

E - ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

10.0 LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT

10.1 Applicable Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Statutes and Plans

Land use and management in California are protected by a variety of federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, and statutes. In addition, numerous comprehensive plans and programs have been developed that include detailed policies and guidelines for management and use of lands in the vicinity of the Project. These laws, ordinances, regulations, statutes, programs, and plans and their application to land use and management in the Project area are summarized below.

10.1.1 Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as Amended

The Eldorado National Forest (ENF) Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) is discussed in Section E1.1.1. Table E10.1-1 below lists the management goals associated with land use and management as described in Chapter 4 of the ENF LRMP. These goals are the ENF's attempts to describe the preferred future conditions of the land that the LRMP hopes to achieve in the 15-year planning horizon of the current LRMP.

10.1.2 El Dorado County General Plan

The El Dorado County (EDC) General Plan is discussed in Section E3.1.11. The plan sets forth three specific goals applicable to privately-held lands under County jurisdiction in the Project area. The first is included in the Conservation and Open Space Element. Goal 7.6 (Open Space Conservation) states that EDC should conserve open space land for the continuation of the County's rural character, commercial agriculture, forestry, and other productive uses; the enjoyment of scenic beauty and recreation; the protection of natural resources; protection from natural hazards; and wildlife habitat. The second goal is included in the Agriculture and Forestry Element. Goal 8.3 (Forest Land Conservation) states that the County should maintain healthy and sustainable forests that provide for raw materials while limiting the intrusion of incompatible uses into important forest lands. The last goal is included in the Parks and Recreation Element. Goal 9.3 (Recreation and Tourism) states that EDC should seek greater opportunities to capitalize on the recreational resources of the county through tourism and recreational based businesses and industries (EDC Website).

A general policy objective in the Land Use Element of the EDC General Plan is that National Recreational Area or Wild and Scenic River designations on lands within EDC shall be deemed inconsistent with the County's water storage objectives as listed in the EDC General Plan (Objective 2.2.5).

Table E10.1-1. Eldorado National Forest management goals for lands within the Forest as described in Chapter 4 of the ENF Land and Resources Management Plan.	
Area/Resource	Management Goal
Recreation Resources	Provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that meet projected demand at the end of the planning period. Public uses take priority over uses of a semipublic nature, and these in turn take priority over private uses. Stress simpler, more natural recreation experiences over dense, sophisticated developments.
Visual Resources	Protect the most visually sensitive areas of the forest by placing the major roads, trails, streams, and areas of concentrated visitor use in scenic corridors and managed viewsheds.
Wilderness Areas	Maintain a lasting system of quality wilderness for public use and appreciation of the unique characteristics of wilderness, consistent with preserving its values.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Manage the wild, scenic, and recreation rivers to preserve their free flowing characteristics and protect their outstandingly remarkable values.
Special Interest Areas	Preserve the integrity of the botanical, archaeological, geological, and recreational features for which the areas were established.
Range Resources	Maintain current levels of livestock grazing and take advantage of additional forage induced by even-aged timber management.
Timber Resources	Sustain a long-term yield of logs and other wood products by practicing the most intensive forms of timber management on the most productive sites. Increase this yield by application of high utilization standards and scientific silvicultural growth techniques.
Soil, Water, and Air Resources	Protect streams, lakes, wetlands and riparian vegetation that surrounds them. Establish a permanent streamside management zone to furnish shade, ground cover, and natural environmental elements, which maintain high water quality and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Limit cumulative disturbing impacts on watersheds within the forest. Induce moderate increases in water yield by direct watershed improvement projects, meadow rehabilitation and expansion projects, and snowpack manipulation associated with timber harvest practices in true fir timber stands.
Energy Resources	Facilitate permitting of hydroelectric and other new energy development that reasonably protects all resources
Mineral Resources	Cooperate and participate with mineral lessees, claimants, and permittees in the development of mineral resources under the laws and regulations that govern them.
Lands	Seek optimum land ownership patterns by means of land adjustments in order to reduce problems related to intermingled private lands.
Fire	Provide for sufficient level of fire protection and treat natural and activity fuels to assure a continuous flow of projected outputs and amenities from the forest.
Transportation	Develop and maintain the forest transportation system for the through traveling public while providing safe, efficient routes for recreationists.
Facilities	Build and maintain fire, administrative and other facilities (non-recreation) to serve resource, and support program needs. Make them functional, energy efficient, and attractive to the public. Remove or replace unsafe, obsolete facilities.
Research Areas	Provide opportunities for baseline ecological research in the Station Creek, Peavine, and Snow Canyon Research Natural Areas (The Peavine NRA is in the vicinity of the Project).

