 6,000 cubic yards of fill material will be brought to the site to accommodate proposed improvements.

(Current) Construction Schedule

Project construction is anticipated to last approximately 18 months and started in June 2024 and is anticipated to end by August 2025.

Tree Removal/Replacement

Proposed park improvements will require the removal and replacement of existing trees on the park site, including within the southern parking lot north of Harkins Slough Road and near the tennis courts south of Harkins Slough Road.

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

The proposed Ramsay Park Renaissance Project would allow implementation of the City's *2020 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan* regarding improvements to Ramsay Park. The project is

consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, in that public park use is an allowed use for land designated Public/Quasi-Public and the proposed park improvements are permitted conditionally with issuance of an Administrative Use Permit and Design Review Permit. Ramsay Park is one of the more frequently used parks in the City and the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan identifies improvements at Ramsay Park as particularly high priority given its multi-functional usage for the entire community of Watsonville.

Existing Conditions and Trends [24 CFR 58.40(a)]:
Ramsay Park, an existing 26-acre, public regional park, is located in the City of Watsonville (city) south of Main Street (State Route 152), north of Harkins Slough Road, and west of Watsonville Slough. Ramsay Park is the largest park space in the city. The park site has a Watsonville 2005 General Plan (general plan) land use designation of "Public/Quasi-Public" and is zoned "PF: Public Facilities." The park is bordered to the west by a large commercial shopping center, to the north across Main Street by a combination of commercial and residential neighborhoods, to the east by Watsonville Slough and a new shopping center currently under construction, and to the south by residential neighborhoods across Harkins Slough Road. Figures 1-3, found in the CEQA initial study included as part of Appendix B presents the regional and vicinity location of the project site (Figure 1); presents an aerial view of the project site and immediate surroundings (Figure 2); and presents photographs taken at the project site in January 2022 (Figure 3).

Ramsay Park offers recreational experiences ranging from passive use walking trails to active use athletic fields. Current park facilities include:

- Athletic fields including the Sotomayor Soccer Fields and Ramsay Park Softball field;
- An indoor soccer facility (Soccer Central);
- Paved and unpaved walking paths throughout the park;
- Picnic areas located in the hilltop area of the park;
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- Watsonville Nature Center;
- Ramsay Park Family Center; and
- Tennis courts on the south side of Harkins Slough Road.

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Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-26-MC-06-0052	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	$256,257 Phase I: FY23/24 $100,00

		Phase II: FY24/25 $156,257

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: $256, 257

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]**:**
$24,530,000

Compliance with 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 and 58.6		
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes ☐ No ☒	The subject property is not located within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The project site is located approximately 1.6 miles southeast of the Watsonville Municipal Airport. The City of Watsonville City Council recently approved the *Watsonville Municipal Airport Master Plan Update* (airport master plan update) in October 2023, a plan that evaluated growth of the Airport through the year 2040 (https://www.watsonville.gov/1820/Airport-Master-Plan-Update). The airport master plan update and associated EIR addendum include evaluation of additional facilities and reconstruction of existing facilities in order to meet aviation demand through the 20-year planning period. The airport master plan also delineates the six safety zones surrounding the airport. While the project site is within the airport's designated "Influence Area," the project site is not located within any

		safety zone associated with the airport (City of Watsonville 2023, Figure B-3, p. B-9). Furthermore, the project site is located outside of the airport noise contour map (City of Watsonville 2023, Exhibit B-4, p. B-12). Therefore, the proposed action would not result in safety hazards or excessive noise for people working or recreating on the project site.
Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes ☐ No ☒	The project site is approximately four miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, outside the California Coastal Zone and there are no Coastal Barrier Resources in the State of California. There are no Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coastal barrier resources in California (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Barrier Resources System Mapper (see https://www.fws.gov/program/coastal-barrier-resources-act/maps-and-data). Therefore, the proposed action would not affect a coastal barrier resource and no significant adverse effect would occur. The project would not adversely affect coastal barrier resources. No compliance steps or mitigation are required.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes ☒ No ☐	The eastern portions of the park, including portions of the existing soccer fields sloping towards Watsonville Slough, are within either an 0.2 percent annual chance flood hazard area or Zone AE as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). No physical improvements are proposed in the designated flood zone. Only portions of the new soccer fields and trail system along Watsonville Slough would fall within the designated flood zone. A copy of the National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette taken from the FEMA Flood Map Service Center (https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home) is included as Appendix D. In accordance with Watsonville City Code Title 9, Planning & Zoning, Chapter 2, Floodplain Management, the proposed park improvements will be required to comply

		with Section 9-2.500 "Standards for construction" including for nonresidential construction. Ultimately a floodplain development permit will need to be obtained before construction or other development begins within any area of special flood hazard established in city code section 9-2.301. A 2022 Regulatory Floodway Evaluation was prepared for the proposed action by Schaaf & Wheeler to address potential floodway hazards on the park site. As noted in this floodway evaluation, Watsonville Municipal Code Section 9-2.505 provides requirements for development within a regulatory floodway. Since floodways are extremely hazardous areas due to the velocity of floodwaters which carry debris, potential projectiles, and erosion potential, Watsonville's municipal code is like many other municipal codes regarding the regulation of development to which the following provisions apply: a. Until a regulatory floodway is adopted, no new construction, substantial development, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within Zones A1-30 and AE, unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the City of Watsonville. b. Within an adopted regulatory floodway, the City of Watsonville shall prohibit encroachments, including new fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development, unless certification by a registered civil engineer is provided demonstrating that the proposed encroachment shall not result in any increase in flood levels during

		occurrence of the base flood discharge. A regulatory floodway is adopted along Watsonville Slough and proposed park improvements would be located entirely outside of the floodway. Since fill placed to construct the soccer field would be placed in an area with relatively little flow conveyance capacity – that is, more of a backwater area – the blockage of flood flow is anticipated to have a relatively minor impact (Schaaf & Wheeler, 2022, p. 3). Flood insurance will be mandatory for at least portions of the project site as HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The city/county are active participants within the NFIP: City CID No - 060357#; County CID No - 060353F. The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements. In addition, the proposed action is not a critical action and complies with 24 CFR 55.12(b)(5). Therefore, the project is compliant with flood insurance requirements.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5		
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes ☐ No ☒	The City of Watsonville is within the North Central Coast Air Basin (air basin), which is under the jurisdiction of the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (air district). Regional air districts must prepare air quality plans specifying how state air quality standards will be met. The air district adopted the 2012-2015 Air Quality Management Plan (air quality management plan) for the Monterey Bay Region in 2017. The 2017 plan is an update to elements included in the 2012 air quality management plan based on a review of the time period 2012-2015. The air district is the agency with the primary responsibility for assuring that federal ambient air quality standards are attained

		and maintained in the air basin. Under federal criteria, the air basin is at attainment for all criteria air pollutants. The project would, therefore, not conflict with the State Implementation Plan under the Clean Air Act.
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes ☐ No ☒	The project site is approximately four miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and is not located in the California Coastal Zone (California Coastal Commission Coastal Zone Boundary Map; https://www.coastal.ca.gov/maps/czb/). Therefore, the proposed action would have no impact associated with the Coastal Zone Management Act. No compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)	Yes ☐ No ☒	Construction of the proposed action, as well as ongoing maintenance, may involve the intermittent transport, use and disposal of potentially hazardous materials, including fuels and lubricants, paints, solvents, and other common materials. In addition, construction of the proposed action would require the use and possible accidental release of hazardous materials, such as paints and other solvents. However, the proposed action would be required to comply with construction practices and best management practices to prevent, contain and/or clean-up potential spills and contamination from fuels, solvents, concrete wastes, and other potentially hazardous materials, such as asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint. The use and transport of hazardous materials would also be required to follow Federal, State, and local regulations. Additionally, to maintain the health and safety of the public and environment during construction, any on-site hazardous materials that may be used, stored, or transported would be required to follow protocols determined by the U.S. EPA, California Department of Health and Safety, and City of Watsonville or the County of Santa Cruz.

		Compliance with these various regulations would ensure that the proposed action would be in compliance with federal requirements associated with contamination and toxic substances. No further compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes ☒ No ☐	Impacts to endangered species associated with the proposed action were studied in the initial study prepared by EMC Planning Group (2022) included as part of Appendix B. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) mandates that federal agencies ensure that actions that they authorize, fund, or carry out shall not jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed plants and animals or result in the adverse modification or destruction of designated critical habitat. Where their actions may affect resources protected by the ESA, agencies must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service ("USFWS" and "NMFS" or "the Services"). Special-status species are those listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Rare, or as Candidates for listing by the USFWS. A search of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database was conducted for the City of Watsonville and the surrounding eight U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangles in order to generate a list of potentially occurring special-status species for the project vicinity. Records of occurrence for special-status plants were reviewed for those quadrangles in the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California. A USFWS Endangered Species Program threatened and endangered species list was also generated for Santa Cruz County, and the USFWS Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species online mapper was reviewed. In addition, a reconnaissance-level biological field survey on January 7, 2022,

		conducted by EMC Planning Group biologist Patrick Furtado, M.S., to document existing plant communities/wildlife habitats and evaluate the potential for special-status species to occur on the project site. Biological resources were documented in field notes, including species observed, dominant plant communities, significant wildlife habitat characteristics, and riparian and wetland habitat. Qualitative estimations of plant cover, structure, and spatial changes in species composition were used to determine plant communities and wildlife habitats. Habitat quality and disturbance levels were also described. The project site is located in the City of Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California, on the Watsonville West United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle map, with approximate elevations of 18 feet above sea level at the southern end of the park and 27 feet above sea level at the northern end. The topography is flat in the southern and northern sections of the park with gentle hillslopes in the middle section. Surrounding land uses include commercial development to the west and north, residential development to the south, and the Watsonville Slough to the east. Two habitat types were identified during the reconnaissance-level biological survey of the project site: ornamental park vegetation and willow riparian scrub. Willow riparian scrub habitat is found on the eastern edge of the project site along Watsonville Slough. This habitat type is dominated by thickets of arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*). Broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*) is also dominant among the willow. Willow riparian scrub also hosts native herbs and emergent vegetation, as well as various nonnative ivies, grasses, blackberry, and other plants. Riparian scrub provides foraging habitat for birds and small mammals, and habitat for small reptiles and amphibians.

		Special-Status Plant Species. Of the special-status plant species known to occur in the project vicinity, one federally-listed plant species had the potential to occur on the project site: Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpha macradenia*). **Santa Cruz Tarplant.** Santa Cruz tarplant is federally listed as threatened and state listed as endangered. It is an annual herb that can grow between ten to fifty centimeters tall and typically blooms June to October, with peak blooming from late summer to early fall. Santa Cruz tarplant is typically found in coastal prairie, coastal scrub, or valley and foothill grassland habitats. Microhabitat includes light, sandy soils or sandy clay, often with non-native species. The closest documented occurrence was recorded in 2007 approximately 1,200 feet southwest of the project site (Occurrence No. 34, CDFW 2022). This special-status plant has potential to occur in non-native grassland and unmown open areas. A focused plant survey timed to coincide with the flowering period for Santa Cruz tarplant was conducted on October 11, 2022. No individuals of Santa Cruz tarplant were observed (Biotic Resources Group 2022). A copy of the focused plant survey results is included as part of Appendix B. **Special-Status Wildlife Species.** Of the special-status wildlife species known to occur in the project vicinity, the following federally-listed species have the potential to occur on the project site: California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). Nesting birds may also occur at the project site. Loss or harm to special-status wildlife species are considered potential adverse effects. **California Red-legged Frog.** A federally-listed Threatened species and California Species of Special Concern, California red-legged frog occurs in lowlands and foothills

		primarily in perennial or ephemeral ponds, pools, and streams where water remains long enough (14-28 weeks) for breeding and metamorphosis of tadpoles. Specific breeding sites include streams, creeks, ponds, marshes, sag ponds, deep pools, backwater areas, dune ponds, lagoons, and estuaries. California red-legged frog may disperse from their aquatic breeding habitats to upland habitats during the dry season. They prefer upland habitats that provide moisture to prevent desiccation and protection from predators, including downed logs, woody vegetation, boulders, moist leaf litter, or other refugia during the dry season. In areas where upland habitats do not contain structure, they take refuge in burrows. However, if there is sufficient water at their breeding location, they may remain in aquatic habitats year-round instead of moving to adjacent uplands. During wet seasons, frogs can move long distances between habitats, traversing upland areas or ephemeral drainages. Dispersal distances are typically less than 0.3 mile, with a few individuals moving 1.2-2.2 miles. Seeps and springs in open grasslands can function as foraging habitat or refugia for wandering frogs. CNDDB records indicate that the closest known occurrence of California red-legged frog to the project site was recorded in 2004, within Watsonville Slough immediately adjacent to Ramsay Park (Occurrence No. 749, CNDDB 2022). Slough habitats and upland grassland habitats adjacent to the Slough are considered potential breeding and upland habitat for California red-legged frog. Therefore, impacts to California red-legged frog may occur as a result of project construction. The effects determination is that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, California red-legged frog.

