

*DRAFT*  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)  
FOR  
YUBA GOLDFIELDS LEVEE EASEMENT  
AT  
BEALE AIR FORCE BASE (AFB), CALIFORNIA



PREPARED FOR:  
**Department of the Air Force**  
**Beale AFB, California**

*August 2020*

Letters or other written comments provided may be published in the Final EA. As required by law, substantive comments will be addressed in the Final EA and made available to the public. Any personal information provided will be kept confidential. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of the Final EA. However, only the names of the individuals making comments and their specific comments will be disclosed. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the Final EA.

## **DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

### **YUBA GOLDFIELDS LEVEE EASEMENT AT BEALE AIR FORCE BASE (AFB), CALIFORNIA**

Pursuant to provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Title 42 United States Code (USC) Sections 4321 to 4347, implemented by Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §1500-1508, and 32 CFR §989, Environmental Impact Analysis Process, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) assessed the potential environmental consequences associated with granting an easement on 0.2 acres of Beale AFB property to allow The Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) to construct and maintain 0.1% of their proposed levee.

The Yuba Goldfields Levee Project (YGLP) would provide improved 200-year flood protection to southern Yuba County and Beale AFB. The Purpose of the Proposed Action is to grant an easement to TRLIA for the Subject Property owned by Beale AFB located within the YGLP footprint. Currently the Yuba River south levee does not provide adequate 200-year floodplain protection to residents of southern Yuba County and Beale AFB. The Proposed Action is needed to allow TRLIA to construct and maintain the YGLP, as previously analyzed and documented in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Yuba Goldfields Levee Easement Environmental Assessment (EA), incorporated by reference into this finding and attached hereto, analyzes the potential environmental consequences of activities associated with the proposed easement and provides environmental protection measures to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts. Further, the EA and this resultant FONSI rely on and incorporate by reference the Environmental Impact Report and Supplemental Environmental Impact Report prepared by the TRLIA for the YGLP (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

The EA considered all potential impacts of the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative. The EA also considered cumulative environmental impacts with other projects in the Region of Influence.

Four alternatives were considered in the 2015 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the YGLP with a modification of the Alternative 4 alignment considered and analyzed in the 2018 Supplemental EIR (SEIR) (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018). The Modified Alternative 4 consists of an approximate 2.6 mile extension of the Yuba River south levee that is shorter and further south than the Alternative 4 described in the 2015 EIR. For the purposes of this FONSI and referenced EA, and unless otherwise specified, use of the term “YGLP” is used interchangeable with Modified Alternative 4, since this is the alternative TRLIA plans to implement.

#### **NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

The No Action Alternative serves as the baseline against which the Proposed Action can be evaluated to identify impacts to the natural and built environments. Under the No Action Alternative, an easement would not be granted to TRLIA to provide access to 0.2 acres of land owned by Beale AFB. TRLIA would not have some of the access they need to complete the 2.6 mile section of the YGLP as originally evaluated in the CEQA documentation.

#### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The analyses of the affected environment and environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action presented in the EA concluded that by implementing standing environmental protection measures and operational planning, the USAF would be in compliance with all terms and conditions and reporting requirements for NEPA.

The USAF has concluded that no significant adverse effects would occur to the following resources as a result of the Proposed Action: *airspace, air quality, biological resources, geology and earth resources, land use, noise, cultural resources, safety and occupational health, infrastructure/utilities/transportation, socioeconomics, environmental justice, and water resources*. No significant adverse cumulative impacts would result from activities associated with the Proposed Action when considered with past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects.

The EA, 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR, incorporated by reference into this finding, provide environmental protection measures to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts to air quality, biological resources, noise, cultural resources and water resources. All the mitigation measures referenced in previous TRILIA environmental analyses for the YGLP would be implemented, as applicable, to the 0.2 acre proposed easement owned by Beale AFB.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

Based on my review of the facts and analyses contained in the attached EA, conducted under the provisions of NEPA, CEQ Regulations, and 32 CFR §989, I conclude that the Proposed Action of granting a 0.2 acre easement to TRILIA for access to build and maintain 0.1% of their levee would not have a significant environmental impact, either by itself or cumulatively with other known projects. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The signing of this Finding of No Significant Impact completes the environmental impact analysis process.