10.1.3 Sacramento County General Plan

The Sacramento County General Plan is discussed in Section E3.1.12. A portion of the Project transmission line extends into Sacramento County. The primary purpose of the Sacramento County General Plan (County of Sacramento 1993) is to set forth guidance for future growth and development in the County. Therefore, the General Plan focuses on projects to be proposed sometime in the future more so than existing facilities such as the Project transmission line. However, the goals and objectives are important in understanding the County’s vision and

values. The General Plan addresses transmission lines in the Land Use Element, and more specifically under the Electric Distribution Policy in Section VIII of the Energy Facilities Section of the Public Facilities Element of the General Plan.

The Electric Distribution Policy addresses transmission and subtransmission facilities and recognizes that SMUD has the primary responsibility for providing electric service within Sacramento County, and that paramount within that responsibility is the performance of the electric system. The intention of the Electric Distribution Policy is to ensure that County planning and development activities are coordinated with the associated facilities development responsibilities of SMUD.

Most of the policies contained within the Electric Distribution Policy section address siting of new transmission lines and substations in a manner that avoids impacts and does not specifically address existing facilities such as the Project transmission line. However, Policy PF-91 states that “transmission line rights-of-way located in undeveloped areas shall be maintained as parks, recreation areas and open space and solar distributed generation sites subject to land owners’ current and intended use of the property. Pursuant to terms of standard utility facility easements, proposed uses and improvements within utility rights-of-way are subject to review and consent by the affected utility.”

10.1.4 Federal Power Act

The Federal Power Act, in particular sections 4(e), 10(j) and 18 of the act, are described in Section E1.1.4.

10.2 Overview

10.2.1 Historical Trends

A Mediterranean-type climate extends over most of the Project area creating warm, dry summers and cold, wet winters. Winter low temperatures below freezing, at upper elevations, and summer high temperatures above 100°F, at lower elevations, represent a normal seasonal climate change. Average annual precipitation varies from about 40 to 70 inches. More than 90 percent of this precipitation occurs from October through April, mainly in the form of snow in the higher elevations (above 5,000 feet). From December through Many, a deep snow pack of 5 to 10 feet is usually present at sites located above an elevation of 6,000 feet, and no or little snow falls at the lower elevation (less than 2,000 feet) sites. Wind flow is generally moderate and from the west, causing air to rise as it passes over the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. In general, air quality in the area of the Project is excellent.

The ENF, in which the Project is located, was established in 1910. Nearly all of the National Forest System land in the ENF was reserved from the public domain by Presidential Proclamation prior to 1911. Private acquisition of public domain lands, prior to the establishment of the ENF, was possible through various land acts encouraging settlement. This private acquisition produced a very irregular ownership pattern and ENF boundary. Some consolidation of ownership and boundaries has occurred through exchanges, donation, and

purchase of land, especially with timber companies who are the largest private-land inholders on the Forest. As the agricultural uses and low population density of the past has given way to more urbanization, the demands and competition for the use of public lands has increased dramatically since the late 1970s.

Historically, the ENF was surrounded by a sparsely populated rural society where land interests between the ENF and its neighbors were mostly compatible. There was interdependency between the ENF goals for multiple-use management (agriculture, timber harvesting, grazing, mining, and hydroelectric generation) and the resource-dependent communities that provided the labor for the development of hydroelectric generation and the extraction of the forest resources.

The rural society of the past has slowly changed to a more urbanized society as newcomers and commuters have relocated to the vicinity of the ENF. Most newcomers and commuters are not dependent on the resource development economies of the past and maintain a high priority for the recreation and aesthetic values of the ENF.