		Conservation Measure BIO-3 requires a biologist to inform construction personnel of the potential for special-status species and habitats to occur within the project area. Conservation Measures BIO-4 and BIO-5 include measures to survey for California red-legged frog and to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to California red-legged frog to the extent possible. **Northwestern Pond Turtle.** The USFWS proposed to list the northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), a species from Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and northern and central California, and the southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys pallida*), a species from central and southern California and Baja California, Mexico, as threatened species under the ESA on October 3, 2023 (50 CFR Part 17, Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2023-0092). Although not currently listed, species with candidate listings should be considered under NEPA. Northwestern pond turtle is uncommon to common in suitable aquatic habitats, including freshwater marshes, stock ponds, lakes, rivers, and streams. This species is considered omnivorous. Aquatic plant material, including pond lilies, beetles and a variety of aquatic invertebrates as well as fishes, frogs, and even carrion have been reported among their food. Pond turtles require basking sites such as partially submerged logs, rocks, mats of floating vegetation, or open mud banks. Turtles slip from basking sites to underwater retreats at the approach of humans or potential predators. CNDDB records indicate that the closest known occurrence of western pond turtle was recorded 2007, approximately 1,500 feet west of Ramsay Park, within Struve Slough (Occurrence No. 329, CNDDB 2022). Struve Slough is hydrologically connected to Watsonville Slough and similar aquatic and upland habitats are found along the eastern edge of Ramsay Park. Therefore, impacts to western pond turtle may occur as a result of

		project construction. The effects determination is that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, western pond turtle. Conservation Measure BIO-3 requires a biologist to inform construction personnel of the potential for special-status species and habitats to occur within the project area. Conservation Measure BIO-6 includes measures to survey for western pond turtle and to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to western pond turtle to the extent possible. **Monarch Butterfly.** Monarch butterfly is not officially listed under CESA or ESA or considered a CDFW species of special concern; however, on December 15, 2020, the USFWS announced that listing the monarch as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act is warranted, but precluded by higher priority listing actions. The monarch is now a candidate under the ESA; and will be reviewed by USFWS annually until a listing decision is made. CDFW monitors overwintering colonies of this species because monarch populations in California have severely declined since the 1980s (Xerces 2017). The cause of this decline is thought to be loss of milkweed (Asclepias spp.) and nectar plants; loss and degradation of overwintering groves; and other stressors like disease, insecticides, and impacts of climate change (Xerces 2017). The monarch overwintering season is typically October to March. Monarchs do not favor eucalyptus trees; however, most of the overwintering locations in California are within eucalyptus groves simply because of their abundance in coastal areas in the state (Xerces 2017). Within the project vicinity, native trees that could be used by overwintering monarchs include coast live oak and coniferous forest (Xerces 2017). The project has been specifically designed to retain as many mature trees as possible, however some

		eucalyptus and other coniferous trees will be removed as part of the proposed action. Removal or disturbance of monarch overwintering habitat is considered a potential adverse effect. EMC Planning Group senior biologist Patrick Furtado conducted a monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) survey on December 28, 2022, to determine presence/absence for overwintering monarch butterflies at the project site and proposed parking area on Longview Drive. As detailed in the *Monarch Butterfly Overwintering Survey Results for the Ramsay Park Renaissance Project* (EMC Planning Group 2023), all trees on the project site were visually scanned using binoculars for the presence/absence of monarch butterfly, with the most attention placed on the potentially impacted trees. Only one individual monarch butterfly was observed flying out of a coast redwood adjacent to the softball field. No other individuals or group clusters were observed leading to the conclusion that the project site is not used as overwintering habitat for monarch butterflies. A copy of the monarch butterfly survey results is included as part of Appendix B. **Nesting Birds.** Protected nesting birds, including bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) and short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), and raptor species such as Cooper's hawk (*Accipter cooperii*) and white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), have the potential to nest in buildings or structures, on open ground, or in any type of vegetation, including trees, during the nesting bird season (January 15 through September 15). The project site and surrounding properties contain a variety of trees and shrubs, resulting in the potential for impacts to protected nesting birds. Construction activities, including ground disturbance, can impact nesting birds protected under the

		federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, should nesting birds be present during construction. If protected bird species are nesting adjacent to the project site during the bird nesting season, then noise-generating construction activities could result in the loss of fertile eggs, nestlings, or otherwise lead to the abandonment of nests. The effects determination is that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, nesting migratory birds and birds of prey. Conservation Measure BIO-7 requires preconstruction surveys to be conducted to determine if nesting is occurring in the vicinity of the project, and if found, measures are implemented to avoid and protect the nest(s). Implementation of this measure would avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to nesting migratory birds and birds of prey to the extent possible.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes ☐ No ☒	Development of the subject property will increase use of an existing community park on the site but does not include a hazardous facility that stores, handles or processes flammable or combustible materials. The subject property is located in an established mixed commercial and residential area of Watsonville and there are no industrial or commercial facilities on or near the site that would environmentally impact the site. The proposed action does not include a hazardous facility as defined in 24 CFR 51, Subpart C. Therefore, no significant adverse environmental effects would result from placement of persons or property near hazardous facilities that store, handle, or process flammable or combustible materials. Construction of the proposed action would require the use and possible accidental release of hazardous materials, such as paints and other solvents. However, the project would be required to comply with construction practices and best management practices to prevent, contain and/or clean-up

		potential spills and contamination from fuels, solvents, concrete wastes, and other potentially hazardous materials, such as asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint. Because the use and transport of hazardous materials would be required to follow Federal, State, and local regulations, the potential impact of accidentally releasing hazardous materials would not result in significant adverse effects. No compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes ☐ No ☒	The project site is located on land that is classified by the California Department of Conservation as "Urban and Built-Up Land" (DOC 2020). The site is not zoned or designated by the City of Watsonville for agricultural uses. Because the proposed action would be consistent with the City's General Plan designation and zoning of the site and would involve recreational uses within an existing community park in the center of downtown Watsonville, the proposed action would not involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural use. No compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes ☒ No ☐	Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires federal activities to avoid impacts to floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development to the extent practicable. As previously noted, the eastern portions of the park, including portions of the existing soccer fields sloping towards Watsonville Slough, are within either an 0.2 percent annual chance flood hazard area or Zone AE as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). No physical improvements are proposed in the designated flood zone. Only portions of the new soccer fields and trail system along Watsonville Slough would fall within the

		designated flood zone. A copy of the National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette taken from the FEMA Flood Map Service Center (https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home) is included as Appendix D. In accordance with Watsonville City Code Title 9, Planning & Zoning, Chapter 2, Floodplain Management, the proposed park improvements will be required to comply with Section 9-2.500 "Standards for construction" including for nonresidential construction. Ultimately a floodplain development permit will need to be obtained before construction or other development begins within any area of special flood hazard established in city code section 9-2.301. A 2022 Regulatory Floodway Evaluation was prepared for the proposed action by Schaaf & Wheeler to address potential floodway hazards on the park site. As noted in this floodway evaluation, Watsonville Municipal Code Section 9-2.505 provides requirements for development within a regulatory floodway. Since floodways are extremely hazardous areas due to the velocity of floodwaters which carry debris, potential projectiles, and erosion potential, Watsonville's municipal code is like many other municipal codes regarding the regulation of development to which the following provisions apply: a. Until a regulatory floodway is adopted, no new construction, substantial development, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within Zones A1-30 and AE, unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the City of Watsonville. b. Within an adopted regulatory floodway, the City of Watsonville

		shall prohibit encroachments, including new fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development, unless certification by a registered civil engineer is provided demonstrating that the proposed encroachment shall not result in any increase in flood levels during occurrence of the base flood discharge. A regulatory floodway is adopted along Watsonville Slough and proposed park improvements would be located entirely outside of the floodway. Since fill placed to construct the soccer field would be placed in an area with relatively little flow conveyance capacity – that is, more of a backwater area – the blockage of flood flow is anticipated to have a relatively minor impact (Schaaf & Wheeler, 2022, p. 3). Flood insurance will be mandatory for at least portions of the project site as HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The city/county are active participants within the NFIP: City CID No - 060357#; County CID No - 060353F. The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements. In addition, the proposed action is not a critical action and complies with 24 CFR 55.12(b)(5). Therefore, the project is compliant with flood insurance requirements.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes ☒ No ☐	Impacts to cultural resources associated with the proposed action was studied in an initial study prepared by EMC Planning Group (2022) included as part of Appendix B. The site upon which the proposed action would occur is occupied by an existing community park. No historic properties eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places are located on or near the subject property. However, an

		archival records search through Northwest Information Center (NWIC) was conducted in December 2021 by EMC Planning Group. The archival research revealed that the project location has a moderate to high potential for unrecorded Native American resources and a high potential for unrecorded historic-period archaeological resources. Additionally, in February 2022, a record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File was completed for the project site and the results were negative. According to NWIC records, there have been six cultural resource studies that covered a large percentage of the project area. According to records at the NWIC, one historical archaeological site (P-44-000761), a refuse and bottle dump, was identified at the project site. According to NWIC records, P-44-000761 lies below the Harkins Slough Road on the south edge of the park and was uncovered at a depth of three feet while excavating for a Pacific, Gas & Electric (PG&E) gas transmission line in 2013. Site S-004036, which is located south of Harkins Slough Road, where new tree plantings are proposed, contained Native American human burials. The historic/archaeological resource P-44-00761 was discovered three feet below the surface within the park area along Harkins Slough Road. Due to this historic resource being underground, it is unknown if that initial discovery of 75 historic bottles is the extent of the site or if the site boundaries continue. Ground disturbing activities, at a depth of three feet, located within the resource or a distance of 50 feet, may uncover additional artifacts. However, no improvements are proposed within 150 feet of Harkins Slough Road and therefore, impacts to this resource are not anticipated. Unknown historic or unique archaeological resources could be present at the project site

		due to the proximity of the Watsonville Slough, and could be damaged or destroyed by ground-disturbing construction activities (e.g., site preparation, grading, excavation, and trenching for utilities) associated with the proposed park improvements. This would be considered a potential adverse effect. Implementation of mitigation measures CR-1, CR-2, and CR-3, along with mitigation measures GEO-1 and TRC-1, identified in the initial study would ensure the proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects associated with archaeological resources. Specific to the proposed action, a "Request for Concurrence of No Historic Properties Affected" pursuant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Summary of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800A was submitted to SHPO on September 30, 2024. A response is pending from SHPO A copy of from the September 30, 2024 letter and other supporting documentation to SHPO from the City is included as Appendix E. Additionally, it is noted the City of Watsonville conducted a separate cultural resource evaluation and Section 106 SHPO consultation process in 2021 for the Watsonville Slough Connector Trail project. While a separate project from the currently proposed action, the connector trail falls within the boundaries of the current Ramsay Park Renaissance Project. A "Request for Concurrence of No Historic Properties Affected" pursuant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Summary of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800A was submitted to SHPO on January 28, 2021. The City received no response from SHPO as of March 19, 2021 and