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SIGNATORY NAME, Rank/Title

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Date

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) is a joint powers agency whose mission is to provide a 200-year level of protection to residents of southern Yuba County, California. TRLIA is planning to implement the Yuba Goldfields Levee Project (YGLP) with a modification of the Alternative 4 alignment (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018) to meet the goal.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) incorporates by reference the analysis previously completed by TRLIA for the YGLP as discussed below. In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), TRLIA, as lead agency, prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which was completed in 2015 (hereafter referred to as 2015 EIR), describing the environmental effects that would occur through implementation of the proposed alternatives for the YGLP. Subsequently, a Supplemental EIR (SEIR) was prepared and completed in 2018 (hereafter referred to as 2018 SEIR) because modifications were proposed to Alternative 4, which was the selected and approved alternative from the 2015 EIR. Modifications were proposed because TRLIA gained additional knowledge of the practical and financial feasibility of Alternative 4, which led to a proposed change of alignment for this alternative. The 2018 SEIR incorporates additional technical information and modifications, which would better optimize flood risk reduction, minimize environmental impacts on mineral resources and wetlands, and maximize public benefits (TRLIA, 2018).

As such, CEQA environmental analysis for the comprehensive YGLP has been conducted for the majority of the resource areas typically analyzed in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. Resource areas included in the CEQA environmental analysis included Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Earth Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use/Population/Housing, Noise, Recreational Resources, Transportation and Traffic, and Utilities and Public Services.

The Modified Alternative 4 consists of an approximate 2.6 mile extension of the Yuba River south levee that is shorter and further south than the Alternative 4 described in the 2015 EIR. The proposed design of the levee alignment begins near the upstream terminus of the Yuba River south levee, extends southeast to Hammonton-Smartville Road, continues along the north side of Hammonton-Smartville Road, and terminates approximately 0.5-mile southwest along Hammonton-Smartville Road. For the purposes of this EA and unless otherwise specified, use of the term “YGLP” is used interchangeable with Modified Alternative 4, since this is the alternative TRLIA plans to implement.

The proposed levee alignment (**Attachment A, Figure 1**) of the YGLP crosses over land owned by Beale Air Force Base (AFB). Therefore, TRLIA is requesting an easement to allow construction equipment to cross and build a levee on a 0.2 acre area north of Hammonton-Smartville Road at the northwest corner of Beale AFB, hereafter referred to as the Subject Property. Approximately 0.1% of the proposed footprint of the project crosses over land owned by Beale AFB.

### 1.2 PURPOSE OF THE ACTION

The Yuba Goldfields Levee Project (YGLP) would provide improved 200-year flood protection to southern Yuba County and Beale AFB. The Purpose of the Proposed Action is to grant an easement to TRLIA on the Subject Property owned by Beale AFB located within the YGLP footprint.

### 1.3 NEED FOR THE ACTION

Currently the Yuba River south levee does not provide adequate 200-year floodplain protection to residents of southern Yuba County and Beale AFB. The Proposed Action is needed to allow TRLIA to construct and maintain the YGLP as previously analyzed in the CEQA documentation.

## 1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OVERVIEW

### 1.4.1 Environmental Impact Analysis Process

As the lead agency, the USAF developed this EA in combination and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500 – 1508), and USAF Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) (32 CFR Part 989). There is no Cooperating Agency for this EA. **Attachment B** contains the list of agencies consulted during this analysis and copies of correspondence.

### 1.4.2 California Environmental Quality Act

The CEQA is a California state law that requires state and local government agencies to inform decision makers and the public about the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects, and to reduce those environmental impacts to the extent feasible. The laws and rules governing the CEQA process are contained in the CEQA statute (Public Resources Code Section 21000 and following), and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 and following). The CEQA process requires detailed analysis of environmental resources as previously described and similar to those required under the EIAP associated with NEPA.

### 1.4.3 Interagency Coordination and Consultations

Per the requirements of Executive Order (EO) 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction that could be affected by the Proposed Action were notified during the development of this EA.

### 1.4.4 Government-to-Government Consultations

EO 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments* directs federal agencies to coordinate and consult with Native American Tribal governments whose interests might be directly and substantially affected by activities on federally administered lands. In accordance with the EO, Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4710.02, *Interactions with Federally-Recognized Tribes*, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 90-2002, *Air Force Interaction with Federally-Recognized Tribes* the USAF initiates consultation with Native American Tribal governments when a Proposed Action may have the potential to affect properties of cultural, historical, or religious significance. Federally recognized tribes historically affiliated with the Beale AFB geographic region were invited for consultation on the Proposed Action. Potentially affected tribes were notified on 17 July 2020. AF and Tribal correspondence letters and records of communication are provided in **Attachment B**.

