



# **RESOLUTION NO. 10-490**

## **OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA**

### **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR ADOPTION OF THE WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY NON-MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAILS MASTER PLAN (EIS10-001)**

WHEREAS, the Planning Department has prepared an Initial Study which was released for public review on January 28, 2010 and is attached to this Resolution; and

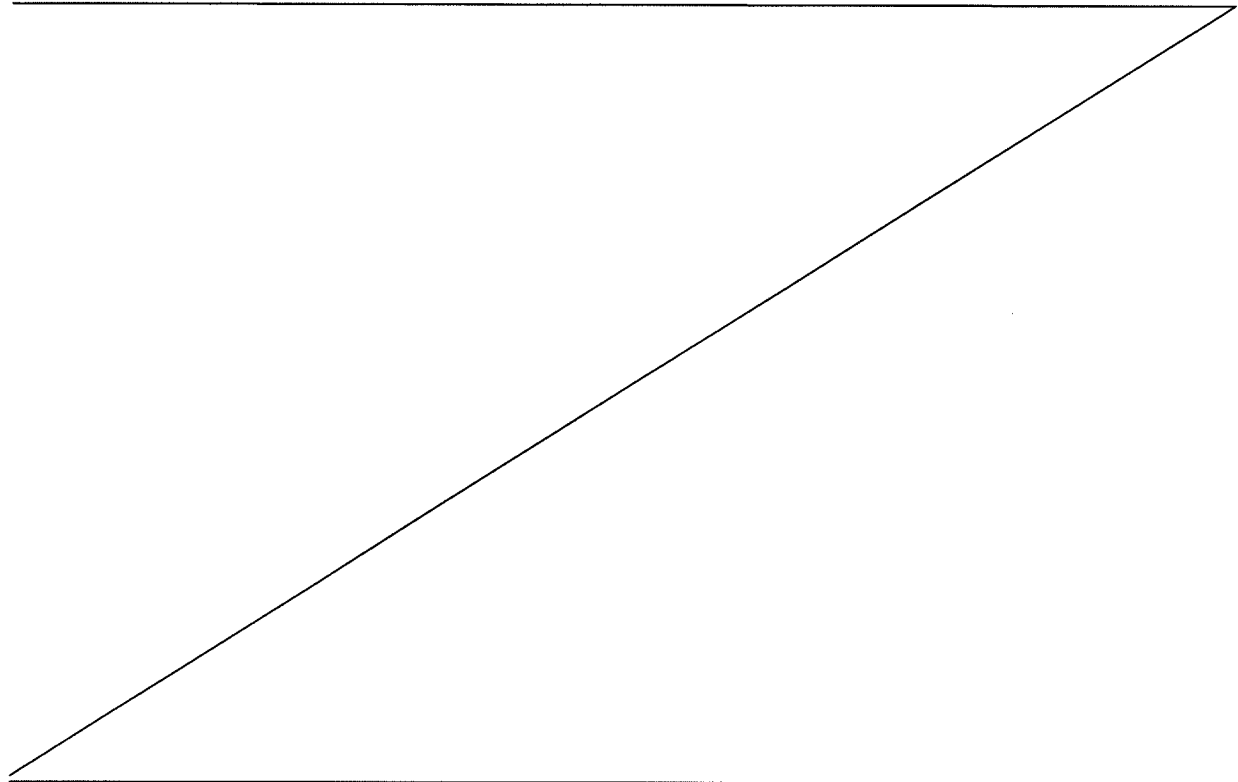
WHEREAS, the Initial Study analyzes all potential environmental impacts and found that no significant impacts would result from the adoption of the Trails Plan; and

WHEREAS, the public comment period has been open for more than 30 days; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2010, the Planning Department received correspondence from the State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit acknowledging that the County complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2010, the Nevada County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Trails Plan in which they recommended adoption of a Negative Declaration, based on the Initial Study analysis, before making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed Trails Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors has reviewed and considered the recommendation of the Planning Commission and has independently reviewed the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration, and hereby adopts the Negative Declaration (EIS10-001), attached hereto as Exhibit "A", for the Western Nevada County Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Master Plan (NC08-002). The documents and materials constituting the record of the proceedings on which this decision is based are located and in the custody of the Nevada County Planning Department at 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California.



PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a ~~regular~~ <sup>special</sup> meeting of said Board, held on the 21st day of September, 2010 by the following vote of said Board:

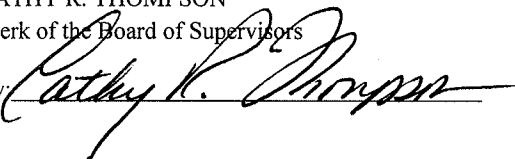
Ayes: Supervisors Nate Beason, Ed Scofield,  
John Spencer, Hank Weston & Ted S. Owens.  
Noes: None.

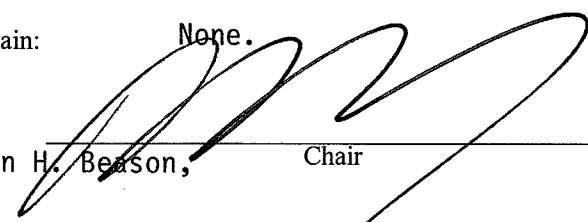
ATTEST:

Absent: None.

CATHY R. THOMPSON  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Abstain: None.

By: 

  
Nathan H. Beason, Chair

DATE	COPIES SENT TO
9/22/10	Planning

**COUNTY OF NEVADA**  
**CALIFORNIA**  
**INITIAL STUDY**

**To:** Bear River Recreation & Park District, BLM, Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner, County Counsel, DPW, Sheriff's Office, CalTrans Transportation, CAL FIRE, City of Grass Valley, City of Nevada City, DFG, FREED, Historical Landmarks Commission, Native American Heritage Commission, Nev. Co. RCD, NSAQMD, NCTC, NID, Nev. Co. Cons. Fire District, Nevada Co Contractors Assn, PG&E, US Army Corps, Regional WQCB, State Clearinghouse, State Parks and Recreation, State Lands Commission, U.S. Forest Service, Western Gateway Recreation & Park District (Sent NOA only).

**Date of Initial Study Preparation:** January 25, 2010

**Prepared By:** Larkyn Feiler, Assistant Planner  
Telephone: (530) 265-1254  
E-mail: [Larkyn.Feiler@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:Larkyn.Feiler@co.nevada.ca.us)

**File No:** NC08-002 & EIS10-001                      **Assessors Parcel No:** n/a

**Applicant:** County of Nevada, Planning Department  
950 Maidu Ave, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959

**Zoning:** n/a    **General Plan:** n/a

**Project Location:** Unincorporated Territory of Western Nevada County

**Project Description:** A County-initiated project to adopt the Western Nevada County Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Master Plan; a policy document that identifies non-motorized recreational trail routes for a regional trail system and establishes goals, policies, programs, and design guidelines to facilitate and enhance recreational trail opportunities.

**The following land use permits are needed for this project:**

No land use or other permits are required for the proposed project, although site-specific implementation of the project will require permits as noted within this Initial Study.

**Digital Copy:**

The Initial Study and Draft Trails Plan can be downloaded from the Nevada County website at <http://mynevadacounty.com/planning>.

## INITIAL STUDY AND CHECKLIST

### **Introduction:**

This checklist is to be completed for all projects that are not exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The information, analysis and conclusions contained in the checklist are the basis for deciding whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration is to be prepared. Additionally, the checklist shall be used to focus an EIR on the effects determined to be potentially significant.

### **Project Purpose:**

The purpose of the project is to implement General Plan Objective 5.6 in order to create a comprehensive, and where possible integrated, regional recreational trails system. The Trails Plan provides the framework to satisfy General Plan Directive Policy 5.17 in order to implement a Non-Motorized Multi-Purpose Trails Master Plan to provide multi-purpose recreational opportunities throughout the extensive areas of the County, and to improve access to other recreational opportunities for residents in both Community and Rural Regions.

The Western Nevada County Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Master Plan (Trails Plan) is a long-range policy document providing a framework to guide the review of discretionary projects in Western Nevada County and providing tools for the Planning Department and decision-makers to work with developers to dedicate recreational trails consistent with a regional system. The primary components of the Trails Plan include a map depicting existing trails and identifying non-motorized recreational trail routes to achieve a regional trail system; goals and policies developed through collaboration and public involvement; design guidelines for trail development; and programs to facilitate and enhance recreational trail opportunities.