		therefore concluded that SHPO has not objected to the City's Finding of "No Historic Properties Affected." The Section 106 process has been completed for the connector trail per 36 CFR Part 800.3(c)(4). A copy of the Environmental Review for Activity/Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5 (CEST) associated with the Watsonville Slough Connector Trail project and which documents the City's Section 106 consultation process with SHPO associated with that project is included as part of Appendix E. No additional mitigation is required.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes ☒ No ☐	Impacts associated with noise generated by the proposed action was studied in an initial study prepared by EMC Planning Group (2022) is included as part of Appendix B. On-site noise-generating activities associated with the proposed action would include short-term construction as well as long-term operational noise associated with night time use of the soccer fields. Certain land uses are particularly sensitive to noise and vibration. These uses include residences, schools, hospital facilities, houses of worship, and open space/recreation areas where quiet environments are necessary for the enjoyment, public health, and safety of the community. The project site is a recreation area and is primarily in the vicinity of commercial and residential. In addition to the park itself, the nearest sensitive receptors are residences located north across Main Street and south across Harkins Slough Road. **General Plan/Municipal Code Noise Standards** The City of Watsonville has adopted a Noise and Land Use Compatibility standards as part of their Public Safety Element of the 2005 Genera Plan. Goal 12.8, Noise Hazard Control, is to evaluate new and existing land

		uses in the city for compatibility related to noise effects and require, as appropriate, mitigation where harmful effects can be identified, and measurable improvement will result. Policy 12.M, Noise, states that the City shall utilize land use regulations and enforcement to ensure that noise levels in developed areas are kept at acceptable levels, and that future noise-sensitive land uses are protected from noise that is harmful. The Public Safety Element also identifies the City's noise compatibility guidelines for different land uses. According to Figure 12-6 of the City's General Plan, the normally acceptable noise limit for single family residential land uses is 60 Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL), for lodging land uses 65 CNEL, and for office and other commercial land uses 75 CNEL. To implement the City's noise policies, the City adopted Chapter 8, Noise, in Title 5, Public Welfare, Morals, and Conduct, of the municipal code. Municipal Code Chapter 5-8 prohibits specific types of noises, such as continuous or unusually loud noise that disturbs residential property or public ways within the city. Specifically, it is unlawful for any person to generate noise which either annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others on residential property or public ways within the city, including, but not limited to: ▪ The use of radios, music instruments, stereos, televisions, or other similar devices that disturb the peace and quiet of neighboring residential inhabitants, including the use of such devices between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. that are plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet from the structure in which the device is located (WMC Section 5-8.02(a)). ▪ Yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling, or singing originating from any residential property or upon any

		public way at any time so as to annoy or disturb the quiet comfort and repose of nearby persons (WMC Section 5-8.02(c)). The municipal does not establish quantified noise standards; therefore, for the purposes of this initial study analysis, the Santa Cruz County Code is used. The County of Santa Cruz enforces noise standards through County Code Chapter 8.30, Noise. The county sets a noise standard of 75 dBA during the daytime (8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.) and 60 dBA during the nighttime (10:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m.). **Construction Noise (Short-Term)** Construction is anticipated to last approximately 18 months. Construction activity is proposed to occur during daytime hours. Each phase will use a variation of construction equipment/equipment mix with associated noise levels. The use of pile driving is not anticipated. Project construction would require the use of heavy-duty construction equipment that could temporarily increase noise levels at adjacent property lines near work areas. The type of equipment used would include bulldozers, backhoes, a grader, a scraper, compactors/rollers, small cranes, and material handlers, lifts, and trucks. The worst-case L_{eq} noise levels associated with the operation of a bulldozer and scraper are predicted to be approximately 81 and 82 dBA, respectively, at a distance of 50 feet from the equipment operating area. At an active construction site, it is not uncommon for two or more pieces of construction equipment to operate at the same time and in close proximity. A single bulldozer provides a sound level of 81 dBA L_{eq} at a distance of 50 feet; when two identical sound levels are combined, the noise level increases to 84 dBA L_{eq} and when three identical sound levels are combined, the noise level increases to 86 dBA L_{eq}. These estimates

		assume no shielding or other noise control measures are in place at or near the work areas. These maximum noise levels would occur for a short period time; as demolition, site preparation, and grading is completed. The noise generated from project construction would be temporary and would not produce the same sound levels every day. In addition, the City does not maintain numeric thresholds for the purposes of evaluating construction noise level. Neither the General Plan nor the Municipal Code specify a noise level for construction activities. Project construction noise, therefore, would not exceed an applicable standard and would not result in a significant adverse effect. Nonetheless, noise levels of 85 dBA L_{eq} on an hourly basis are typically considered intrusive and would have the potential to interfere with the quiet, comfort, and use of adjacent, exterior residential areas, particularly the residential areas south of the site (across Harkins Slough Road) and north of the site (across Main Street). The City will require the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) as conditions of project approval to reduce the potential for construction noise levels to annoy and intrude upon adjacent residential areas. These BMPs outlined in Mitigation Measure N-1 identified in the initial study would reduce construction noise levels and provide a mechanism for responding to construction noise complaints, thereby ensuring project construction would not result in a substantial, temporary increase in noise levels. **Operational (Long-Term) Noise.** Long-term (i.e., operational) noise associated with the project would include continued recreation activities throughout the existing park. Access to Ramsay Park is limited to sunrise to sunset except for those city-approved activities which would take place under field lighting at the soccer fields

		and multi-use field till 11:00 P.M. The majority of proposed park improvements would generate noise consist with existing uses at the park. However, new operational noise sources as a result of the proposed action would include noise generated by park users and attendees of night time events at the soccer fields at the north end of the park which would feature new field lighting. Noise levels associated with youth and recreational level sporting events are generally limited to those associated with human voices, typically clapping and cheering (screaming) from spectators. In order to assess noise levels and potential impacts to nearby sensitive receptors that could occur as a result of the addition of sports field lighting and spectator seating at the soccer fields, WJV Acoustics, Inc. conducted a preliminary noise assessment using applicable city and Santa Cruz County noise standards and existing noise levels and traffic counts in the vicinity of the project site (see Appendix C of the initial study). Noise levels associated with spectators and sporting activities of this magnitude typically produce noise levels in the range of approximately 45 to 55 dB L_{eq} at a distance of 100 feet. The closest residential land uses to the project site are located a distance of approximately 400 feet north of the soccer fields. At this distance, noise levels associated with the sport activities (clapping, cheering, yelling of spectators and athletes) would be expected to be approximately 33-43 dB L_{eq}. Additionally, sports-field related noise levels would be expected to be in the range of approximately 25-35 dB L_{eq} at the residential land uses south of the project, along Harkins Slough Road. Such levels would be below the Santa Cruz County daytime (50 dB L_{eq}) or nighttime (45 dB L_{eq}) noise level standards for stationary noise sources. The City does not provide noise standards for stationary noise sources; however, Santa Cruz County does provide

		stationary noise standards that could be reasonably applied to the project. Based on an assessment of hourly traffic noise levels conducted by WJV Acoustics at the residential land uses located along Longview Drive (approximately 56 dB Leq between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.), noise levels associated with proposed nighttime activities Ramsay Park would not be expected to exceed existing (without project) noise levels in the vicinity of the residences. It can therefore be reasonably assumed that mitigation measures would not be required for compliance with local noise standards and that project implementation would not result in noise levels exceeding existing ambient noise levels in the project vicinity (WJV Acoustics 2022).
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes ☐ No ☒	No U. S. EPA-designated sole-source aquifers exist beneath or near the City of Watsonville. The nearest sole source aquifer is located approximately 15 miles to the northwest of Watsonville at the Santa Margarita Aquifer/Scotts Valley SSA (U.S. EPA Region 9, https://www.epa.gov/dwssa/map-sole-source-aquifer-locations). According to the City of Watsonville's *2020 Urban Water Management Plan*, the City estimates that it will have sufficient water supplies to meet proposed growth for normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years. The proposed action would represent only a nominal increase in water demand over the existing park operations (mostly associated with operations of the new Exploration/Nature Center). Therefore, no impacts associated utilizing a sole source aquifer would occur.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes ☒ No ☐	Impacts to wetlands as a result of the proposed action were studied in the initial study prepared by EMC Planning Group (2022), included as part of Appendix B.

		Riparian and wetland habitats on the project site consist of arroyo willow riparian scrub located on the eastern edge of the park along Watsonville Slough. A small drainage ditch with disturbed willow riparian scrub plant species is located adjacent to the northeastern corner, most likely a remnant part of the slough that now collects runoff from Main Street. A homeless encampment and refuse have further degraded this area. A shallow, concrete-lined drainage ditch is located in the southern part of the project site, across Harkins Slough Road. No vegetation is located along the drainage ditch. The slough and drainage ditches are shown on Figure 11, Habitat Map, of the initial study included as part of Appendix B. Further, a review of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) online database was conducted to identify the closest jurisdictional aquatic features on or adjacent to the project site (USFWS 2022). Several aquatic features were identified on, and immediately adjacent to, the project site, including willow riparian scrub summarized above and shown on Figure 11, Habitat Map, of the initial study included as part of Appendix B. The NWI includes two habitat classifications along the eastern project edge: freshwater forested/shrub wetland (PFOC) and freshwater emergent wetland (PEM1C) (USFWS 2022). The current project plans do not include encroachment into the riparian or wetland areas, as shown on the site plans included in Appendix A and C. No further study is warranted.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes ☐ No ☒	The Big Sur River, the only designed "Wild and Scenic River" in the greater Monterey Bay area, is located (at its closest point) approximately 44 miles southwest of the project site (National Wild and Scenic Rivers System https://www.rivers.gov/california.php). The proposed action would not impact any

		designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. No additional compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes ☐ No ☒	Based upon 2023 data from the U.S. Census Bureau accessed on August 29, 2024, (https://www.census.gov/quickfacts), Hispanic or Latino persons represent 82.6 percent of the percent of the city's population. Other minority groups within the City of Watsonville are represented in fewer amounts. . Adverse environmental impacts that are disproportionately high for low-income and/or minority communities have not been identified. The site is suitable for the proposed recreational improvements by the City of Watsonville. No adverse environmental impacts were identified that could not be mitigated by compliance with local General Plan policies, standard conditions of project approval, or site-specific conditions of project approval/mitigation measures that have already been adopted by the City of Watsonville through the City's required CEQA review process. The proposed action's benefits of providing recreational opportunities for lower-income households who struggle to both find accessible and safe recreational opportunities in the City of Watsonville is determined to be a significant off-setting factor, especially when coupled with the City's required conditions of approval and adopted mitigation measures. Subject to compliance with the City's required conditions of approval, the project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. See Appendix F for a copy of U.S. Census demographic data and information for Watsonville.

Environmental Assessment Factors [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27] Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented, as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. **All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.**

Impact Codes: Use an impact code from the following list to make the determination of impact for each factor.

(1) Minor beneficial impact
(2) No impact anticipated
(3) Minor Adverse Impact – May require mitigation
(4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOPMENT		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	1	Consistency with land use was studied in an initial study prepared by EMC Planning Group (2022) included as part of Appendix B. The proposed action does not involve a change in land use or introduce new land uses that are incompatible with surrounding commercial and residential uses. The subject property is located in an established urban area zoned for recreational uses. The project site is located within the City's urban development and the project involves the improvements to an existing community park and is surrounded by existing commercial and/or residential uses on three sides, with the Watsonville Slough on the fourth. The subject property has a Watsonville General Plan Land Use designation of "Public/Quasi-Public" and is within the "Public Facilities (PF)" Zoning District. The purpose of the "Public/Quasi-Public" designation is to allow public facilities, including active and passive recreational (park) facilities. The proposed action is consistent with the list of allowable use for and general purpose of the "PF" Zoning District, in that the project would not change the existing public park

		use owned and operated by the City of Watsonville. Playfields with lighted facilities are allowed conditionally with issuance of an Administrative Use Permit with Design Review. The proposed action is consistent with the following City's General Plan goals and policies concerning public land uses, park facilities, urban design and scenic resources: • Goal 4.5 Public Land Uses – Provide public and institutional land uses and services in proportion to population growth. • Policy 4.E Public and Quasi-Public Land Use – The City shall plan for and designate an adequate amount of land to accommodate the institutional land uses needed to serve residential neighborhoods and the entire city. • Goal 8.1 Community Needs – Enhance the quality of life by assuring the provision of services, programs, and facilities that reflect the leisure needs and desires of the community. • Goal 8.2 Facilities – Provide a full range of park and recreation facilities including active recreation areas, passive natural open spaces, and a bicycle/pedestrian trail system. • Policy 8.B Park Acquisition and Development – The City shall designate sites for future parks and recreation facilities and shall continue to finance, acquire, and develop park facilities consistent with the Watsonville park standards and in proportion to population growth in Watsonville. • Goal 5.9 Scenic Corridors – Protect and enhance the views of and from the scenic streets and highways in Watsonville and the Planning Area. Ramsay Park is one of the more frequently used parks in the City. The project would enhance existing recreation opportunities available at Ramsay Park and provide needed improvements for it to continue to serve the City's residents, in accordance with the recommended improvements shown on "Ramsay Park Concept Plan" in the City's *2020 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan*. The project would not change the overall character of Ramsay Park nor result in adverse effect on designated scenic routes (i.e., Harkins Slough Road and Main Street). In sum, the project would enhance Ramsay Park by addressing deferred maintenance issues, providing needed upgrades, and adding new park facilities.

Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	3	Localized environmental effects related to soil stability, erosion, drainage and storm water runoff were studied in an initial study prepared by EMC Planning Group (2022) included as part of Appendix B. **Soil Suitability.** A 2020 geotechnical report prepared by Pacific Crest Engineering, Inc. (*Geotechnical Investigation – Ramsay Park Improvements Connector Trail & New Nature Center, Watsonville, CA*) for Ramsay Park improvements associated with the connector trail and the Exploration Center indicated that while the soil deposits that underlay the eastern portion of the park are mapped as having a very high liquefaction potential, the soil deposits that underlie the majority of the development area on the western portion of the park are mapped as exhibiting low liquefaction potential. Boring samples taken in the eastern portion of the park property concluded that there is a low probability that liquefaction will occur and negatively impact proposed improvements in the eastern portion of the park (Pacific Crest Engineering 2020). A 2021 supplemental geotechnical report also prepared by Pacific Crest Engineering to address proposed seating at the soccer fields confirmed the 2020 report findings regarding liquefaction potential at the soccer fields. Both the 2020 and 2021 geotechnical reports recommended concrete flatwork be underlain by non-expansive fill along with a recommendation that retaining wall foundations be extended 24 inches below lowest adjacent grade or be designed to be founded on piers that extend below the zone of seasonal moisture change. Compliance with these geotechnical report recommendations would ensure proposed park improvements would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects associated with seismic-related ground activity including liquefaction. The 2020 geotechnical report also indicated that soils underlying the site were noted as having varying layers of low to highly expansive clays (Pacific Crest Engineering 2020). Clay soils encountered at the soccer field area exhibited intermediate to high expansion potential. To reduce this potential, the geotechnical report recommended that foundations and concrete flatwork be underlain by non-expansive engineered fill. A 2021 supplemental geotechnical report for the proposed soccer field seating area confirmed the 2020 geotechnical report findings

		regarding expansive soils at the soccer field and recommendation for non-expansive fill at the seating area. Project construction and grading activities will also be conducted in compliance with the California Building Code and City Code Chapter 13-7 (Construction Grading and Drainage Ordinance). Compliance will the 2020 and 2021 geotechnical report recommendations, along with all applicable construction and grading regulations, would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects to life and property created from soil subsidence and expansion. **Slope/Erosion.** The project site is located in an area of low to moderate landslide susceptibility (City of Watsonville 2020). While the eastern edge of the park gradually slopes towards Watsonville Slough, the park site itself is generally flat and not an area at risk for landslides. Therefore, the project site would not alter or exacerbate landslide risks. The proposed action includes importing approximately 6,000 cubic feet of soil associated with modifying the slope of the soccer fields. Grading and soil exposure during construction could result in erosion and/or siltation if not controlled. To minimize this potential impact, the project would be required to comply with all of the requirements of the State GCP, including preparation of a SWPPP prior to the start of construction activities. The SWPPP includes BMPs for runoff, erosion, and sediment transport as discussed above in Section 10.a. Compliance with the GCP and implementation of the BMPs in the SWPPP would reduce, prevent, or minimize soil erosion from project-related grading and construction activities. Therefore, project-related construction activities would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects associated with erosion or siltation on- or off-. **Drainage/Storm Water Run-Off.** Construction-related runoff pollutants are typically generated from soil destabilization areas, waste and hazardous materials handling or storage areas, outdoor work areas, material storage areas, and general maintenance areas (e.g., vehicle or equipment fueling and maintenance, including washing). The proposed action's construction phase could result in water quality impacts to Watsonville Slough, or other downstream receiving waters, if construction-related

		sediments or pollutants are not controlled. Construction projects of one acre or more (like the proposed action) are regulated under the Statewide General Construction Permit (GCP), Order No. 2012-0006-DWQ, issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in 2012. To minimize these potential impacts, the proposed action will be required to comply with the GCP as well as prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that requires the incorporation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control sedimentation, erosion, and hazardous materials contamination of runoff during construction. The GCP also requires that prior to the start of construction activities, the project applicant must file Permit Registration Documents (PRDs) with the SWRCB, which includes a Notice of Intent (NOI), risk assessment, site map, annual fee, signed certification statement, SWPPP, and post-construction water balance calculations. The proposed action's construction contractor would be required to prepare and implement an SWPPP and associated BMPs in compliance with the GCP during grading and construction. The SWPPP would specify BMPs that the construction contractor would implement to protect water quality by eliminating and/or minimizing stormwater pollution prior to and during grading and construction. Additionally, the City Municipal Code (Chapter 6, Excavations, Grading, Filling and Erosion Control), requires an erosion control plan be prepared as a part of the grading plan. The erosion control plan shall show the runoff comparison within and without the project. Adherence to the BMPs in the SWPPP and the preparation of an erosion control plan would reduce, prevent, minimize, and/or treat pollutants and prevent the degradation of downstream receiving waters. BMPs identified in the SWPPP would reduce or avoid contamination of stormwater with sediment and other pollutants such as trash and debris, oil, grease, fuels, and other toxic chemicals, paint, concrete, asphalt, and bituminous materials. The proposed project includes importing approximately 6,000 cubic feet of soil associated with modifying the slope of the soccer fields. Grading and soil exposure during construction could result in erosion and/or siltation if not controlled. To minimize this potential effect, the project

		would be required to comply with all of the requirements of the State GCP, including preparation of a SWPPP prior to the start of construction activities. Compliance with the GCP and implementation of the BMPs in the SWPPP would reduce, prevent, or minimize soil erosion from project-related grading and construction activities. Therefore, project-related construction activities would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects associated with erosion or siltation on- or off-site.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	3	Hazards and nuisances including site safety and noise were studied in an initial study prepared by EMC Planning Group (2022) as part of Appendix B. **Hazardous Materials/Nuisances.** Construction activities associated with the proposed action would require the use and possible accidental release of hazardous materials, such as paints and other solvents. However, the project would be required to comply with construction practices and best management practices to prevent, contain and/or clean-up potential spills and contamination from fuels, solvents, concrete wastes, and other potentially hazardous materials, such as asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint. Because the use and transport of hazardous materials would be required to follow Federal, State, and local regulations, the proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects associated with the accidental release of hazardous materials. **Toxic Air Containments.** The proposed action has the potential to result in adverse environmental effects that could cause substantial adverse effects on human beings from toxic air contaminants (TACs) pollutants that may be expected to result in an increase in mortality or serious illness or may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. Implementation of mitigation measures AQ-1 and AQ-2 would ensure the proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects associated with toxic air contaminants. **Seismic Hazards.** The City of Watsonville lies between two major fault zones: the San Andreas to the north and east and the San Gregorio offshore to the west. Other active or potentially active fault zones that could affect the

		city include the Zayante-Vergeles in Pajaro Valley and the Monterey Bay to the west. The city does not have Alquist-Priolo fault zones within the city limits, but fault zones exist on the outskirts of the city (City of Watsonville 2020). According to the California Geological Survey, the project site is not located within a mapped fault zone (CGS 2021). The project would not involve activities that would exacerbate seismicity risks and therefore, not result directly or indirectly in potentially substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving fault rupture or seismic ground shaking**.** **Noise.** Construction-related noise at nearby sensitive receptors that exceed noise thresholds. Implementation of mitigation measure N-1 would ensure the proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects associated with noise.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONOMIC		
Employment and Income Patterns	1	The proposed action will contribute temporary construction jobs, through a competitive bid process likely using local firms or companies within the greater Watsonville area and Santa Cruz County. The proposed action is only anticipated to create one (1) permanent new City employee in both the Parks and Community Services Department and Public Works & Utilities who operate and maintain the existing Ramsay Park facilities. This is a beneficial impact.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	1	The property is located in the City of Watsonville, which is home to a higher percentage of minority and low income persons compared with other communities in Santa Cruz County (U.S. Census 2024, https://www.census.gov/quickfacts). The proposed action includes improvements to an existing community park. The proposed action is intended to provide greater access to safe, sustainable, and multi-functional recreational facilities to all members of the community, which would be a beneficial impact. No jobs, community facilities or commercial business establishments would be eliminated or relocated by the proposed action. No housing units would be eliminated and no residents would be displaced. Therefore, the proposed action would not necessitate the construction of alternative

		housing and no new construction elsewhere would be required to accommodate existing residents. Demographic information and supporting documentation is provided in Appendix F.
Environmental Justice	1	Based upon 2023 data from the U.S. Census Bureau accessed on August 29, 2024, (https://www.census.gov/quickfacts), minority groups within the City of Watsonville are represented in fewer amounts than the city as a whole with the exception of the percentage of Hispanic or Latino persons, who represent 82.6 percent of the percent of the city's population. Adverse environmental impacts that are disproportionately high for low-income and/or minority communities have not been identified. The site is suitable for the proposed recreational improvements by the City of Watsonville. No adverse environmental impacts were identified that could not be mitigated by compliance with local General Plan policies, standard conditions of project approval, or site-specific conditions of project approval/mitigation measures that have already been adopted by the City of Watsonville through the City's required CEQA review process. The proposed action's benefits of providing recreational opportunities for lower-income households who struggle to both find accessible and safe recreational opportunities in the City of Watsonville is determined to be a significant off-setting factor, especially when coupled with the City's required conditions of approval and adopted mitigation measures. Subject to compliance with the City's required conditions of approval, the project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. See Appendix F for a copy of U.S. Census demographic data and information for Watsonville.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The proposed action consists of improvements to an existing park, and would not result in physical impacts associated with the provision of or 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 educational and cultural facilities. No additional compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.
Commercial Facilities	2	The proposed action increases the availability of recreational facilities near job-producing commercial centers in downtown Watsonville. The project site is located within close proximity of most commercial enterprises along Main Street. Access to commercial centers or other areas are within walking distance or by transit with stops available in several locations within walking distance from the existing community park. The proposed action would improve facilities at an existing community park within proximity to commercial uses. The proposed action would not displace or negatively affect commercial uses. No additional compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.
Health Care and Social Services	2	The proposed action is consistent with the land use designations and development intensities anticipated by the City's general plan and demand for hospital, health care, and social services would be accommodated by these or other existing facilities. Access to health care and social services are available by vehicle, walking or transit. Several transit stops are located within one-quarter-mile of the subject property. No additional compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	The City of Watsonville would provide solid waste services to the project site. In 2019, the most recent available data year, approximately 77 percent of the municipal solid waste landfilled from Watsonville was disposed of at the Monterey Peninsula Landfill, north of the city of Marina. The Monterey Peninsula Landfill has a maximum permit capacity of close to 50 million tons of solid waste with a maximum daily disposal capacity of 3,500 tons (CalRecycle 2022). The proposed action would generate solid water during both construction and operation. Construction would temporarily generate solid waste. Once construction is complete, construction generated solid waste would cease to be produced. Increases in operational solid waste would only be generated by the new Exploration Center. Trash receptacles would be placed at the new Exploration Center to collect potential waste generated by park users. Existing trash receptacles would collect trash generated by park users