### 1.4.5 Historic Preservation Consultations

Concurrence with the Area of Potential Effect (APE) definition pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(a)(1), efforts to identify historic properties is adequate pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(b), and finding of no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), was requested from the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on **17 July 2020**. Per the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the USAF determined that there would be no effect on historical properties as a result of the Proposed Action. The California SHPO responded on **30 July 2020** concurring with the USAF's finding of no historic properties affected. USAF and SHPO correspondence letters and records of communication are provided in **Attachment B**.

## 1.5 PUBLIC AND AGENCY REVIEW OF THE EA

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Environmental Assessment  
Purpose of and Need for Action**

***Yuba Goldfields Levee Easement EA  
Beale AFB, California***

A Public Notice (PN) of the Draft EA was published in the Appeal-Democrat & Tri-County Newspapers announcing the availability of the EA for review on **4 August 2020 Attachment B**. The PN invites the public to review and comment on the Draft EA. In accordance with 32 CFR 989.15(e)(1), the time period for public comment reflects the small magnitude of the proposed action and its limited potential for controversy. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI were made available for a public comment period ending 10 Aug 2020 to solicit the input of the public, agencies, and other interested parties. Any public and agency comments received will be provided in the Final EA as part of **Attachment B**.

The USAF understands the potential impact of the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the usual methods of access to information and ability to communicate, such as the mass closure of local public libraries and challenges with the sufficiency of an increasingly overburdened internet.

Copies of the Draft EA and FONSI are made available for review on the Beale AFB website located at: <https://www.Beale.af.mil>.

## **2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

### **2.1 PROPOSED ACTION**

The Proposed Action is to grant an easement on 0.2 acres of Beale AFB property to allow TRLIA access to construct and maintain 0.1% of their levee (**Attachment A, Figure 2**) in support of the YGLP.

### **2.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

The No Action Alternative serves as the baseline against which the Proposed Action can be evaluated to identify impacts to the natural and built environments. Under the No Action Alternative, an easement would not be granted to TRLIA to provide access to 0.2 acres of land owned by Beale AFB. TRLIA would not have some of the access they need across USAF property for the YGLP.

**3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Beale AFB is a 23,185 acre military installation located in Yuba County, California, approximately 40 miles north of Sacramento, 8 miles east of Marysville, and 15 miles west of Grass Valley (**Attachment A, Figure 1**). The Subject Property consists of approximately 0.2 acres, and is located in the far northwestern corner of Section 18, T15N; R5E separated from the main property of Beale AFB, by Hammonton-Smartville Road. The Subject Property currently consists of a dirt road, a ditch that runs along Hammonton-Smartville Road, and a small portion of the adjacent rice field (**Attachment A, Figure 2**). TRLIA’s construction contractors have previously disturbed the Subject Property.

The Region of Influence (ROI) for the Proposed Action is the 0.2 acre proposed easement of Subject Property on Beale AFB, unless otherwise specified below for a particular resource area where a resource would have a different ROI.

**3.1 SCOPE OF THE ANALYSIS**

The scope of the analysis in this EA is to conduct EIAP for the Subject Property owned by Beale AFB. This EA incorporates, by reference and to scale, environmental analysis applicable to the 0.2 acre parcel included in the previously conducted 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR. Analysis presented in this EA considers the much smaller size of the Subject Property parcel by comparison to the total YGLP footprint and quantifies the potential impacts within this smaller scope, as applicable.

Per significance determinations made in the CEQA analysis (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018) and taking into account the scope of the Proposed Action, regardless of the alternative selected, the following resources would not be affected and are not carried forward for further analysis in this EA:

**Table 1: Resource Areas Eliminated from Detailed Analysis**

<b>Airspace</b>	The Proposed Action of granting an easement would not affect Beale AFB airfield operations or airspace.
<b>Socioeconomics</b>	Socioeconomics is characterized by a combination of social and economic indicators in a region, including demographics, employment, economic activity, and community resources. Implementing the Proposed Action of granting an easement would not affect any of these indicators and therefore result in no impact to socioeconomic resources.
<b>Land use</b>	Current land use on the Subject Property is a gravel road and agricultural fields. The Proposed Action would not change the overall rural or agricultural character of the area and would not affect land use on or adjacent to the Subject Property.
<b>Infrastructure/Utilities/Transportation:</b>	The Proposed Action would not involve utilization or disruption of utility services, infrastructure, or transportation.
<b>Environmental Justice:</b>	In accordance with EO12898, <i>Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income</i> , the Proposed

	Action was analyzed for the potential to result in disproportionate impacts to low income or minority populations. Implementation of the Proposed Action to grant an easement of the Subject Property would not result in adverse impacts to environmental resources that would affect human populations, including low income, minority populations. Therefore, there is no potential for environmental justice impacts to occur as a result of the Proposed Action.
<b>Safety and Occupational Health</b>	The Proposed Action would have no potential to result in adverse impacts to Safety and Occupational Health.