10.2.2 Current Conditions

Most of the Project (a total of about 4,553 acres within the Project boundary) is located in El Dorado County, which is bounded on the north by the MFAR and the Rubicon River, on the south by the South Fork of the Cosumnes River, and on the east by Lake Tahoe. The county extends to the west to include a portion of Folsom Lake and the community of El Dorado Hills. Founded in 1850 as one of the original 37 California counties, El Dorado County has an area of 1,805 square miles. El Dorado County is in the heart of California's historic "Mother Lode" and contains many historically significant Gold Rush-era towns and artifacts, including Sutter Mill at Coloma, the site of the famous strike that started the California gold rush of 1849. Major industries have included gold mining; timbering, which began around the turn of the century; agriculture and ranching (beginning around 1920s); and tourism. Much of the Highway 50 corridor is currently used as suburban "bedroom" communities for employment opportunities located in Sacramento County.

Most of the Project (all except the White Rock Powerhouse and a portion of the transmission line) is located in the ENF, which comprises about 57 percent of the El Dorado County land base. The Project is operated under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project License 2101 that was issued in 1957 for a 50-year period. In 1980 and 1982, the FERC License was amended for construction of the Jones Fork Powerhouse, which is operated under both a FERC License and an ENF special use permit. The ENF is about 70 miles wide and ranges in elevation from about 1,000 feet in the Sierra foothills to almost 11,000 feet along the Sierra crest. The canyons of the Mokelumne, Cosumnes, American, and Rubicon rivers break the mountainous topography. There are about 786,994 acres of land within the ENF boundaries, of which about 76 percent (596,724 acres) is national forest land that is owned by the United States. Of this, 102,059 acres are designated wilderness areas. Several large owners have in holdings that exceed 10,000 acres, though most of these are not contiguous. Small, scattered ownership is also prevalent. All of these mixed pieces create a broken land ownership pattern throughout the ENF. The major land uses with the ENF are tourism, timbering, and recreation. Project lands

and lands adjacent to the Project are maintained primarily as open space (no residences) and are used for recreation, environmental conservation, and timber harvesting.

In the year 2000, El Dorado County had a population of 152,900 (84.7 people per sq. mi.), as estimated by the California Department of Finance, Population Research Unit. The median household income is \$25,554 (1996 dollars), and the median age of residents is 38 years. Annual population growth is expected to be about 3.5 percent through early part of the century. Most of the growth is expected to be from in-migration rather than births. As of 1998, the unemployment rate in El Dorado County was 4.1 percent. With respect to race and ethnicity, the county population is about 93.6 percent non-Hispanic white, with Native Americans comprising about 3.7 percent of the population. The major employment sectors are services (32%), retail trade (23%), government (14%), construction (9%), and manufacturing (5%).

The nearest population center to the Project (within El Dorado County) is the City of Placerville, which is one of two incorporated cities in El Dorado County. Placerville is the county seat and is located south of the Project along Highway 50, 44 miles east of Sacramento, at an elevation of 1,860 feet. Placerville had a population of about 9,325 in 2000. The other incorporated city in El Dorado County is South Lake Tahoe, located 60 miles east of Placerville, with a population of 33,360. Unincorporated communities with populations of 1,000 or more in the Project vicinity include El Dorado Hills (population of 14,000 at an elevation of 800 feet), Cameron Park (population: 15,026; elevation: 1,340 feet), Shingle Springs (population: 2,270; elevation: 1,423 feet), and Pollock Pines (population 4,291; elevation: 3,000 feet). These serve as suburban areas to the booming Sacramento Metropolitan area, and are located along State Highway 50.

A *de minimis* portion of the Project transmission line lies within Sacramento County in the City of Folsom. Folsom, with a year 2000 population of 52,700, is one of five incorporated cities in Sacramento County. The City of Sacramento, with a population of 406,000, is the largest in the County, and is the county seat, as well as the State Capitol. The dominant land use adjacent to the transmission line right of way is urban development.

10.2.2.1 Hydroelectric Development

The Federal Power Act (FPA) of 1920 specifies that National Forest System lands are suitable locations for the development of hydroelectric facilities for power production. According to the 1989 LRMP, hydroelectric development is usually compatible with the land use direction of the ENF and can be accommodated. However, in certain areas, development of hydroelectric projects can conflict with other land uses or resource objectives. Examples are wilderness, primitive and semi-primitive high country, research natural areas, and other special botanical, geological, culturally-sensitive or historical areas.