The trail connectivity routes identified by the Trails Plan are not definitive or inevitable. Each connectivity route provides a potential location for a future trail alignment to be reviewed for suitability, on a project-by-project basis. The Trails Plan does not mandate or encourage eminent domain for routine right of way acquisition to implement the recreational trail system.

The adoption of the Trails Plan will not result in the approval of specific trail projects. Nor will the adoption of the Trails Plan result in changes to the physical environment. The Trails Plan is strictly a policy document. All future trail projects will require that a project-specific environmental review occur prior to project approval in addition to compliance with all applicable land use and development regulations. The evaluation of potential impacts of any specific trail project will be performed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as projects are submitted. Compliance with the goals and policies of the Trails Plan will not constitute or ensure project approval.

### **Project Description:**

The Trails Plan identifies fifteen potential connectivity routes for off-street recreational trails. Additionally, there are fifteen roadway segments that have been identified for potential on-street pathway improvements or road sharing to enhance overall non-motorized connectivity. Recreational trails are defined as off-street, minimally improved non-motorized facilities intended for recreational travel by pedestrians, equestrians, off-road bicyclists, and persons with disabilities where suitable and that are commonly located in parks, open space parcels, and easements on private land. Pathways are defined as non-motorized facilities intended for alternative transportation that provide connection within and between local destinations and that are commonly located adjacent to roadways. The type, width, and surfacing of recreational trails and pathways is dependent upon the anticipated volume of use and the intended types of users for individual segments, which will be determined on a

project-by-project basis. The long-term implementation of a recreational trails program could involve the development of trailheads, staging areas, signage, information kiosks, and other associated improvements along the trail network. However, project specific improvements are beyond the scope of the Trails Plan.

**Project Environmental Setting:**

Nevada County is located in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Nevada County has jurisdiction over 376,000 acres of privately held land in the unincorporated area of the County, excluding incorporated cities, state and federal lands. Land uses in the unincorporated County range from rural and forested areas to residential-rural and suburban lands, which include a mix of residential, agricultural and commercial uses. Federal and state public lands in the County total 314 square miles of the County's 943 square miles, or approximately 33% of the County's total land area. The unincorporated County contains a variety of resources and constraints, diverse topography and sensitive environments.

Nevada County's geography has led to distinctive development patterns in the eastern and western portions of the County. There is diversity in elevation from 300 feet above mean sea level (msl) on the western boundary to 9,143 feet msl at the highest point on the Sierra Crest before meeting the State of Nevada boundary on the County's eastern boundary. Western Nevada County's rolling and sometimes rugged foothill terrain is very attractive for residential and commercial developments due to the rural character of the area and the quality of life it affords. The Grass Valley/Nevada City area has become the primary urban center in western Nevada County.

The extent of the Trails Plan is focused on the western portion of the County. Recreational needs are addressed in the eastern portion of the County by the Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District and the Town of Truckee which adopted a Trails and Bikeways Master Plan in 2007. Western Nevada County is defined as the unincorporated area located westerly of the Range 13/14 East boundary line, Mount Diablo Meridian.

**Relationship to Other Projects:**

Staff is not aware of any other pending or approved projects directly related to this project.

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES**

**Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:**

All of the following environmental factors have been considered. If any environmental factors are checked below, they would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. However, this Initial Study does not identify any potentially significant impacts associated with the proposed Trails Plan; therefore, no boxes are checked below.

<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Land Use / Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Population / Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Geology / Soils
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Hydrology / Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Transportation / Circulation
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Hazards / Hazardous Materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Utilities / Service Systems
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Agriculture Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	17. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	18. Mandatory Findings of Significance

**No mitigation measures are proposed for this project.**

**CHECKLIST**

**1. LAND USE / PLANNING**

**Environmental Setting:** Nevada County is located in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Nevada County has jurisdiction over 376,000 acres of privately held land in the unincorporated area of the County, excluding incorporated cities, state and federal lands. Land uses in the unincorporated County range from rural and forested areas to residential-rural and suburban lands, which include a mix of residential, agricultural and commercial uses. Federal and state public lands in the County total 314 square miles of the County’s 943 square miles, or approximately 33% of the County’s total land area. The unincorporated County contains a variety of resources and constraints, diverse topography and sensitive environments.