The following seven (7) resource areas are carried forward for detailed analysis, and the previous CEQA analysis conducted by TRLIA is incorporated by reference in this EA:

- Noise
- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Hazardous Materials/Waste
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Earth Resources

**3.2 NOISE**

The 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR include a definition of noise, description of noise analysis methodology, full noise analysis, and applicable noise mitigations associated with all aspects of the YGLP (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

**3.2.1 Affected Environment**

As discussed in the 2015 EIR ambient noise levels at sites in the project vicinity were measured (TRLIA, 2015). Due to similar rural and agricultural land uses near the Subject Property (**Attachment A, Figures 1 & 2**), baseline ambient noise conditions near the proposed easement would be similar to those sites measured in the 2015 EIR.

**3.2.2 Environmental Consequences**

The 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR determined temporary, potentially significant and unavoidable noise impacts to residential areas would result from construction truck haul and commuter trips to the YGLP site. These impacts would potentially occur even with implementation of mitigations identified in Table ES-1 of the 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018); however, noise impacts associated with the YGLP would occur regardless of whether the proposed easement of the Subject Property were granted.

**3.2.3 Proposed Action**

Granting of the proposed easement of the Subject Property would not contribute to the generation of any additional noise. Therefore, no potential exists for noise impacts to occur as an environmental consequence of the Proposed Action.

### 3.3 AIR QUALITY

The 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR include a definition of air quality, description of analysis methodology, full air quality analysis, and applicable air quality mitigations pertaining to all aspects of the YGLP (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

#### 3.3.1 Affected Environment

The 2015 EIR includes a definition of the ROI for air quality and an overview of the environmental setting including criteria air pollutants, emission sources, and air quality standards and attainment statuses applicable to the ROI. The 2015 EIR discusses all federal, state, regional, and local plans, programs, policies, regulations, and ordinances associated with air quality conditions and standards in the ROI (TRLIA, 2015). The Subject Property for the Proposed Action falls within the ROI analyzed in the CEQA analysis.

#### 3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

An analysis of potential air quality impacts and mitigations, as applicable, for the YGLP was included in Table ES-1 of the 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018). Although emissions of some pollutants would exceed regional thresholds per the local air quality authority (TRLIA, 2015), these impacts would occur whether the proposed easement is granted and are therefore not an environmental consequence of the Proposed Action.

#### 3.3.3 Proposed Action

Implementation of the Proposed Action would not have the potential to generate additional emissions and therefore would have no potential to result in adverse impacts on air quality.

### 3.4 WATER RESOURCES

As discussed in the EIR, the Clean Water Act establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States, and water quality objectives for surface waters. The description of potential water resources are described in the 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

#### 3.4.1 Affected Environment

The entirety of the Subject Property is classified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as within flood Zone X and is considered an area of minimal flood hazard (unshaded) (FEMA 2020a, 2020b) (**Attachment A, Figure 4**).

There are two ephemeral bodies of surface water present on the Subject Property, a ditch and a portion of a neighboring rice field. The ditch runs through the Subject Property parallel to Hammonton-Smartville Road, and it fills sporadically during the fall and winter months when there is sufficient runoff. The portion of the adjacent rice field present on the Subject Property is filled with approximately 5 inches of water for the majority of the year, but is drained for harvest in the fall. South of the Subject Property, a canal runs between Hammonton-Smartville Road and the Beale AFB perimeter fence.

#### 3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

Potential significant impacts considered for the YGLP footprint in regards to water resources are referenced in the 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR. (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

With the mitigation measures that would be implemented for the YGLP, the proposed action would have no significant impact to water resources (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018). TRLIA and construction contractors would be responsible for adhering to the mitigation measures for water quality associated with construction practices when utilizing the proposed easement (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

### 3.4.3 Proposed Action:

Granting of the Proposed Easement would not generate additional water quality impacts to what was analyzed in the CEQA documentation.