		throughout the rest of the park. However, it is anticipated that waste generated during operation of the project would be minimal. Utilizing the closest available solid waste generation rate land use (Public/Institutional) as defined by CalRecycle, which equates to 0.007 pounds per square foot per day, the new 2,361 square foot Exploration Center would generate approximately 16.52 pounds (or 0.008 tons) of solid waste per day (CalRecylce 2022c). This represents a marginal increase in solid waste intake at the Monterey Peninsula Landfill and therefore would not generate solid waste in excess of existing capacity. In addition, substantial reductions in solid waste from construction materials can be achieved through recycling, reuse, and diversion programs. The City requires a construction waste management plan during the plan review pursuant to the CalGreen Code, Sections 4.408, 5.408. The City requires diversion of 50 percent of nonhazardous construction and demolition waste through recycling, reuse, and diversion programs. Therefore, a waste management plan for the proposed park improvements must demonstrate compliance with the City's goal of reusing or recycling at least 50 percent of project construction waste. Based on a minimal increase in solid waste due to construction and operations as a result of the proposed park improvements, and compliance with requirements laid out in the project's required construction waste management plan, impacts on landfill capacity would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects to solid waste/recycling. No additional compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.
Waste Water / Sanitary Sewers	2	The proposed action would introduce two restrooms associated with the new Exploration/Nature Center and would connect to existing wastewater pipelines that service the surrounding area; thus, the project could nominally increase wastewater generated at the park. Therefore, the proposed action would not require relocation or construction of new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities. No additional compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.
Water Supply	2	According to the City's 2020 *Urban Water Management Plan*, the City estimates that it will have sufficient water supplies to meet proposed growth for normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years. Proposed park improvements would represent a nominal increase in water demand associated with the new Exploration/Nature Center. Therefore, project

		development would not require the construction of new or expanded water supply facilities. No additional compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The proposed action consists of improvements to an existing park, and would not result in physical impacts associated with the provision of or 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 fire protection, police protection, or emergency medical services.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	3	A potential substantial adverse effect would occur if the project increased the use of existing neighborhood and/or regional parks or other recreational facilities so as to accelerate or induce their physical deterioration. The proposed action would introduce improvements to the existing approximately 26-acre Ramsay Park intended to serve residents of the city. Thus, the project would improve recreational services available in the community. All environmental impacts that would occur as a result of the project are analyzed throughout the initial study (Appendix B). Environmental impacts are identified within this environmental assessment, and each are mitigated to ensure the proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	The proposed action consists of improvements to an existing park, and does not increase the size of the park. As such, the proposed project would not result in additional vehicle trips. The proposed action would generate temporary construction traffic, which would cease upon completion of construction. The project consists of a series of improvements at the existing park. The project would include improvements to existing parking lots at the north (off Longview Drive) and south (off Harkins Slough Road) areas of the park site. Proposed improvements include making pedestrian paths ADA-accessible throughout the park and surrounding the new Exploration/Nature Center. Visitors to the park would continue to have access to the existing parking lots. In addition, proposed action includes improvements associated with the Main Street frontage will require the redesign of the multi-use path off Main Street to provide a pedestrian connection to the new parking lot. Limitations to this pedestrian access, if any, would be short-term during construction activities and access will resume immediately upon completion of construction activities. The proposed action would not create, interrupt, or otherwise reduce the

		ability of streets to circulate traffic. Any need for construction-related traffic partial street closures would be temporary, intermittent, localized, and subject to standard city traffic management practices. The proposed action would have no effect on emergency response routes. Accordingly, the project would not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing transportation and accessibility in and surrounding the existing community park, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. No additional compliance steps or mitigation measures are required.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	3	**Riparian and Wetland Habitats.** Riparian and wetland habitats on the project site consist of arroyo willow riparian scrub located on the eastern edge of the park along Watsonville Slough. A small drainage ditch with disturbed willow riparian scrub plant species is located adjacent to the northeastern corner, most likely a remnant part of the slough that now collects runoff from Main Street. A homeless encampment and refuse have further degraded this area. A shallow, concrete-lined drainage ditch is located in the southern part of the project site, across Harkins Slough Road. No vegetation is located along the drainage ditch. The slough and drainage ditches are shown on Figure 11, Habitat Map, in Appendix B. Impacts to vegetation along Watsonville Slough or the slough itself from noise, dust, or run-off may occur as a result of construction. The effects determination is that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, riparian and wetland habitats.
		Wetlands and Waters of the United States. A review of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) online database was conducted to identify the closest jurisdictional aquatic features on or adjacent to the project site (USFWS 2022). Several aquatic features were identified on, and immediately adjacent to, the project site, including willow riparian scrub summarized above and shown on Figure 11, Habitat Map, in Appendix B. The NWI includes two habitat classifications along the eastern project edge: freshwater forested/shrub wetland (PFOC) and freshwater emergent wetland (PEM1C) (USFWS 2022).

		The current project plans avoid possible encroachment into the riparian or wetland areas. No conservation measures are necessary.
Vegetation, Wildlife	3	**California Red-legged Frog.** A federally-listed Threatened species and California Species of Special Concern, California red-legged frog occurs in lowlands and foothills primarily in perennial or ephemeral ponds, pools, and streams where water remains long enough (14-28 weeks) for breeding and metamorphosis of tadpoles. Specific breeding sites include streams, creeks, ponds, marshes, sag ponds, deep pools, backwater areas, dune ponds, lagoons, and estuaries. California red-legged frog may disperse from their aquatic breeding habitats to upland habitats during the dry season. They prefer upland habitats that provide moisture to prevent desiccation and protection from predators, including downed logs, woody vegetation, boulders, moist leaf litter, or other refugia during the dry season. In areas where upland habitats do not contain structure, they take refuge in burrows. However, if there is sufficient water at their breeding location, they may remain in aquatic habitats year-round instead of moving to adjacent uplands. During wet seasons, frogs can move long distances between habitats, traversing upland areas or ephemeral drainages. Dispersal distances are typically less than 0.3 mile, with a few individuals moving 1.2-2.2 miles. Seeps and springs in open grasslands can function as foraging habitat or refugia for wandering frogs. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records indicate that the closest known occurrence of California red-legged frog to the project site was recorded in 2004, within Watsonville Slough immediately adjacent to Ramsay Park (Occurrence No. 749, CNDDB 2022). Slough habitats and upland grassland habitats adjacent to the Slough are considered potential breeding and upland habitat for California red-legged frog. Therefore, impacts to California red-legged frog may occur as a result of project construction. The effects determination is that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, California red-legged frog. Conservation Measure BIO-3 requires a biologist to inform construction personnel of the potential for special-status species and habitats to occur within the project area. Conservation Measures BIO-4 and BIO-5 include measures to survey for California red-legged frog and to

		avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to California red-legged frog to the extent possible.
		Western Pond Turtle. Western pond turtle is a California Species of Special Concern and is a candidate species for federal listing. It is uncommon to common in suitable aquatic habitat throughout California including freshwater marshes, stock ponds, lakes, rivers, and streams. This species is considered omnivorous. Aquatic plant material, including pond lilies, beetles and a variety of aquatic invertebrates as well as fishes, frogs, and even carrion have been reported among their food. Pond turtles require basking sites such as partially submerged logs, rocks, mats of floating vegetation, or open mud banks. Turtles slip from basking sites to underwater retreats at the approach of humans or potential predators. CNDDB records indicate that the closest known occurrence of western pond turtle was recorded 2007, approximately 1,500 feet west of Ramsay Park, within Struve Slough (Occurrence No. 329, CNDDB 2022). Struve Slough is hydrologically connected to Watsonville Slough and similar aquatic and upland habitats are found along the eastern edge of Ramsay Park. Therefore, impacts to western pond turtle may occur as a result of project construction. The effects determination is that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, western pond turtle. Conservation Measure BIO-3 requires a biologist to inform construction personnel of the potential for special-status species and habitats to occur within the project area. Conservation Measure BIO-6 includes measures to survey for western pond turtle and to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to western pond turtle to the extent possible.
		Nesting Birds. Protected nesting birds, including bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) and short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), and raptor species such as Cooper's hawk (*Accipter cooperii*) and white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), have the potential to nest in buildings or structures, on open ground, or in any type of vegetation, including trees, during the nesting bird season (January 15 through September 15). The project site and surrounding properties contain a variety of trees and shrubs, resulting in the potential for impacts to protected nesting birds. Construction activities, including ground disturbance, can impact nesting birds protected under the federal Migratory

		Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, should nesting birds be present during construction. If protected bird species are nesting adjacent to the project site during the bird nesting season, then noise-generating construction activities could result in the loss of fertile eggs, nestlings, or otherwise lead to the abandonment of nests. The effects determination is that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, nesting migratory birds and birds of prey. Conservation Measure BIO-7 requires preconstruction surveys to be conducted to determine if nesting is occurring in the vicinity of the project, and if found, measures are implemented to avoid and protect the nest(s). Implementation of this measure would avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to nesting migratory birds and birds of prey to the extent possible.
Other Factors	3	**Lighting and Glare**. The proposed action includes new field lighting at the Sotomayor Soccer Field and replacement of existing field lighting at the Multi-Use Sports Field. As described in the project description, new field lighting at the soccer field would consist of six lighting poles measuring between 70 and 80 feet in height and containing between 5 and 8 luminaires per pole for a total of 36 luminaires. The proposed light pole locations and lighting intensity measurements as measured by footcandle are illustrated in Figure 5, Ramsay Park Soccer Fields Illumination Summary, found in the initial study included as part of Appendix B. Replacement of existing field lighting poles at the Multi-Use Sports Field include new field lights and poles measuring between 60 and 70 feet in height with a total of 35 luminaires as shown in Figure 7, Multi-Use Sports Field Illumination Summary of the initial study. See also Figure 10, Project Site Illumination Summary, of the initial study for an overview of light spillage potential and illumination levels across the entire park site and in the immediate surroundings. Proposed lighting would be visible to the surrounding area, which would alter the nighttime environment with additional illuminance. The addition of field lighting would create new and increased lighting conditions along Watsonville Slough. Both listed and non-listed plant and wildlife species are sensitive to artificial lighting, particularly at night. Artificial lighting could impact species by altering their reproductive behavior, such as disrupting their territorial or courtship vocalizations.