Residential and rural development is governed by the General Plan that provides an overall policy guide, and Zoning Regulations which establish specific standards, varying with each zoning district, which includes 4 residential districts, 4 Rural districts, 5 commercial districts, 3 industrial districts and 5 Special Purpose Districts.

<u>Will the proposal result in:</u>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>	<b>Reference Source (Appendix A)</b>
a. Structures and/or land-use incompatible with existing land-use?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A
b. The induction of growth or concentration of population?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A
c. The extension of sewer trunk lines or access roads with capacity to serve new development beyond this proposed project?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A
d. The loss of open space?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A
e. Conflict with general plan designation or zoning?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A
f. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A
g. Disrupting or dividing the physical arrangement of an established community including a low-income or minority community?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A

**Impact Discussion:** The Trails Plan is strictly a policy document focused on providing future non-motorized recreational facilities in Western Nevada County. Adoption of the Trails Plan will not grant entitlements for any

specific trail projects or result in changes to the physical environment. All future trail projects will require that a project-specific environmental review occur prior to project approval in addition to compliance with all applicable land use and development regulations. The Trails Plan does not propose the reduction of existing development regulations, changes to existing land use designations or zoning, or increases in allowable density. No significant land use impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of this project because no new development will occur and because future development is subject to compliance with existing regulations and policies that evaluate impacts on land use.

**Mitigation & Residual Impact:** No mitigation is required.

## 2. POPULATION / HOUSING

**Environmental Setting:** In 2008 the State of California Department of Finance (DOF) estimated that the unincorporated area of Nevada County had a population of 67,018 and consisted of 30,442 housing units. Small towns and rural development that is largely integrated into the natural environment characterize the unincorporated County. Single-family residential development is the predominant housing type within the unincorporated area of the County; much of which occurs in rural areas and small communities. Population patterns in the County indicate concentrations primarily in western Nevada County and in the Truckee area in eastern County, with the majority of the middle section of the County under state and federal ownership and consisting primarily of the Tahoe National Forest.

<u>Will the proposal result in:</u>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>	<b>Reference Source (Appendix A)</b>
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A

**Impact Discussion:** The Trails Plan is strictly a policy document focused on providing future non-motorized recreational facilities in Western Nevada County. Adoption of the Trails Plan will not grant entitlements for any specific trail projects or result in changes to the physical environment. All future trail projects will require that a project-specific environmental review occur prior to project approval in addition to compliance with all applicable land use and development regulations. The Trails Plan will not result in a substantial amount of population growth, nor will it displace a substantial amount of housing units or people that will result in the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Further, no changes to existing housing or to housing opportunities are expected to occur as a result of this project because no change in the amount of land zoned for housing is proposed. No significant housing impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of this project because no new development will occur and because future development is subject to compliance with existing policies that evaluate impacts on housing.



**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation is required.

### 3. GEOLOGY / SOILS

**Environmental Setting:** The Sierra Nevada Range, a geologic block nearly 400 miles long and 80 miles wide, runs through Nevada County. This formation is represented by gentle rolling foothills on the western flank to steep mountainous terrain in the middle section of the County, and the crest of the Sierra near Donner Summit in the eastern portion of the County. Eastward from the crest, the terrain begins a downslope trend towards the Nevada state line. The substructures in the western section of the County range from metavolcanic to granitic formations, while the central section includes sedimentary, metasedimentary, and volcanic formations. The eastern sections of the County contain volcanic or granitic formations. In general, the formations are relatively seismically inactive. However, there are seismic faults in both western and eastern Nevada County.

Soil surveys conducted by U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources and Conservation Service and the Tahoe National Forest Division of the USFS have identified 55 general soil types in the County. The soil types are described by topography, slope, permeability, dwelling limitations, septic limitations, erosion hazards, and agricultural and timber capacities. In general, the County soils are variable: the soil permeability ranges from very slow to very rapid, and the erosion hazard ranges from slight to very high. The soil erosion hazard ratings of moderate to high are typically associated with slopes 15% or greater.