## 3.5 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS / WASTE

The 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR include a definition of hazardous materials and waste, description of analysis methodology, full analysis, and applicable mitigations pertaining to all aspects of the YGLP (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

### 3.5.1 Affected Environment

The CEQA analysis includes a description of the affected environment for hazardous materials and waste in the entirety of the YGLP vicinity (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018). An Environmental Baseline Study (EBS) of the Subject Property was conducted by the USAF which identifies any potential hazardous waste/materials concerns and Environmental Restoration Program sites and statuses. The EBS identified no historic evidence of and no existing designated areas for the storage of hazardous substances, including no presence nor evidence of above or underground storage tanks (USAF, 2020).

No active Munitions Response Sites (MRSs) are present on the Subject Property or within the 1 mile radius. However, several closed MRSs are within the designated 1 mile radius. These include the sites identified as ML625a, TA602a, and TA602 (**Attachment A, Figure 3**). These MRSs were closed based on the October 2016 Remedial Investigation with regulatory agency concurrence (USAF, 2020).

### 3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

An analysis of potential impacts to hazardous materials/waste that would result from the YGLP, including mitigation measures to be implemented by TRLIA, if required, was included in Table ES-1 of the 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR with a determination of less-than-significant impacts. (TRLIA, 2015 & TRLIA 2018).

### 3.5.3 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is not expected to affect any of the closed MRSs identified in the EBS and would not contribute to any additional impacts to hazardous materials/waste.

## 3.6 BIOLOGICAL

The 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR include a definition of biological resources, description of biological analysis methodology, full biological analysis, and applicable biological mitigations associated with all aspects of the YGLP (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

### 3.6.1 Affected Environment

A description of the existing environmental conditions, the methods used for assessment, the impacts of implementing the proposed alternative, and the mitigation measures proposed to reduce potentially significant impacts of the YGLP to a less-than-significant level is incorporated by reference in this EA

(TRLIA, 2015 & 2018). The three laws that are applicable to the analysis of biological resources are the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940, and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

### 3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

Based on the analysis (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018), the YGLP project would potentially result in significant impacts to sensitive biological resources. Tables ES-1 of the EIR and SEIR are incorporated by reference in this EA, and provides a summary of the potential impacts to sensitive biological resources and the mitigation measures (if required) to be implemented by TRLIA related to the YGLP to reduce the impacts to less than significant (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

### 3.6.3 Proposed Action

The ROI for this EA only considers the 0.2 acre proposed easement. Granting an easement of the Subject Property to TRLIA would not contribute to additional impacts to Biological Resources. Therefore, impacts to Biological Resources as a result of the Proposed Action would be less-than significant.

## 3.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The 2015 EIR and 2018 SEIR include a definition of cultural resources, description of cultural resources analysis methodology, full cultural resources analysis, and applicable cultural resources mitigations associated with all aspects of the YGLP (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

### 3.7.1 Affected Environment

Cultural resources include archaeological sites, historic structures, sacred sites, and Traditional Cultural Properties, which are important to a community's practices and beliefs and are necessary to maintain a community's cultural identity. A description of the existing environmental conditions, the methods used for assessment, the impacts of implementing the YGLP, and the mitigation measures proposed to reduce potentially significant impacts of the YGLP to a less-than-significant level are incorporated by reference in this EA (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

### 3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

Based on the CEQA analysis, the YGLP would be constructed south of the Goldfields, and there are no known cultural resources in this area (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018). Therefore, there would be no effect on known National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible properties for the 0.2 acre proposed easement on Beale AFB. TRLIA would implement applicable mitigation measures presented in Tables ES-1 of the EIR and SEIR, to ensure to the maximum extent possible no NRHP sites would be adversely effected as a result of the YGLP.

### 3.7.3 Proposed Action

Granting of the proposed easement would not result in the potential for additional adverse impacts to cultural resources so it is anticipated there would be no impact to cultural resources as a result of the Proposed Action. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) was initiated on 17 July 2020. Based on TRLIA analysis from EIR and the USAF cultural site survey conducted on 16 Jul 2020, the USAF determined that there are no historic properties present on the Subject Property. Thus, based on the best available information, the USAF made a determination that granting the easement would have no effect on historic properties. The USAF supplied this determination and the results of the survey to the SHPO on 17 July 2020. The California SHPO responded on 30 July 2020 concurring with

the USAF's finding of no historic properties affected. USAF and SHPO correspondence are provided in **Attachment B**.