10.2.2.2 Recreation

The ENF offers a wide variety of recreation attractions and settings for both winter and summer use. Principal outdoor recreation activities include camping, boating, hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, driving for pleasure (sightseeing), cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, and OHV operation. Of the average three million recreation visitor days (RVDs) each year, about 45

percent of the use occurs on developed sites and about 55 percent in dispersed areas (including 3 percent in wilderness). A more detailed description of RVDs in the Crystal Basin recreation area is provided in section E8.2.2 of this document. The ENF consistently ranks in the top 20 forests nationally for recreation use. Most visitors to the Forest come from the Sacramento, Stockton, and San Francisco Bay area counties.

Water is a major attraction on the ENF. Numerous lakes, streams, and man-made reservoirs provide key features for a substantial percentage of the recreational activities that take place in the Forest. The Pacific Ranger District, where the Project is located, is one of two ranger districts that receive the heaviest concentrations of use in the ENF.

10.2.2.3 Wilderness Areas

The ENF contains portions of Desolation Wilderness, Mokelumne Wilderness, and Caples Creek “further planning” area. Desolation Wilderness is the only wilderness area in the vicinity of the Project. Desolation Wilderness is a spectacular area of high glaciated basins, rugged granitic peaks, and clear mountain lakes and streams. Elevations range from about 6,500 to 10,000 feet. Of the 63,475 acres within Desolation Wilderness, 42,194 acres lie within the ENF and the remaining 21,281 acres are in the USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. Desolation Wilderness lies just west of Lake Tahoe and is entirely within El Dorado County.

The Project’s Rubicon Reservoir, Rockbound Tunnel, and Rockbound Tunnel Outlet Channel are Project facilities (within the Project’s FERC boundary) and are located within Desolation Wilderness, near the northern boundary. These Project features were constructed and licensed prior to designation of the Desolation Wilderness in 1969.

10.2.2.4 Wild and Scenic Rivers

The ENF has portions of four rivers designated or considered eligible for wild and scenic within the forest boundary, including the North and Middle forks of the Cosumnes, the North Fork of the Mokelumne, and the Rubicon. No rivers within the FERC Project boundary are designated as wild and scenic.

10.2.2.5 Mining

The ENF and adjacent lands contain occurrences of gold, silver, copper, zinc, manganese, tungsten, chromite, nickel, uranium, platinum, mercury, titanium, iron, building stone, limestone, slate, clay, marble, soapstone, sand, and gravel. Of these minerals, gold has the most importance for the ENF. However, the most productive gold deposits (lode and placer) are not within the ENF, but lie to the west in the Mother Lode System. Consequently, of importance to the ENF is the localized mineralization of the East Belt which consists of Sierra Nevada granitic rocks, and placer deposits of gold lying east of the Mother Lode. Areas of highest interest in gold in the ENF are near the Highway 50 corridor, in the vicinity of Sly Park, Grizzly Flat, and Spanish Flat. The most significant gold-related operation in the forest is the Blue Gouge Gold Mine near Sly Park.

10.2.2.6 Timber

There are an estimated 428,844 acres of land managed for commercial timber production on the ENF. Timber producing land is classified into five major forest types: mixed conifer, red fir, ponderosa pine, sub-alpine, and hardwoods. The average annual programmed sale quantity is 143.3 million board feet. The majority of this volume is derived from the 237,000 acres established for intensive forest management in the 1978 Timber Management Plan. This Plan emphasizes regeneration harvesting of poorly stocked stands.

10.2.2.7 Grazing

The ENF is divided into 24 grazing allotments totaling approximately 300,000 acres of potentially suitable range. There are 24 permittees utilizing approximately 14,000 animal unit months (AUM). One AUM equals the amount of forage required by a mature (1,000 pounds) cow based upon average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds dry matter per day. Overall forage condition on the ENF is fair with a small scattering of good to very good and poor to very poor sites. Overall stocking levels on the forest are close to full potential under the existing management intensity. This includes use by recreation stock (i.e. horses, mules) and forage allowances made for wildlife use.

10.2.2.8 Fish and Wildlife Habitat

The ENF provides habitat for numerous species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. Current management direction for fish and wildlife habitat is guided by the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, Forest Service Policy, species recovery plans for the peregrine falcon and bald eagle, and by approved local deer herd management plans. ENF is responsible for managing habitat; management of species populations is the responsibility of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The mix of diversity of vegetation and special habitat components in the forest determines the kind and amount of wildlife that will occupy a specific area of the forest. Refer to Section E3.0 for a complete discussion of aquatic resources and Section E5.0 for a complete discussion of wildlife resources.