		Wildlife that are active at night may avoid areas that are exposed to lighting, since many of these species use the darkness as cover to protect them from predation by other animals. Glare from the outdoor lighting has the potential to also impact Watsonville Slough and the riparian and wetland habitats surrounding the slough, which support habitat for California red-legged frog and other amphibians, which are often more active at night. Impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitat areas may occur as a result of increased light and glare. Implementation of mitigation measure AES-1 and Conservation Measure BIO-8 would minimize impacts on protected biological resources as a result of increased light and glare to the extent possible.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
CLIMATE AND ENERGY		
Climate Change Impacts	3	The proposed actions potential climate change-related impacts were addressed in the initial study prepared by EMC Planning Group (2022), included as part of Appendix B. The FEMA National Risk Index is a dataset and online tool to help illustrate the level of risk communities face for 18 natural hazards including drought, earthquake, heat wave, riverine flooding, strong wind, and wildfire. The Risk Index rating is "Relatively High" for the subject property and vicinity. The Risk Index lists earthquakes as a "Relatively High" hazard for the subject property census tract; additionally, landslide and wildfire were identified as "Relatively High" or "Very High" for hazard risk values across Santa Cruz County. See Appendix G for a copy of the FEMA National Risk Index for the census tract associated with the project site. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) from human activities are the most significant driver of observed climate change since the mid-20th century. As greenhouse gas emissions from human activities increase, they build up in the atmosphere and warm the climate, leading to many other changes around the world—in the atmosphere, on land, and in the oceans (U.S. EPA 2023). The City adopted the *City of Watsonville Climate Action and Adaptation Plan* (CAAP) in 2021. The purpose of the CAAP is to guide city decision making to reduce GHGs generated within the city. The

		CAAP includes GHG reduction targets and associated GHG reduction strategies and measures in the sectors of land use and transportation, energy, solid waste, and natural and working lands. The city has established an aggressive GHG reduction target of two (2) metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per capita by 2030 to achieve consistency with statewide emissions reduction legislation in effect at the time the CAAP was approved, with an additional reduction goal to achieve net-negative GHG emissions by 2030. The CAAP includes 19 strategies and 33 implementation measures to reduce GHG emissions to meet the reduction targets. The CAAP was reviewed to determine which GHG reduction measures are applicable to the proposed project. These are as follows: ▪ T2-A: New Pedestrian Improvements - Require new development projects, residential and non-residential, to provide pedestrian improvements along street frontages; and strongly encourage connection to the nearest existing pedestrian facilities, such as sidewalks or trails. Developments shall also include internal pedestrian connections between all uses. ▪ T7-B: Public Vehicle Charging Stations - Create at least 20 EV charging facilities in public parking areas (City-owned lots and parking spaces) by 2030. ▪ E1-A: Natural Gas Reduction in New Development - Require a 50 percent reduction in natural gas consumption compared to business-as-usual in all new development through electric-only development and installation of electric or more efficient natural gas home heating and cooling systems, appliances, or water heaters. Explore implementation of an all-electric ordinance to achieve all-electric new development by 2030. ▪ E3-B: City 3CE Prime Participation – Switch all City electricity accounts to 3CE Prime, including Watsonville Airport. ▪ E4-A: Cool Roofs for New Development - Require installation of cool roof technology for new commercial, municipal, and multi-family residential projects to achieve at least 50 percent cool roofs in new development. A cool roof

		treatment, green space, or photovoltaic panels would qualify for compliance with this measure. ▪ NW1-B: Tree Planting - Continue to implement the Watsonville Urban Greening Plan, with the goal of planting 300 trees per year. Because the proposed project is a public project, the city will be responsible for implementing the applicable reduction measures. To ensure project consistency with the CAAP measures listed above, the city will implement mitigation measure GHG-1 (identified below), and its impact from generating GHG emissions would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects associated with GHG emissions It should be noted that the project as designed includes a number of features that would directly or indirectly serve to reduce GHG emissions and that would be consistent with several of the applicable CAAP reduction measures listed above. These include: 1) internal pedestrian network the connects to the adjacent trail and to existing sidewalks bordering the site; 2) extensive tree plantings that will help to sequester carbon dioxide over time; 3) EV charging stations; and 4) Exploration Center improvements that include photovoltaic solar panels, water heating panels, a living roof (a form of "cool roof" to reduce building energy demand), all electric powered facilities (eliminating using natural gas support conversion to use of electricity provided by renewable sources); and rainwater catchment system (to reduce energy demand for water pumping). Given that neither the project mobile source GHG emissions or the non-mobile source emissions would be significant, the project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects associated with climate change inducing GHG emissions
Energy Efficiency	2	Energy impacts are assessed based on the proposed action energy demand profile and on its relationship to the state's energy efficiency regulations and the City's land use planning regulations. Both are summarized below. The analysis of energy impacts here is qualitative. There is no quantified threshold of energy demand for a proposed action at which that demand could be considered wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary, either during construction or operations. A project could be considered to result in significant wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy consumption if

		its energy demand is extraordinary relative to common land use types, its energy demand is excessive, or it fails to comply with local and state regulatory requirements for reducing energy demand. Parks are a common urban land use and one that is typically much less energy intensive the other developed urban uses such as residential or commercial uses. A minor increase in electricity demand would result from operating the proposed new buildings and the new field lighting. An increase in transportation fuel demand during park operations is not expected, as the project is not anticipated to result in new vehicle trips. The improvements would support the function of the park as a high-quality recreation resource. This will ensure that local residents continue to drive short distances to use the park rather than traveling longer distances to access other park and recreation resources. The proposed project does not inherently represent a use type or change from existing conditions whose energy demand would be considered wasteful or unnecessary. As described above, several greenhouse gas reduction measures must be incorporated into the proposed project. Implementation of mitigation measure GHG-1 would assure that this occurs. Each of these measures would reduce energy demand from the proposed project during its long-term operation. Electricity and transportation fuel will be consumed during the short-term park improvement construction process. Energy demand would be nominal given the type and scale of planned improvements. A multitude of state regulations and legislative acts are aimed at reducing electricity/natural gas demand and improving energy efficiency in new construction. The planned new buildings and field lighting must be consistent with these regulations. The California Energy Code, Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24, Part 6) is the most relevant to the proposed project. This suite of codes is designed to reduce energy consumption by providing energy efficiency standards for residential and nonresidential buildings. The standards would apply to the proposed buildings and field lighting and would be enforced by the city at the building permit stage. The

		California Green Building Standards (Title 24, Part 11) is a reach code (i.e., optional standards that exceed the requirements of mandator codes) that provides green building standards for statewide residential and nonresidential construction that are equivalent to or more stringent than those of the California Energy Code for energy efficiency, water efficiency, waste diversion, and indoor air quality. Compliance of the new buildings with these standards would also be enforced by the city at the building permit stage. Given the considerations summarized above, the proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects associated with energy.

Additional Studies Performed:

EMC Planning Group. September 23, 2024. *Archaeological Report for Ramsay Park Renaissance Project NEPA (Confidential, Not to be Publicly Disclosed).* Monterey, CA**.**

Field Inspection (Date and completed by)**:**

- EMC Planning Group. Site visit on 17 January 2022.
- EMC Planning Group. Site visit on 28 December 2022.
- EMC Planning Group. Site visit, 23 July, 2024.

List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]**:**

1. City of Watsonville. May 2023. *Watsonville Municipal Airport Master Plan Update*. Watsonville, CA. Accessed online at: https://www.watsonville.gov/1820/Airport-Master-Plan-Update

2. ———. October 2023. *Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report for the Watsonville Municipal Airport Master Plan SCH#2002062089*. Watsonville, CA. Accessed online at: https://www.watsonville.gov/1820/Airport-Master-Plan-Update

3. ———. 1994. *Watsonville 2005 General Plan*. Watsonville, CA. Accessed online at: https://www.watsonville.gov/160/2005-General-Plan

4. ———. December 1992. *Draft Environmental Impact Report – Watsonville 2005 General Plan Update and Sphere of Influence Amendment (SCH#91123081).* Watsonville, CA. https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/DocumentCenter/Index/157

5. ———. 2024. Watsonville Municipal Code. Accessed online at: https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Watsonville/

6. ———. September 2009. *City of Watsonville Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (Final).* Watsonville, CA. Accessed online at: https://www.watsonville.gov/1745/Park-Planning-Documents

7. ———. February 2020. *City of Watsonville Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan*. Watsonville, CA. Accessed online at: https://www.watsonville.gov/1745/Park-Planning-Documents

8. California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. 2020. *Santa Cruz County Important Farmland 2020*. Accessed online at: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/SantaCruz.aspx

9. City of Watsonville. September 28, 2022. *Ramsay Park Renaissance Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*. Watsonville, CA. Available online at: https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2022090599

10. Schaaf & Wheeler. January 5, 2022. *City of Watsonville Ramsay Park Renaissance Project Regulatory Floodway Evaluation (Draft).* Salinas, CA.

11. Pacific Crest Engineering, Inc. January 2020. *Geotechnical Investigation – Ramsay Park Improvements Connector Trail & New Nature Center, Watsonville, CA*. Watsonville, CA.

12. ———. December 7, 2021. *Supplemental Geotechnical Investigation, Seating for Sotomayor Soccer Field, Ramsay Park Improvements, Watsonville, CA*. Watsonville, CA.

13. WJV Acoustics, Inc. February 10, 2022. *Preliminary Noise Assessment, Ramsay Park Renaissance Project, Watsonville, California*. Visalia, CA.

14. City of Watsonville (Department of Public Works & Utilities). September 29, 2023. *Construction Plans for Ramsay Park Renaissance Project, 1301 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076, City Project No. PK-22-01*. Watsonville, CA.

15. ———. June 21, 2024. *Construction Plans for Exploration/Nature Center, 30 Harkins Slough, Watsonville, CA 95076, City Project No. CB 23-01*. Watsonville, CA.

16. Google Earth Pro.

17. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2022a. Endangered Species Program online database. Species list for Santa Cruz County. Washington, D.C. http://www.fws.gov/endangered/

18. ———. 2022b. National Wetlands Inventory online database. U.S. Department of the Interior. Washington, D.C. http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/

19. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2022. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) online database. https://wildlife.ca.gov/data/cnddb

20. California Native Plant Society (CNPS), Rare Plant Program. 2022. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California online database. http://www.rareplants.cnps.org

21. Verde Design. 2022. Tree Inventory, Planting Plan.

22. Biotic Resources Group. October 14, 2022. *Results of Rare Plant Survey, Ramsay Park, Watsonville*.

23. EMC Planning Group. 2023. *Monarch Butterfly Overwintering Survey Results for the Ramsay Park Renaissance Project*. Monterey, CA.

24. U.S. Census Bureau. 2024. "QuickFacts – Watsonville city, California, United States." Accessed August 29, 2024. https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/watsonvillecitycalifornia,US/PST045223

25. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2024. "Climate Change Indicators: Greenhouse Gases." Accessed September 3, 2024. https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/greenhouse-gases

List of Permits Obtained:

- Administrative Use Permit (City of Watsonville)
- Design Review Permit with Environmental Review (City of Watsonville)
- Grading Permit(s) (City of Watsonville)
- Building Permit(s) – electrical, plumping, mechanical, etc. (City of Watsonville)
- Fence Permit (City of Watsonville)
- Encroachment Permit (California Department of Transportation, District 5)

Public Outreach [24 CFR 50.23 & 58.43]**:**
Parks and Community Services staff conducted various meetings and workshops to solicit community input on the Watsonville parks and recreation system, including the future vision for enhancing Ramsay Park. Their goal was to create as many outreach opportunities as possible for connecting with the public. The following is a list of meetings and workshops conducted as part of this outreach effort:

- Interdepartmental Staff Workshop (1/30/19)
- Stakeholders Meeting No. 1 (2/6/19)
- Interactive Community Workshop No. 1 (2/28/19)
- Interactive Community Workshop No. 2 (3/2/19)
- Interactive Community Workshop No. 3 (3/7/19)
- City Plaza Workshop (3/27/19)
- Ramsay Park Workshop (4/10/19)
- Pop-up Meeting at Ramsay Park (4/13/19)
- Stakeholder Meeting No. 2 (4/16/19)
- Pop-up Meeting in City Plaza (4/28/19)

On July 1, 2019, the City of Watsonville Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the City Council approve park improvements identified in the draft concept plan for Ramsay Park and the City Plaza. On July 2, 2019, the City of Watsonville Planning Commission received a report on an updated Park Concept (Master) Plan for Ramsay Park and the City Plaza and provided another public forum for discussing potential park improvements. On July 9, 2019, the City Council approved design recommendations in the draft Park Concept (Master) Plan for Ramsay Park and the City Plaza and directed staff to finalize the Plan. On February 11, 2020, the City Council adopted the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, which includes a new Park Concept (Master) Plan for Ramsay Park.

In April 2021, the Parks and Community Services Department released a Request for Proposals for landscape architectural design and consultant services for improving Ramsay Park. And in June 2021, the Public Works and Utilities Department released a separate Request for Proposals from the following three pre-approved firms for designing the new Watsonville Exploration Center: Spector Corbette Architects Inc., MADI Architects (now known as 19six Architects), and Wald, Ruhnke & Post Architects LLP.

On July 6, 2021, the City Council awarded a contract to Verde Design, Inc. to design the "Ramsay Park Renaissance Project." On August 20, 2021, the Public Works Director Christian Di Renzo entered into a contract with 19six Architects to prepare a conceptual design for the new Watsonville Exploration Center. And on March 8, 2022, the City Council approved an amendment to the contract with 19six Architects to amend their scope and work to provide complete construction designs.

On December 6, 2021, the Parks and Recreation Commission received an update from Parks and Community Services Director Nick Calubaquib on the "35 percent drawings" for the Ramsay Park Renaissance Project.