<u>Will the proposal result in:</u>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>	<b>Reference Source (Appendix A)</b>
a. Exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, soil creep, mudslides, ground failure (including expansive, compressible, collapsible soils), or similar hazards?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A</u>
b. Disruptions, displacements, compaction or over covering of the soil by cuts, fills, or extensive grading?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A</u>
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A</u>
d. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A</u>
e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, on or off the site?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A</u>

- |  |       |       |       |   |   |
|--|-------|-------|-------|---|---|
| f. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion, which may modify the channel of a river, or stream, or the bed any bay, inlet or lake? | _____ | _____ | _____ | ✓ | A |
| g. Excessive grading on slopes of over 30 percent?   | _____ | _____ | _____ | ✓ | A |

**Impact Discussion:** The Trails Plan is strictly a policy document focused on providing future non-motorized recreational facilities in Western Nevada County. Adoption of the Trails Plan will not grant entitlements for any specific trail projects or result in changes to the physical environment. Further, the Trails Plan does not propose to reduce standards regulating soil disturbance activities. Potential geologic impacts associated with the future construction of trails will vary on a project-by-project basis. Each trail project will be subject to site-specific environmental review, in addition to compliance with all applicable land use and development regulations, at the time that the project is proposed. A comprehensive evaluation of potential geologic impacts will be conducted to ensure that future trail development does not result in significant environmental impacts without sufficient mitigation. No significant impacts to geology or soils are anticipated to occur as a result of this project because no new development will occur and because future development is subject to compliance with existing regulations policies that evaluate impacts on geology and soils.

**Mitigation & Residual Impact:** No mitigation is required.

#### 4. HYDROLOGY / WATER QUALITY

**Environmental Setting:** The County is located within the watersheds of Truckee River, the Yuba River and the Bear River. Combined, these rivers drain about 420 square miles. The smaller watercourses and creeks that flow into these watersheds are supplied from melting snow pack, annual rainfall, springs, and surfacing groundwater. In general, the County’s water quality varies with topography and development. Water quality tends to be good in the mountainous, less developed areas, and is impacted at lower elevations or in more developed areas. Water quality is influenced by several sources, including soil erosion, sedimentation, septic systems, pesticides, and agriculture. Water resources have a multitude of uses from agricultural to domestic, as well as fish and aquatic/riparian habitat, wildlife and plant habitat, and year-round recreation. A number of historic irrigation ditch systems are located throughout the western County, owned and maintained by the Nevada Irrigation District, and on a much smaller scale, by the San Juan Ridge County Water District. There are a number of public water purveyors within the County; the Nevada Irrigation District, and the Cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City primarily serve western Nevada County and the Washington County Water District provides service to the small community of Washington. In the eastern Nevada County the Donner Summit and Truckee Donner Public Utility Districts, and the Glenshire Mutual Water Company provide domestic treated water service.

<u>Will the proposal result in:</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the					

production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level, which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

\_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ A

c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

\_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ A

d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

\_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ A

e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

\_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ A

f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

\_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ A

g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

\_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ A

h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?

\_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ A

i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

\_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ A

j. Inundation by mudflow?

\_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ A

**Impact Discussion:** The Trails Plan is strictly a policy document focused on providing future non-motorized recreational facilities in Western Nevada County. Adoption of the Trails Plan will not grant entitlements for any specific trail projects or result in changes to the physical environment. Further, the Trails Plan does not propose to reduce water quality protection measures. Potential impacts to hydrology associated with the future construction of trails will vary on a project-by-project basis. Each trail project will be subject to site-specific environmental review, in addition to compliance with all applicable land use and development regulations, at the

time that the project is proposed. A comprehensive evaluation of potential impacts to hydrology and water quality will be conducted to ensure that future trail development does not result in significant environmental impacts without sufficient mitigation. Further, the Trails Plan includes a policy to plan future trail locations to avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive resources such as hydrology and water quality. No significant impacts to hydrology or water quality are anticipated to occur as a result of this project because no new development will occur and because future development is subject to compliance with existing regulations and policies that evaluate impacts on hydrology and water quality.

**Mitigation & Residual Impact:** No mitigation is required.

## 5. AIR QUALITY

**Environmental Setting:** The main air quality concerns in Nevada County are PM-10 (particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or more), PM-2.5 (particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or more) and ozone. All of Nevada County is non-attainment for the California PM-10 standard and the California 1-hour and 8-hour ozone standards, and is unclassified for the California PM-2.5 standard. Western Nevada County (west of a line running north/south just east of Soda Springs) is non-attainment for the 1997 federal 8-hour ozone standard. Eastern Nevada County is unclassified for the federal 8-hour ozone standard.