10.2.2.9 Botanical Habitat

Data were collected on species composition, cover/abundance of each species, and occurrence of each species in the tree, shrub and herbaceous layers in a reconnaissance survey conducted by SMUD in 2000. As part of the botanical inventory work, an assessment was made of the potential for special-status species to occur within the FERC Project Boundary. Thirty seven target special-status plant species were observed to occur either within or near the Project Boundary. Refer to Section E4.0 for a complete discussion of botanical resources.

10.2.2.10 Fire Prevention and Suppression

The ENF has an average of 88 fires per year. Most occur in the mid-elevation zone (3,000 to 7,000 feet) in areas of concentrated commercial and public use. Lightning accounts for approximately 42 fires annually, or slightly less than 50 percent of the total. Larger fires occur

every 7 to 14 years on average, usually during periods of extreme weather patterns characterized by lack of precipitation, high temperatures, low humidity, and high winds. These fires have caused major resource damage and require large investments in burn rehabilitation.

Part of the South Fork American River (SFAR) basin was burned in the 1992 Cleveland Fire that involved approximately 24,000 acres (5.7 percent) of the watershed. The Cleveland Fire affected areas of the UARP at Union Valley, Junction and Ice House Reservoirs as well as the Big Hill telecommunication facilities.

10.2.3 Eldorado National Forest Land Management Direction

The current management direction presented in the ENF LRMP provides the means to implement the goals and objectives of the LRMP. Direction is the key to dealing with planning issues and translating long-term forest goals and objectives (see Section E10.1.1) into measurable short-term production of goods and services from the forest. The ENF land base is classified into six major emphasis zones. Emphasis zones are geographic locations where similar combinations of resource opportunities and land use potential exist simultaneously. Each emphasis zone stresses a predominant management theme subject to treatment by integrated, compatible management prescriptions and practices. Each emphasis zone is distinctly different in theme and reaction to treatment from surrounding emphasis zones. The following is a description of the management direction for the ENF based on the emphasis zones described in the LRMP and shown on the forest map (Alternative A-Preferred).

10.2.3.1 Designated Areas

Designated areas are lands set aside by legal or official designation. These lands include wilderness and wild and scenic rivers that are designated by Congress and research natural areas that are designated by the Chief of the United States Forest Service (USFS). The regional forester may classify special areas under delegated authority from the USFS Chief. Lands within these designated areas must be managed strictly according to federal laws, regulations, and policies that apply to them.

A few of the Project facilities associated with the Loon Lake Development are located in the Desolation Wilderness area (see Section E10.2.2.3). The Rubicon OHV Route is a special area located north of Loon Lake and directly adjacent to Buck Island Reservoir, and the Peavine Point Research Natural Area is in the vicinity of the Camino Development.

10.2.3.2 High Country Areas

High country areas are lands that are largely undeveloped, and in some cases, roadless. These are generally large tracts of land above 6,000 feet elevation that are characterized by natural crest-like Sierran landscapes. Lands in this status lend themselves to dispersed recreation. A portion of Loon Lake and other Project facilities associated with the Loon Lake Development are located in a high country area.

10.2.3.3 Developed Areas

Developed areas are lands with prior commitments that are managed to emphasize several kinds of developed uses. Lands in this status include existing developed and potential recreation sites, such as campgrounds, ski areas, interpretive sites, and administrative sites. Recreation facilities may be operated and maintained by the USFS, special use permittee, licensee, or concessionaire. Developed recreation sites associated with the Project FERC license are in the developed zone.

10.2.3.4 Wildlife Areas

Wildlife areas are lands managed to maintain viable populations of spotted owls and goshawks. The habitats of these two sensitive species are treated to provide suitable nesting and foraging ground to perpetuate their existence. Lands in this status are intermingled with the general forest zone. There is one wildlife area in the Robbs Peak Development at Union Valley Reservoir and two in the area of the Camino Development that have been designated by ENF.