On January 18, 2022, the Planning Commission received an update from Parks and Community Services Director Nick Calubaquib on the "35 percent drawings" for the Ramsay Park Renaissance Project.

On August 15, 2022, the Parks and Recreation Commission received an update from Parks and Community Services Director Nick Calubaquib on the "65 percent drawings" for the Ramsay Park Renaissance Project.

On March 6, 2023, the Parks and Recreation Commission received an update from Parks and Community Services Director Nick Calubaquib on the "95 percent drawings" for the Ramsay Park Renaissance Project.

On March 14, 2023, the City Council received an update from Parks and Community Services Director Nick Calubaquib on the "95 percent drawings" for the Ramsay Park Renaissance Project.

The Public Works Outreach Team conducted additional outreach on the Watsonville Exploration Center, as follows:

- Community based organizations meeting (2/7/23)
- Nature Center partner organizations meeting (3/2/23)
- Pop-up event at the Farmer's Market (3/3/23)
- Community workshop (3/5/23)
- Teen Action Council meeting (5/10/23)
- Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA) meeting (5/17/23)
- Pajaro Valley High School workshop (5/22/23)
- Pajaro Valley High School workshop (5/25/23)

Additionally, on September 28, 2022, the CEQA Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was released for a 30-day public and agency staff review and comment period with the comment period ending on October 31, 2022.

The application was then presented to the City's Zoning Administrator at an Administrative Hearing for approval and adoption of the CEQA MND on August 16, 2023. At this hearing, the Zoning Administrator approved the proposed action (i.e., Administrative Use Permit and Design Review Permit with Environmental Review Application – PP2022-4245) and the CEQA MND.

Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]**:**
A cumulative impact is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Projects within the vicinity of the project that would contribute to the reasonably foreseeable cumulative environment were identified. This analysis focuses on whether the project's contribution to potential cumulative impacts would result in adverse effects.

The proposed action will contribute to cumulative impacts from buildout of the City of Watsonville General Plan. Cumulative impacts from buildout development were addressed in the City of Watsonville General Plan Final EIR. Mitigation measures, as appropriate, were incorporated into the General Plan by the City of Watsonville.

Based on the analysis provided in this environmental assessment, the proposed action could result in cumulative impacts related to: criteria air pollutant emissions and their effects to air quality during construction and operation; temporary biological impacts during construction associated with special-status species; earthmoving activities potentially disturbing or uncovering unknown prehistoric or historic archaeological resources and human remains; and greenhouse gas emissions that are inherently cumulative in nature. However, implementation of the City-adopted mitigation measures and standard conditions of approval presented in each of these respective sections would result in no cumulative adverse effects.

Alternatives [24 CFR 58.40(e); 40 CFR 1508.9] Alternatives to the proposed action include: siting the project elsewhere (offsite alternative); moving forward with the project at a reduced scale; or no project.

Offsite Alternative: Improvement of existing recreational facilities at the subject property is a unique opportunity to both improve existing recreational facilities while increasing the number of available recreational opportunities to the entire community. The subject property is superior because of the existing community park meets the objectives of the City's 2020 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan by making critical improvements to existing park facilities and the proposed action on this site will accommodate all members of the community by being within walking distance to schools, transit stops and community services.

Reduced Scale Alternative: Reducing the number of improvements of the proposed action would incrementally reduce impacts; however, since no significant impacts were identified that could not be mitigated, the benefit of increasing the number of improvements and providing additional recreational facilities on the site offsets any incremental benefits from reducing the scope of the project. Therefore, a reduced scale option is not recommended.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:
The option of moving forward without a project is not desirable. Although the minor impacts identified in this assessment would not occur under this scenario, no action would not meet the purpose and need to provide the public benefit of providing safe, accessible, and equitable recreational facilities as called for in the City's General Plan and *2020 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan*.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions:

Based on the above information, the proposed action as designed, will not result in a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment.

Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2(c)]

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
City of Watsonville	**AES-1. Dark Sky Certification for Sports Field Lighting.** Prior to issuance of building permits for any new field lighting at Ramsay Park, the City of Watsonville Public Works Department shall obtain Dark-Sky Certification with the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) for all proposed field lighting designs to ensure sky glow and light pollution is minimized to the extent possible. Possible lighting controls, as recommended by IDA, could include the following:

	a. Automatic and/or remote-control system via smartphone apps, or direct remote communication to the company facility responsible for handling the lighting controls, to enforce shut-off at locally established curfew time, not to be later than 11:00 PM (2300 hours). b. Onsite manual and/or remote-control system shall also be provided to allow for the lights to be turned on or off at will (before curfew) to assure that only active sports fields are lighted. c. Provide readily accessible controls to implement uniform and variable adaptive illumination levels for different task lighting needs on field (e.g., class of play, competition athletics, band practice, striping, mowing, sports practice, etc.). Adaptive dimming shall be possible across the range of 25% to 100% of full illumination. d. A formal policy defining the appropriate level of illumination necessary for the specific activities and curfew times must be established and enforced. e. Public Works staff shall submit all proposed sports field lighting designs utilizing the "IDA Community Friendly Outdoor Sports Lighting Program Application" to complete IDA's Phase I – Design Analysis review process. Once project improvements are installed, the City's Public Works staff shall submit for IDA's Phase II – Field Verification.
City of Watsonville	**AQ-1. Construction Management Plan and Dust Emissions Reduction.** To reduce dust emissions from demolition, grading, and construction activities on the project site, the City of Watsonville will prepare a Construction Management Plan and implement it during construction activities. The plan will include the following measures: a. The following language shall be included in all bid documents, grading and construction plans prior to the issuance of a building permit, and will be implemented by the project contractor during construction: 1. All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging area, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) will be watered with non-potable water twice per day, at a minimum. 2. All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site will be covered.

	3. All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads will be limited to 15 miles per hour. 4. All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved will be completed as soon as possible. Building pads will be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used. 5. Idling times will be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of California Code of Regulations [CCR]). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points. 6. All construction equipment will be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition prior to operation. 7. 7. Stage construction equipment and materials as far away from residential land uses to the extent feasible.
City of Watsonville	**AQ-2. Construction Equipment.** The City of Watsonville will include the following measures in its Construction Management Plan identified in Mitigation Measure AQ-1: a. Heavy-duty diesel vehicles will have 2010 or newer model year engines, in compliance with the California Air Resources Board's Truck and Bus Regulation, and will not be staged within 500 feet of occupied residences. b. Idling of construction equipment and heavy-duty diesel trucks will be avoided where feasible, and if idling is necessary, it will not exceed three minutes. c. All construction equipment will be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and will be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator. d. All non-road diesel construction equipment will, at a minimum, meet Tier 3 emission standards listed in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 89, Subpart B, §89.112. Further, where

	feasible, construction equipment will use alternative fuels such as compressed.
City of Watsonville	**BIO-1. Riparian and Wetland Habitats.** Given the high quality and diverse ecological functions of the Watsonville Slough habitats; construction activities shall be set back at least 50 feet from the outer edge of wetland vegetation. All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 50 feet from aquatic habitat. Prior to the onset of work, the construction contractor shall provide written documentation to the City of Watsonville that a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills has been prepared. All spills shall be cleaned up immediately with contaminated materials disposed of offsite in an appropriate facility.
City of Watsonville	**BIO-2. Riparian and Wetland Habitats.** On-site landscaping shall be limited to drought-tolerant species, fire-resistant species, and species capable of increasing soil stability; with preference to plant species endemic to Santa Cruz County. Species from the California Invasive Plant Council's (Cal-IPC) Invasive Plant List (Cal-IPC 2024) shall be removed if present and not included in any new landscaping.
City of Watsonville	**BIO-3. General Biological Protection Measure.** Prior to approval of a grading permit, the City of Watsonville shall hire a qualified biologist to conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training shall include a description of special-status species potentially occurring in the project vicinity, including, but not limited to, California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, and nesting birds and raptors. Their habitats, general measures that are being implemented to conserve species as they relate to the project, and the boundaries within which construction activities will occur will be explained. Informational handouts with photographs clearly illustrating the species' appearances shall be used in the training session. All new construction personnel shall undergo this mandatory environmental awareness training. The qualified biologist will train biological monitors selected from the construction crew by the construction contractor (typically the project foreman). Before the start of work each day, the monitor will check for

	animals under any equipment such as vehicles and stored pipes within active construction zones. The monitor will also check all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches greater than one foot deep for trapped animals. If a special-status species is observed within an active construction zone, the qualified biologist will be notified immediately and all work within 50 feet of the individual will be halted and all equipment turned off until the individual has left the construction area. The qualified biologist shall provide documented evidence of completion of this training to the City of Watsonville prior to ground disturbance.
	BIO-4. California Red-Legged Frog. The City of Watsonville shall hire a qualified biologist to conduct preconstruction surveys following the guidance documented in the *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog* (USFWS 2005) no more than two weeks (14 days) prior to the start of construction activities. The project site will be surveyed for potential migratory and/or upland activity. The qualified biologist shall prepare a report documenting the results of the preconstruction surveys for submittal to the City of Watsonville prior to ground disturbance. If California red-legged frog is found, the City of Watsonville will coordinate with the USFWS and/or CDFW to determine the appropriate course of action per the requirements of FESA and/or CESA (e.g., obtaining Incidental Take Permits) and implement the permit requirements prior to ground disturbance.
	BIO-5. California Red-Legged Frog. The City of Watsonville shall ensure the following measures from the *USFWS Programmatic Biological Opinion for Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, including Authorizations Under 22 Nationwide Permits, for Projects that May Affect the Threatened California Red-legged Frog in Nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties, California* (USFWS 2014) are implemented. If at any point California red-legged frog is found, the City of Watsonville will coordinate with the USFWS and/or CDFW to determine the appropriate course of action per the requirements of FESA and/or CESA (e.g., obtaining Incidental Take Permits) and

	implement the permit requirements prior to ground disturbance. a. A qualified biologist shall be on site during all activities within 200 feet from the outer edge of wetland vegetation along Watsonville Slough. b. To the extent possible, all ground-disturbing work within 200 feet from the outer edge of wetland vegetation along Watsonville Slough shall be avoided between November 1 and March 31, the time period when California red-legged frogs are most likely to be moving through upland areas. c. Prior to construction activities, exclusionary fencing shall be placed to keep construction vehicles and personnel from impacting potentially jurisdictional waters and riparian/wetland habitat outside of work areas. A biological monitor shall supervise the installation of exclusionary fencing and monitor at least once per week until construction is complete to ensure that the protective exclusionary fencing remains intact. Exclusion fencing material shall be selected to avoid accidental entrapment of wildlife species, such as fencing with a smaller gauge or no gaps at all (e.g., Animex™ fencing). d. To minimize harassment, injury, death, and harm in the form of temporary habitat disturbances, all project-related vehicle traffic shall be restricted to established roads, construction areas, equipment staging, storage, parking, and stockpile areas. e. If a California red-legged frog is encountered, all activities which have the potential to result in the harassment, injury, or death of the individual shall be immediately halted. A qualified biologist shall then assess the situation and select a course of action that shall avoid or minimize adverse effects to the animal. f. Uneaten human food and trash attracts crows, ravens, coyotes, and other predators of the California red-legged frog. A litter control program shall be instituted at each project site. All workers shall ensure their food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash are deposited in covered or closed