Tribal consultations were initiated by letter on **18 July 2020**. Based on TRLIA's analysis and consultations and the USAF cultural site survey conducted on **16 July 2020**, the USAF does not believe the Subject Property contains any Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs). The USAF have reached out to the tribes by letter, email, and phone calls to give the tribes an opportunity to consult. Based on the best available information, the USAF does not anticipate there will be any impacts to TCPs. The USAF will continue to be open to Tribal consultations. USAF and Tribal correspondence letters, e-mails and records of communication are provided in **Attachment B**.

### **3.8 EARTH RESOURCES**

Geological resources consist of the Earth's surface and subsurface materials. Within a given physiographic province, these resources typically are described in terms of geology, topography and physiography, and soils (TRLIA, 2015).

#### **3.8.1 Affected Environment**

The earth resources that apply to the proposed action included in the previous CEQA analysis include geology, soils, minerals and paleontological resources (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

#### **3.8.2 Environmental Consequences**

As previously analyzed by TRLIA and incorporated by reference in this EA, there would be no significant impacts associated with earth resources for the YGLP (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018).

#### **3.8.3 Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action to grant an easement of the Subject Property would present no additional potential impacts to earth resources. Less than 0.2 acres of land with characteristics considered for prime farmland would be included in the easement.

### **3.9 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

The cumulative effects associated with the YGLP would be less than significant (TRLIA, 2015 & 2018). Therefore, cumulative effects for the proposed action for the resources analyzed in this EA would be less than significant.

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Environmental Assessment  
Preparers**

**Yuba Goldfields Levee Easement EA List of  
Beale AFB, CA**

**4.0 LIST OF PREPARERS**

This EA has been prepared under the direction of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, USAF, Air Combat Command, and Beale AFB.

*The individuals that contributed to the preparation of this EA are listed below.*

**Table 2. List of Preparers**

<b>Name/Organization</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Years of Experience</b>
David Martin	BA Anthropology, University of Texas at San Antonio, TX MS Geography, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX	Cultural, Biological, Earth, and Water	15
Helen Kellogg	BS Geography- Urban and Regional Planning, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX	Airspace, Land Use, Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, Noise, Air Quality, Safety and Occupational Health, Hazardous Materials and Waste	6

## 5.0 REFERENCES

FEMA 2020a. *FEMA Flood Map Service Center*.

<<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>>

Accessed: 30 June 2020.

FEMA 2020b. *Definitions of FEMA Flood Zone Designations*. FEMA Map Service Center, P.O. Box 3617 Oakton, Virginia. Accessed: 30 June 2020.

TRLIA, 2015. Environmental Impact Report for YUBA Goldfields 200-Year Flood Protection Project, March 2015.

TRLIA, 2018. Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for YUBA Goldfields 200-Year Floodplain Protection Project, September 2018.

USAF, 2020. Beale Air Force Base. Phase I Environmental Baseline Survey for TRLIA Request for Easement and Construction on USAF Property.

USAF, 2020. Beale AFB 2020b. *9th Reconnaissance Wing Beale AFB, CA, Base GIS data*. May 2020.

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**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Environmental Assessment  
Appendices**

***Yuba Goldfields Levee Easement EA***  
**Beale AFB, CA**

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**ATTACHMENT A**

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**FIGURES**

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Environmental Assessment  
Appendices