10.2.3.5 General Forest

General forest lands are these lands that do not have a special designation. These lands are most favorable for growth and harvest of commercial conifer species. Lands in this status are the most intensively managed areas in the forest. The widest range of activities and the most changes in the landscape occur in the general forest zone. Lands of high visual sensitivity are also located in this zone. These visual corridors are in viewsheds that can be readily seen by visitors and generally border major roads, trails, reservoirs, rivers, and developed recreation sites. Foreground and middleground areas viewed from the visual corridors are retained or partially retained in a natural condition. All of the Project developments have some areas of general forest. Most of the foreground areas around reservoirs and stream reaches have a foreground and middleground buffer to be retained or partially retained in a natural condition.

10.2.3.6 Streamside Management

Streamside management areas are lands that border lakes and streams. Lands in this status include a 100-foot riparian strip on both sides of Class I, II and III streams, and a 100-foot strip surrounding lakes and reservoirs. The riparian strips provide food, cover, and water for many species of fish and wildlife. The streamside management zone is extended to wider limits than the riparian strip where needed to maintain the high quality of water currently yielded by the forest. These extensions are variable land widths that are based on soil stability, percent slope, and stream class. All streams and reservoirs associated with the Project developments are in this zone.

10.2.4 El Dorado County Land Use and Management

Below is a description of EDC land use designations from the General Plan Map. From the perspective of this Plan, land use at the Project can be divided into two areas: the area of hydropower generation that is located within the ENF, and the area of electrical transmission,

most of which is located west of the power generation area, primarily outside the ENF (although there are transmission lines between generation facilities).

In the vicinity of the Project, within the ENF boundary, both governmental and non-governmental lands are designated as “natural resources” in the EDC General Plan. The EDC General Plan defines the purpose of the natural resource designation as a means to identify areas that contain economically viable natural resources and to protect the economic viability of those resources and those engaged in harvesting/processing of those resources, including water resources development. The most important natural resources of the county include forested areas, mineral resources, important watershed, lakes and ponds, river corridors, grazing lands, and areas where the encroachment of development would compromise these natural resource values. Compatible uses may include agriculture, rangeland, forestry, wildlife management, recreation, water resources development, and single-family dwellings necessary to support compatible uses.

Lands in the vicinity of the transmission line corridor that are outside the ENF include a broad range of land use designations that generally intensify in use as the corridor crosses the County from east to west. Designations include rural residential, low, medium and high density residential, natural resource areas, open space. In addition, there are Overlay Districts for agricultural lands, ecological preserves and mineral resource areas (EDC 1996).

The General Plan identifies Rural Residential as areas for residential and agricultural development where there is one dwelling unit per 10 to 160 acres. Rural residential areas have limited infrastructure, public services, and the land remains for the most part, in a natural state. Rural Residential lands are typically characterized by steeper topography, high fire hazards, limited or substandard access, and “choice” (county designated as locally important) agricultural soils. Low Density Residential establishes areas for single-family residential development in a rural setting with a maximum of one dwelling unit per five acres. Medium Density Residential is for detached single-family residences with larger lot sizes that enable limited agricultural land management activities. There is a maximum of one dwelling unit per one acre. High Density Residential areas are suitable for intensive single-family residential development (condominiums, townhouses, detached dwellings and manufactured homes) at densities from one to five dwelling units to the acre. The Open Space land use designation includes public lands under governmental title (other than those designated as Natural Resources, including County, State Parks, BLM, etc) where no development other than that specifically needed for governmental-related open space uses is desired.

In addition to the Land Use Designations in the vicinity of the transmission line corridor, there are Overlay Districts that provide additional direction for the development of land regardless of the underlying land use designation. The Agricultural District overlay contains the majority of the County’s federally designated prime, State-designated unique or important, “choice” agricultural soils that should be preserved primarily for agricultural purposes. The Ecological Preserve overlay applies to properties in public or private ownership that have the potential to be established or have been established as habitat preserve areas for rare or threatened endangered plant and animal species and/or critical wildlife habitat and/or natural communities of high quality or of Statewide importance. The Mineral Resource overlay identifies those areas that are

designated as Mineral Resource Zone 2 (MRZ 2xx) on the State Classification Reports (EDC 2000). For such areas, the County will specify the reasons for approval of land uses that will threaten potential extraction of minerals and provide for public and agency notice before approving proposed land uses.

10.3 Literature Cited

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