	trash containers. The trash containers shall be removed from the project site at the end of each working day. g. Loss of soil from run-off or erosion shall be prevented with straw bales, straw wattles, or similar means provided they do not entangle, block escape or dispersal routes of the California red-legged frog. h. No insecticides or herbicides shall be used at the project site during construction or long-term operational maintenance where there is the potential for these chemical agents to enter the river, or uplands that contain potential habitat for the California red-legged frog. i. No pets shall be permitted at the project site, to avoid and minimize the potential for harassment, injury, and death of the California red-legged frog. j. For on-site storage of pipes, conduits, and other materials that could provide shelter for special-status species, an open-top trailer shall be used to elevate the materials above ground. This is intended to reduce the potential for animals to climb into the conduits and other materials. k. To the maximum extent possible, night-time construction shall be minimized or avoided because dusk and dawn are often the times when the California red-legged frog is most actively moving and foraging. l. Plastic monofilament netting (erosion control matting), loosely woven netting, or similar material in any form shall not be used at the project site because California red-legged frogs can become entangled and trapped in them. Materials utilizing fixed weaves (strands cannot move), polypropylene, polymer, or other synthetic materials shall not be used. m. Trenches or pits one foot or deeper that are going to be left unfilled for more than 48 hours shall be securely covered with boards or other material to prevent the California red-legged frog from falling into them. The qualified biologist shall submit monthly reports documenting compliance with Measure BIO-4 to the City of Watsonville during construction within 200 feet

	from the outer edge of wetland vegetation along Watsonville Slough.
City of Watsonville	**BIO-6. Western Pond Turtle.** The City of Watsonville shall implement the following measures for the protection of western pond turtle: a. Within 24 hours prior to vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities within 200 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along Watsonville Slough, the City of Watsonville shall retain a qualified biologist familiar with western pond turtles, including their eggs and nests, to conduct a pre-construction survey of the area in and adjacent to the project site. If any pond turtles are found in or adjacent to the project site, construction activities shall not commence until the turtles have left the area or the qualified biologist relocates the turtles to nearby suitable habitat a minimum of 300 feet from the project site. Pond turtle relocation shall only be conducted with CDFW authorization. b. During all initial ground-disturbing activities within 200 feet from the outer edge of wetland vegetation along Watsonville Slough, the qualified biologist shall monitor construction activity to assess the potential impacts to turtles and/or their nests, if present. If a western pond turtle nest is discovered during initial ground-disturbing activity, all work shall stop and the CDFW shall be contacted for guidance on how to proceed. Relocation of pond turtles and/or their nests shall only be conducted with CDFW authorization. c. Disturbance to riparian vegetation along Watsonville Slough shall be avoided. Placement of all staging areas, access roads, and other construction related facilities shall be located away from Watsonville Slough. d. Within 200 feet from the outer edge of wetland vegetation along Watsonville Slough, all construction-related holes shall be covered at the end of each workday to prevent entrapment of western pond turtles. The qualified biologist shall prepare a report documenting the results of the preconstruction survey for submittal to the City of Watsonville prior to ground disturbance. The qualified biologist shall submit

	monthly reports documenting compliance to the City of Watsonville during construction within 200 feet from the outer edge of wetland vegetation along Watsonville Slough.
City of Watsonville	**BIO-7. Nesting Migratory Birds.** The current construction schedule will require 18 months to complete. If construction is initiated during the bird nesting season (January 15 through September 15), then a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting birds to ensure that no nests would be disturbed during project construction. a. Two surveys for active bird nests will occur within 14 days prior to start of construction, with the final survey conducted within 48 hours prior to construction. Appropriate minimum survey radii surrounding each work area are typically 250 feet for passerines, 500 feet for smaller raptors, and 1,000 feet for larger raptors. Surveys will be conducted at the appropriate times of day to observe nesting activities. Locations off the site to which access is not available may be surveyed from within the site or from public areas. If no nesting birds are found, a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the City of Watsonville and no further mitigation is required. b. If the qualified biologist documents active nests within the project site or in nearby surrounding areas, an appropriate buffer between each nest and active construction shall be established. The buffer shall be clearly marked and maintained until the young have fledged and are foraging independently. Prior to construction, the qualified biologist shall conduct baseline monitoring of each nest to characterize "normal" bird behavior and establish a buffer distance, which allows the birds to exhibit normal behavior. The qualified biologist shall monitor the nesting birds daily during construction activities and increase the buffer if birds show signs of unusual or distressed behavior (e.g., defensive flights and vocalizations, standing up from a brooding position, and/or flying away from the nest). If buffer establishment is not possible, the qualified biologist or construction foreman shall have the authority to cease all

	construction work in the area until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active. Once the absence of nesting birds has been confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the City of Watsonville.
City of Watsonville	**BIO-8. Lighting and Glare.** Prior to City approval of the construction plans, the following design guidelines for outdoor lighting shall be incorporated: a. New outer outdoor lighting shall be directed away from the adjacent sensitive habitats associated with Watsonville Slough. b. Dimmer lights, the use of motion sensors, and late night off-periods shall be used to minimize lighting impacts to the adjacent sensitive habitat. c. Generally following the International Dark-Sky Association guidelines for minimizing light pollution, outdoor lighting shall be provided in a manner that provides for nighttime safety, utility, security, and enjoyment while preventing light trespass into natural areas surrounding the sites. d. The design objective shall be to preclude any net increase in ambient lighting into adjacent sensitive habitats. e. All external lighting shall include full-cutoff angles, which focus on target areas and do not extend to adjacent sensitive habitat. f. Any pedestrian/bicycle pathway safety lighting shall be limited to low-bollard style lights that limit illumination to the trail surface.
City of Watsonville	**CR-1. Native American Construction Monitor.** A Native American monitor shall be present for all ground disturbing activities (including tree and vegetation removal, tree planting, demolition and/or grading) within 400 feet of Watsonville Slough.
City of Watsonville	**CR-2. Archaeological and Cultural Sensitivity Training.** A qualified archaeologist shall provide archaeological and cultural sensitivity training for all construction personnel associated with any ground disturbing activities (including tree and vegetation removal, tree planting, demolition and/or grading). The training will be conducted by a qualified archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's standards for archaeology. The training will take place at a day and time to be determined in conjunction with the project construction foreman, and prior to any scheduled ground disturbance. The training will include the following: a

	human osteology handout; a discussion of applicable laws and penalties; samples or visual aids of artifacts that could be encountered in the project vicinity, including what those artifacts and resources may look like partially buried, or wholly buried and freshly exposed; and instructions to halt work in the vicinity of any potential cultural resource discovery, and notify the Native American monitor as necessary. Due to the proximity of human burials, it is recommended that all personnel directly involved in project-related ground disturbance be informed of what human skeletal remains may look like partially buried, or wholly buried and freshly exposed and instructions to halt work in the vicinity of any human remains discovery. The foreman will keep a copy of the sensitivity training materials in his or her vehicle as a reference. Having reference material in the vehicle does not replace contacting an archaeologist or a Native American monitor should resources be uncovered.
City of Watsonville	**CR-3. Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources.** If any prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural resources, including tribal cultural resources, are discovered during ground-disturbing activities (including tree and vegetation removal, tree planting, demolition and/or grading): a. All work within 50 feet of the resources shall be halted and a qualified archaeologist shall be consulted to assess the significance of the find according to applicable federal guidelines associated with cultural resources. b. If any find is determined to be significant, representatives from the City of Watsonville Parks & Community Services, Public Works & Utilities, and Community Development Departments and the archaeologist shall meet to determine the appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. c. All significant prehistoric cultural materials and or tribal cultural resources recovered shall be returned to Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the area. d. In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the consulting archaeologist to mitigate impacts to historical resources or unique archaeological resources, the City shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and

	feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, proposed project design, costs, and other considerations. e. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) would be implemented. f. Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation for historical resources or unique archaeological resources is being carried out.
City of Watsonville	**CR-4. Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains.** California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and federal law and regulations ([Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA)16 USC 470 & 43 CFR 7], [Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) 25 USC 3001 & 43 CFR 10] contain the mandated procedures of conduct following the discovery of human remains. If human remains are encountered at the site, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall cease and necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the immediate area shall be taken. The Santa Cruz County Coroner shall be notified immediately. The Coroner shall then determine whether the remains are Native American. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours, who would, in turn, notify the person the Native American Heritage Commission identifies as the Most Likely Descendant of any human remains. Further actions shall be determined, in part, by the desires of the Most Likely Descendant. The Most Likely Descendant has 48 hours to make recommendations regarding the disposition of the remains following notification from the Native American Heritage Commission of the discovery. If the Most Likely Descendant does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the owner shall, with appropriate dignity, reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from further disturbance. Alternatively, if the owner does not accept the Most Likely Descendant's recommendations, the owner or the descendent may request mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission.
City of Watsonville	**GEO-1. Unanticipated Discovery of Paleontological Resources.** If paleontological resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, ground-disturbing

	activities shall be halted or diverted away from the vicinity of the find so that the find can be evaluated. A buffer area of at least 50 feet shall be established around the find where construction activities shall not be allowed to continue until appropriate paleontological treatment plan has been prepared and approved by the City Planning Department. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area. The City shall coordinate with a professional paleontologist, who meets the qualifications set forth by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, to develop an appropriate treatment plan for the resources. Treatment may include implementation of paleontological salvage excavations to remove the resource along with subsequent laboratory processing and analysis or preservation in place. At the paleontologist's discretion and to reduce construction delay, the grading and excavation contractor shall assist in removing rock samples for initial processing. Paleontological monitoring may be required and will be outlined in the treatment plan.
City of Watsonville	**GHG-1. Greenhouse Gas Reduction.** Through its project development review process, the City will require that the proposed project incorporate all applicable GHG reduction measures identified in the City of Watsonville Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). These reduction measures are anticipated to include: • T2-A regarding pedestrian improvements, • T7-B regarding electric vehicle charging stations, • E1-A regarding reduced use of natural gas in new buildings, • E3-B regarding switching the electricity account for Ramsay Park to 3CE Prime, and • E4-A regarding installing cool roofs. This list may be refined pending review of detailed design and construction plans for the project. The City will ensure that all applicable reduction measures are included in the project design prior to approval of a building permit.
City of Watsonville	**N-1. Construction Noise Reduction Best Management Practices.** The City of Watsonville Parks & Community Services Department shall incorporate the following construction noise best management practices (BMPs) into all applicable project bid, design, and engineering documents:

	1. Construction work hours shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM (Monday-Friday), 10 AM to 4 PM (Saturday), and no construction activities permitted on Sundays. 2. The sign shall also provide a contact name and phone number for the job site and the project's representative for addressing noise concerns. 3. Heavy equipment engines shall be covered and exhaust pipes shall include a muffler in good working condition. 4. Stationary equipment such as compressors, generators, and welder machines shall be located as far away from surrounding residential land uses as possible. The project shall connect to existing electrical service at the site to avoid the use of stationary, diesel- or other alternatively-fueled power generators, if feasible. 5. Impact tools such as jack hammers shall be hydraulically or electrically powered wherever possible to avoid noise associated with compressed air exhaust from pneumatically powered tools. When use of pneumatic tools is unavoidable, it shall be ensured the tool will not exceed a decibel limit of 85 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. Pneumatic tools shall also include a noise suppression device on the compressed air exhaust. 6. No radios or other amplified sound devices shall be audible beyond the property line of the construction site. 7. Prior to the start of any construction activity, the City Public Works & Utilities Department shall prepare a Construction Noise Complaint Plan that identifies the name and/or title and contact information (including phone number and email) of the Public Works-representative(s) responsible for addressing construction-noise related issues and details how the City and its construction contractor(s) will receive, respond, and resolve to construction noise complaints. At a minimum, upon receipt of a noise complaint, the City and/or contractor representative identified in the Plan shall identify the noise source generating the complaint, determine the cause of the complaint, and take steps to resolve the complaint.

City of Watsonville	**TRC-1. Native American Construction Monitoring.** Prior to issuance of any grading permits, the City shall ensure an Amah Mutsun Tribal Band monitor is retained to be onsite for all ground disturbing work within 400-feet of Watsonville Slough's approximate wetland edge as reflected in the Cultural Resources Plan prepared in consultation with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band.

Determination:

☒ **Finding of No Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27]
The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

☐ **Finding of Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27]
The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature: Signed by: Teri Wissler Adam D154BE77B6F34D7... Date: 10/15/2024 | 2:41 PM PDT

Name/Title/Organization: Stuart Poulter, AICP, MCRP, Senior Planner, EMC Planning Group

Certifying Officer Signature: Signed by: Suzi Merriam 8B68DD4F44E04B9... Date: 10/18/2024 | 10:56 AM PDT

Name/Title: Suzi Merriam, Community Development Director, City of Watsonville

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).