PM-10 (mostly dust from road sand, especially in Truckee) and PM-2.5 (mostly motor vehicle exhaust and smoke from wood-burning appliances and open burning) concentrations are highest during the winter months. Violations in the summer months have occurred during forest fires.

Ozone is formed by the reaction of precursor pollutants (oxides of nitrogen and reactive organic gases) in the presence of sunlight, and its formation is encouraged by warm temperatures. Consequently, ozone concentrations are highest during the summer months. More than half of California's ozone results from motor vehicle emissions, and the vast majority of Western Nevada County's ozone is transported from upwind urban areas. Nevada County's State ozone non-attainment designation includes recognition of "overwhelming transport," which relieves the area of some State requirements. However, as a federal non-attainment area, numerous requirements in the federal Clean Air Act apply. Notably, Western Nevada County (along with upwind areas) must demonstrate an annual 3% reduction of precursor emissions (called Reasonable Further Progress) until attainment is reached. Therefore, it is important to engage in land use planning that focuses on minimizing vehicle miles traveled and reducing precursor emissions wherever feasible. Further, the 2008 federal ozone standard is more stringent than the 1997 standard (meaning that further reductions will likely be needed in the future), so air quality-conscious land use planning at this time is crucial.

<u>Will the proposal result in:</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A
b. A violation of any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A
c. Exposure of sensitive receptors to pollutants?	_____	_____	_____	✓	A

d. The creation of objectionable smoke, ash or odors?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>  A  </u>
e. Dust generation?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>  A  </u>
f. Exceeding any potentially significant thresholds adopted in County Plans and Goals?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>  A  </u>
g. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>  A  </u>

**Impact Discussion:** The Trails Plan is strictly a policy document focused on providing future non-motorized recreational facilities in Western Nevada County. Adoption of the Trails Plan will not grant entitlements for any specific trail projects or result in changes to the physical environment. Further, the Trails Plan does not propose to revise, replace or attempt to supersede any existing air quality standards adopted by the County or the State of California. Potential air quality impacts associated with the future construction of trails will vary on a project-by-project basis. Future trail development proposals will be subject to project-specific environmental review to ensure that the project will be in compliance with local and regional standards and procedures for minimizing impacts to air quality. In addition, the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSQAMD) will review and provide mitigation to assure that future trail project specific impacts do not result in significant impacts to public health and safety. No significant impacts to air quality are anticipated to occur as a result of this project because no new development will occur and because future development is subject to compliance with existing regulations and policies that evaluate impacts on air quality.

**Mitigation & Residual Impact:** No mitigation is required.

**6. TRANSPORTATION / CIRCULATION:**

**Environmental Setting:** The Nevada County street system is composed of a combination of roadways, including the interstate highway and freeways, principal arterial roads, minor arterials roads, collector roads and local roads. Approximately 38% of the County’s 2,942-mile circulation system is publicly maintained. The remainder of the roadways are privately owned and maintained, with maintenance entities ranging from individuals and unofficial maintenance groups to recorded road maintenance associations and agreements. Travel characteristics vary widely according to the region in which it occurs. In unincorporated areas, the existing non-motorized trails and pathways system is characterized by a series of informal facilities, developed over many years and lacking cohesiveness or planned connections.

<u>Will the proposal result in:</u>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>	<b>Reference Source (Appendix A)</b>
a. Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (a substantial increase in the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>
b. A need for private or public road maintenance, or need for new roads?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>
c. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>
e. A substantial impact upon existing transit systems or alteration of present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>
f. An alteration of waterborne, rail or air traffic?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>
g. An increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians, including short-term construction and long-term operational?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>
h. Inadequate:					
Sight distance?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>
Ingress/egress?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>
General road capacity?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>
Emergency access (4290 Standard)?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>
i. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation, e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks?	_____	_____	_____	✓	<u>A,C</u>

**Impact Discussion:** The Trails Plan is strictly a policy document focused on providing future non-motorized recreational facilities in Western Nevada County. Adoption of the Trails Plan will not grant entitlements for any specific trail projects or result in changes to the physical environment. Each trail project will be subject to site-specific environmental review, in addition to compliance with all applicable land use and development regulations, at the time that the project is proposed.