Yuba Goldfields Levee Easement EA  
Beale AFB, CA

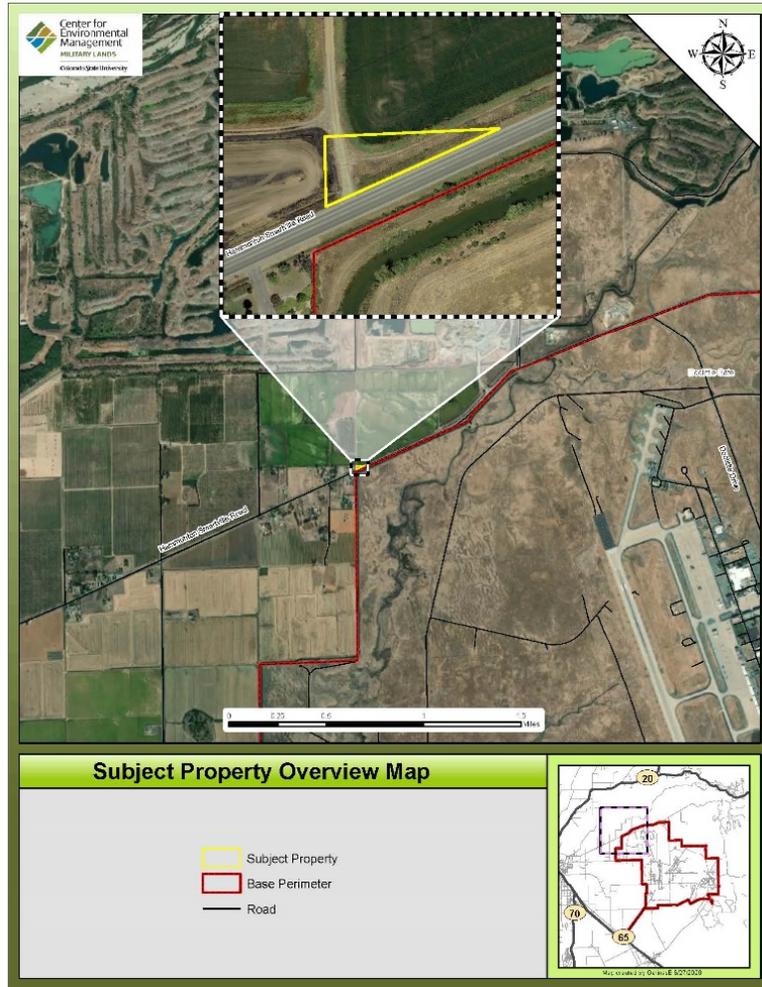


Figure 1: Subject Property Overview Map, Source: USAF, 2020



Figure 2: Subject Property Aerial Map Source: USAF, 2020

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

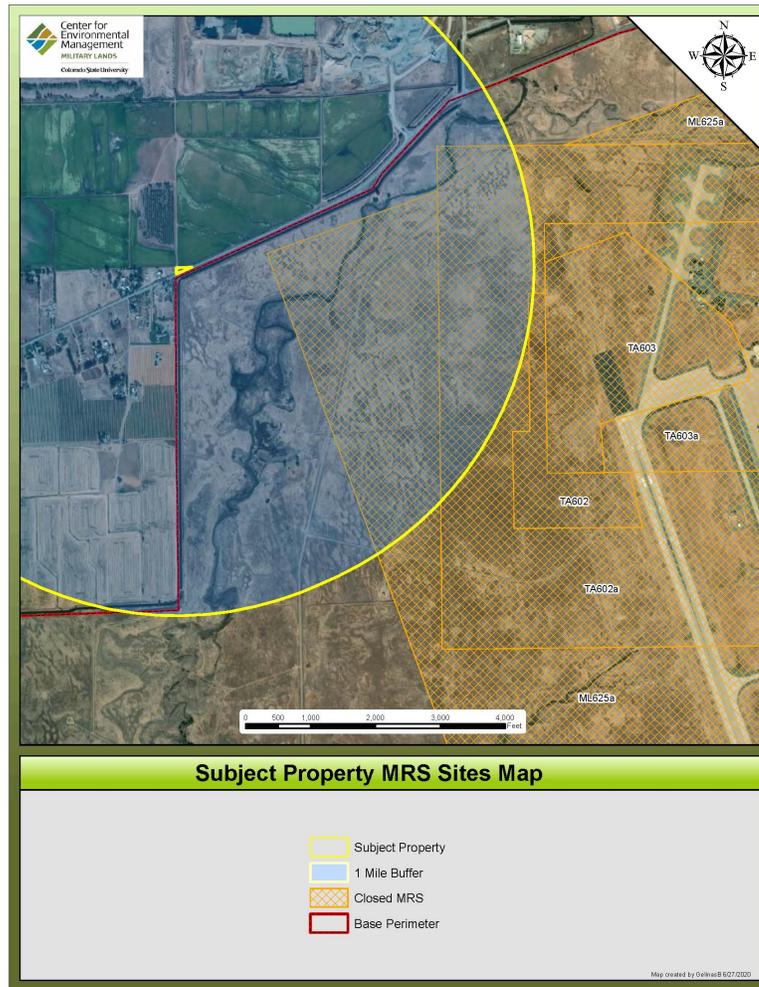


Figure 3. The Subject Property, MRS Sites Map.

Source: USAF, 2020

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Environmental Assessment  
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Yuba Goldfields Levee Easement EA  
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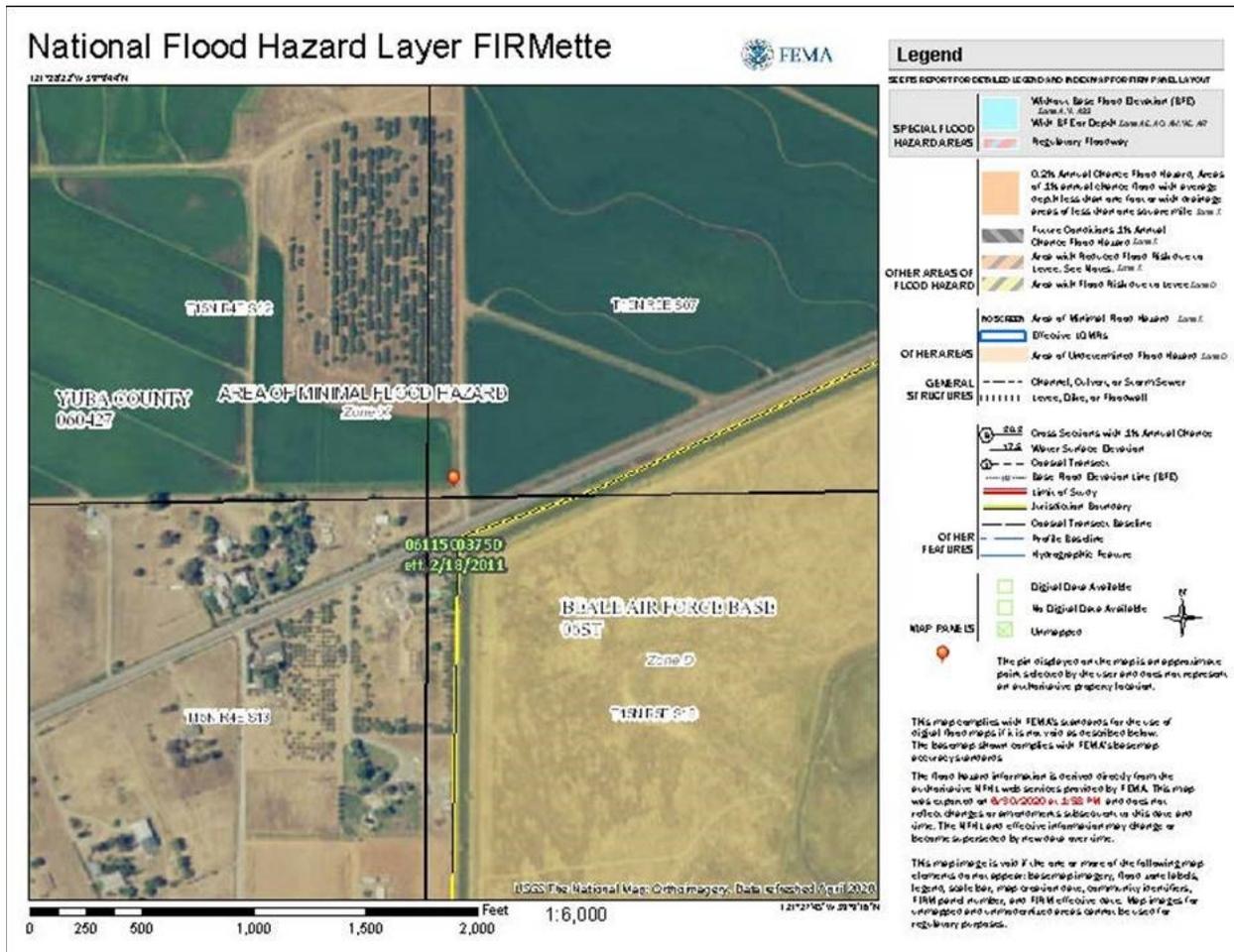


Figure 4. Subject Property, FEMA Flood Zones.

Source: FEMA 2020. FEMA Flood Map Service Center. Accessed: 30 June 2020.

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Environmental Assessment  
Appendices**

***Yuba Goldfields Levee Easement EA***  
**Beale AFB, CA**

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**ATTACHMENT B**

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*PUBLIC AND AGENCY COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION*

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Environmental Assessment  
Appendices**

***Yuba Goldfields Levee Easement EA***  
**Beale AFB, CA**

**PRIVACY ADVISORY NOTICE**

Public comments on this Draft EA are requested pursuant to NEPA, 42 United States Code 4321, et seq. All written comments received during the comment period will be made available to the public and considered during the final EA preparation. Providing private address information with your comment is voluntary and such personal information will be kept confidential unless release is required by law. However, address information will be used to compile the project mailing list and failure to provide it will result in your name not being included on the mailing list.