`APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): February 5, 2018
- B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Sacramento District, North Bullfrog Project, SPK-2012-00932-SG Name of water being evaluated on this JD form: Ephemeral Drainages 1,2,3,4 and 5 associated with the Upper Amargosa River Watershed.
- C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State: Nevada County/parish/borough: Nye County

City: Beatty Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 37.0244°, Long. -116.8102° Universal Transverse Mercator: 11 516883.67 4097596.92

Name of nearest waterbody: Amargosa River

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: None

Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): Upper Amargosa, 18090202

- Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.
- Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc...) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form: SPK-2012-00932 Sarcobatus Flat Drainages

D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: December 13, 2017 Field Determination. Date(s):

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION. Α.

There are no "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [Required]

Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.

Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. Explain:

B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There are no "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]

1. Waters of the U.S.

a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply): 1

- TNWs, including territorial seas
- Wetlands adjacent to TNWs
- Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Impoundments of jurisdictional waters
- Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands
- b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area: Non-wetland waters: linear feet, wide, and/or acres.
 - Wetlands: acres.
- c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: Pick List Elevation of established OHWM (if known):
- 2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³

Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional. Explain: The primary drainage in the Amargosa watershed is the Amargosa River which flows in a north to south direction. While the Amargosa River is not a TNW, nor is it connected to a TNW, it is an interstate water flowing from

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

the high desert region of the Amargosa Desert in Nevada, through the Amargosa Valley and across the Nevada-California Border into Death Valley. The drainages associated with this JD were evaluated for a connection to the Amargosa River. Based on a study by Stonestrom and others (2003), the Amargosa River had flowed from its headwaters near the Nevada Test Site to its end in Death Valley only twice since 1995 (an 8 year period). The Amargosa is an ephemeral stream except for perennial and intermittent flow around the town of Beatty and through the Ash Meadows Wild Life Refuge attributable to springs, such as the Carson Slough. The project area is located within the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada mountain range and is one of the most arid regions in the United States. The evaporation and transpiration rate in the area is significant and most water infiltrates before traveling very far.

The drainages found within the project area are all ephemeral drainages, which begin in the Bullfrog Hills and drain almost due east, potentially, into the Upper Amargosa River. The drainages which are the subject of this AJD are Features 1, 2, 3, 4-T1, 4-T2, 5-T1 and 5-T2.

Drainage features 1 and 3: these two drainage features do not exhibit ordinary high water mark (OHWM) features within the project area. Drainage features 1 and 3 are upland swales and do not meet the characteristics/indicators of an aquatic resource within the project area.

Drainage feature 2: does exhibit an OHWM and connection to the Amargosa, but this begins outside of the project area. Within the project area drainage feature 2 has no OHWM. Drainage feature 2 is an upland swale and does not meet the characteristics/indicators of an aquatic resource within the project area.

Drainage feature 4-T1: This drainage does exhibit an OHWM for 9,852 feet in the eastern portion of the project area and is assessed for CWA jurisdiction on a separate form. While 4-T1 is significantly longer than 9,852 within the project area, upstream of where an OHWM is exhibited (37.0037, -116.7735) this drainage feature is an upland swale and does not meet the characteristics/indicators of an aquatic resource.

Drainage feature 4-T2: This drainage feature does exhibit an OHWM inside the project area for approximately 24,964 linear feet. However, a portion of this tributary has been modified and filled from past quarry and other mining activities in the area identified as "disturbance area" on the delineation map. The distance of the disturbance area is approximately 2,150 feet. The quarry activity has severed all connections of the upstream section of 4-T2 (4-T2-up), which measures approximately 20,413 feet. Flows from 4-T2-up do not make it past the disturbance area. The section of 4-T2 downstream of the quarry area (4-T2-down) measures approximately 4,564 linear feet prior to its confluence with 4-T1 and has a surface hydrologic connection to the Amargosa River. Drainage feature 4-T2-up is an isolated drainage feature.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1. TNW

Identify TNW:

Summarize rationale supporting determination:

2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent":

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are "relatively permanent waters" (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a

significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

- 1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW
 - (i) General Area Conditions:

Watershed size:	Pick List
Drainage area:	Pick List
Average annual rainfa	all: inches
Average annual snow	/fall: inches

- (ii) Physical Characteristics:
 - (a) Relationship with TNW: Tributary flows directly into TNW. Tributary flows through **Pick List** tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** river miles from TNW. Project waters are **Pick List** river miles from RPW. Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from RPW. Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain:

Identify flow route to TNW⁵: Tributary stream order, if known:

(b) General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply): Natural

Tributary is:

Artificial (man-made). Explain: Manipulated (man-altered). Explain:

Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate): Average width: feet Average depth: feet

Average side slopes: Pick List.

Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply):

☐ Silts	☐ Sands	
Cobbles	Gravel	
Bedrock	Vegetation.	Type/% cover:
Other, Explain:		

Concrete Muck

Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: Tributary geometry: Pick List Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): %

(c) Flow: Tributary provides for: Pick List Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: Pick List Describe flow regime: Other information on duration and volume:

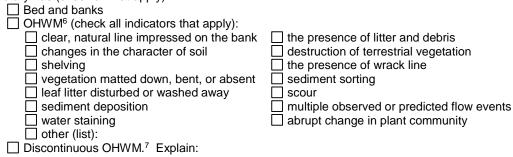
Surface flow is: Pick List. Characteristics:

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

Subsurface flow: Pick List. Explain findings: Dye (or other) test performed:

Tributary has (check all that apply):



If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply):

High Tide Line indicated by:	Mean High Water Mark indicated by:
oil or scum line along shore objects	survey to available datum;
fine shell or debris deposits (foreshore)	physical markings;
physical markings/characteristics	vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types.
tidal gauges	
other (list):	

(iii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.). Explain:

Identify specific pollutants, if known:

(iv) Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):

- Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width):
- Wetland fringe. Characteristics:

Habitat for:

- Federally Listed species. Explain findings:
- Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings:
- Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:
- Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:

Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW 2.

Physical Characteristics: (i)

(a) General Wetland Characteristics:

Properties: Wetland size: acres Wetland type. Explain: Wetland quality. Explain: Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain:

(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW: Flow is: Pick List. Explain: Surface flow is: Pick List Characteristics:

Subsurface flow: Pick List. Explain findings: Dye (or other) test performed:

(c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW: Directly abutting □ Not directly abutting

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break. 7lbid.

- Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain:
- Ecological connection. Explain:
- Separated by berm/barrier. Explain:
- (d) <u>Proximity (Relationship) to TNW</u> Project wetlands are **Pick List** river miles from TNW. Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Flow is from: **Pick List**. Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the **Pick List** floodplain.
- (ii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain:

Identify specific pollutants, if known:

(iii) Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):

- Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width):
- Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain:
- Habitat for:
 - Federally Listed species. Explain findings:
 - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings:
 - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:
 - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:

3. Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: **Pick List** Approximately acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

Directly abutas: (1/1) = Oize (in acres) = Directly abutas: (1/1) = Oize (in acres)	Directly abuts? (Y/N)	Size (in acres)	Directly abuts? (Y/N)	Size (in acres)
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Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

 Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D:

- 2. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
- 3. Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands. Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area:

 TNWs:
 linear feet,
 wide, Or
 acres.

 Wetlands adjacent to TNWs:
- 2. RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.
 - Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial:
 - Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally:

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

☐ Tributary waters: linear feet wide. ☐ Other non-wetland waters: acres.

Identify type(s) of waters:

3. Non-RPWs⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: linear feet, wide.
- Other non-wetland waters: acres.

Identify type(s) of waters:

4. Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

U Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands.

Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:

□ Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

5. Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisidictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

6. Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

7. Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.⁹

⁸See Footnote # 3.

⁹ To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional.

Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or

Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or

Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).

E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):10

which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes.

I from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce.

which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.

Interstate isolated waters. Explain:

Other factors. Explain:

Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination:

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

Tributary waters: linear feet, wide.

acres.

Other non-wetland waters: acres.

Identify type(s) of waters:

Wetlands:

F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements.

Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.

Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR).

Uwaters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain:

Other: (explain, if not covered above):

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply):

Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, wide.

Lakes/ponds: acres.

Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource:

Wetlands: acres

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):

Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, wide. acres.

Lakes/ponds:

Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource:

Wetlands: acres.

SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.

- SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):
 - \boxtimes Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant:
 - Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant. \boxtimes

Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.

Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.

Data sheets prepared by the Corps:

Corps navigable waters' study:

U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:

USGS NHD data.

USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.

¹⁰ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

- U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: 1:24K; NV-BEATTY
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:
- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name:
- State/Local wetland inventory map(s):
- FEMA/FIRM maps:

- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date):
 - or 🗌 Other (Name & Date):
 - Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter:
 - Applicable/supporting case law:
- Applicable/supporting scientific literature: Stonestrom, D.A., Prudic, D.E., Laczniak, R.J., Akstin, K.C., Boyd, R.A., And Henkelman, K.K., 2003, Estimates of deep percolation beneath irrigated fields, native vegetation, and the Amargosa River channel, Amargosa Desert, Nye County, Nevada: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 03– 104, 83 p. Lee, M.P., N.M. Coleman, T.J. Nicholson - 2005, History of Water Development in the Amargosa Desert Area: A literature review. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- Other information (please specify):

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD: Drainage features 4, 4 T-1, 4 T-2, 5 T-1 and 5 T-2 are evaluated as potential tributaries to an interstate water in a separate Memorandum for Record.

Drainage features 4, 4-T1, 4-T2-down, 5-T1 and 5-T2: These drainage features will be evaluate as possible jurisdictional tributaries to an interstate water in a separate Memorandum for Record (MFR) in those locations where they exhibit an OHWM and bed and bank features in the project area and have a surface hydrologic connection to the Amargoa River.

Feature ID	Туре	Jurisdictional?	Length (feet)	Typical Width (feet)	Acreage	Notes
1	Ephemeral, low-flow, distributary	No, Isolated	1,772	5	0.20	No OHWM inside project area.
2	Ephemeral, low-flow, tributary	No, Isolated	5,213	10	1.20	OHWM starts outside of Project Area.
3	Ephemeral, low-flow, distributary	No, Isolated	12,356	20	5.67	No OHWM inside project area.
4	Ephemeral, low-flow, tributary	Potentially, Evaluated in MFR	564	25	0.32	Average depth = 3.00 inches.
4 – T1	Ephemeral, low-flow, tributary	Potentially, Evaluated in MFR	9,852	8	1.81	Average depth = 4.00 inches.
4 – T2	Ephemeral, low-flow,	No, Isolated	North 20,413	20	9.37	Average depth = 2.00 inches. Termination of connection is 2,150 feet of filled channel near quarry.
4-12	tributary	Potentially, Evaluated in MFR	South 4,564	12	1.26	
5 – T1	Ephemeral, low-flow, tributary	Potentially, Evaluated in MFR	1,294	20	0.59	Average depth = 2.75 inches.
5 – T2	Ephemeral, low-flow, tributary	Potentially, Evaluated in MFR	1,052	20	0.48	
		Total Linear Feet	57,080	Total Acreage	20.9	
		Isolated waters	39,754		16.4	

Table 1: Summary of Drainage Features Evaluated within Project Area

APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): November 20, 2017
- B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Sacramento District, North Bullfrog Project, SPK-2012-00932-SG Name of water being evaluated on this JD form: Sarcobatus Flat Drainages 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 associated with Sarcobatus Flat Watershed.

C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State: Nevada County/parish/borough: Nye County

City: Beatty Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 37.0244°, Long. -116.81018° Universal Transverse Mercator: 11 516883.67 4097596.92

Name of nearest waterbody: Sarcobatus Flat

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: None

Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): Cactus-Sarcobatus Flats, 16060013

Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.

Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc...) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form: SPK-2012-00932 Amargosa River Drainages

D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: November 17, 2017

Field Determination. Date(s):

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION. Δ

There are no "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [Required]

Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.

Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. Explain:

B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There are no "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]

- 1. Waters of the U.S.
 - a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply): ¹
 - TNWs, including territorial seas
 - Wetlands adjacent to TNWs
 - Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - $\overline{\Box}$ Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - Impoundments of jurisdictional waters

Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands

- b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area: Non-wetland waters: linear feet, wide, and/or acres.
 - Wetlands: acres
- c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: Pick List Elevation of established OHWM (if known):
- 2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³
 - Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional. Explain: Phinney Canyon is part of the Cactus-Sarcobatus Flat watershed. The project area has a number of drainages that drain to the northwest from Phinney Canyon to Sarcobatus Flat. The watershed is entirely located in Nye County except for a few square miles in the southern edge of

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

Esmerelda County. The drainages begin in the Bullfrog Hills and drain northwesterly to the Sarcobatus Playa Lake. The Amargosa Range defines the western boundary of the watershed just inside the Nevada state line. Annual precipitation is low with high summer temperatures and high evaporation rates. The Sarcobatus Flat is a desert playa. There is one overlow channel at the north end of the valley entering Stonewall Flat, a distance of approximately 40 miles north of the project area. Stonewall Flat is also a desert playa. Both the basins of Sarcobaus Flat and Stonewall Flat are located entirely within the state of Nevada with no outlet to a TNW. There are no perennial streams within the watershed, but there are some indications that during storm events, water does run within some of the ephemeral drainages, inlcuding drainages from the project area identified as Drainages 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Channels 6-10, which do exhibit an Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), have limited or intermittent surface water flow during snow runoff or significant rainfall events and do not support recreation, fishery, commercial, or industrial uses. No interstate or foreign commerce connections were found that would be adversely affected as a result of degradation or destruction of these waters. Therefore, the Corps has determined that these waters are non-jurisdictional because they are intrastate, isolated, non-navigable waters with no interstate or foreign commerce connection.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1. TNW

Identify TNW:

Summarize rationale supporting determination:

2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent":

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are "relatively permanent waters" (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

- 1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW
 - (i) General Area Conditions: Watershed size: Pick List Drainage area: Pick List Average annual rainfall: inches

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

Average annual snowfall: inches

	Ave	
(ii)		/sical Characteristics: <u>Relationship with TNW:</u> Tributary flows directly into TNW. Tributary flows through Pick List tributaries before entering TNW.
		Project waters are Pick List river miles from TNW. Project waters are Pick List river miles from RPW. Project waters are Pick List aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Project waters are Pick List aerial (straight) miles from RPW. Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain:
		Identify flow route to TNW ⁵ : Tributary stream order, if known:
	(b)	General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply): Tributary is: INAtural Artificial (man-made). Explain: Manipulated (man-altered). Explain:
		Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate): Average width: feet Average depth: feet Average side slopes: Pick List .
		Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply): Silts Sands Concrete Cobbles Gravel Muck Bedrock Vegetation. Type/% cover: Other. Explain:
		Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: Tributary geometry: Pick List Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): %
	(c)	<u>Flow:</u> Tributary provides for: Pick List Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: Pick List Describe flow regime: Other information on duration and volume:
		Surface flow is: Pick List. Characteristics:
		Subsurface flow: Pick List . Explain findings: Dye (or other) test performed:
		Tributary has (check all that apply): Bed and banks OHWM ⁶ (check all indicators that apply): the presence of litter and debris clear, natural line impressed on the bank the presence of litter and debris changes in the character of soil destruction of terrestrial vegetation shelving the presence of wrack line vegetation matted down, bent, or absent sediment sorting leaf litter disturbed or washed away scour sediment deposition multiple observed or predicted flow events water staining abrupt change in plant community other (list): Discontinuous OHWM. ⁷ Explain:

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

- If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply):
 - High Tide Line indicated by:
 - oil or scum line along shore objects
 - fine shell or debris deposits (foreshore)
 - physical markings/characteristics
 - tidal gauges
 - other (list):

- Mean High Water Mark indicated by: survey to available datum;
 - physical markings;
 - vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types.
- (iii) Chemical Characteristics: Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, di
 - Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.). Explain:
 - Identify specific pollutants, if known:

(iv) Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):

- Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width):
- Wetland fringe. Characteristics:
- Habitat for:
 - Federally Listed species. Explain findings:
 - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings:
 - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:
 - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:

2. Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i) Physical Characteristics:

- (a) General Wetland Characteristics:
 - Properties:

Wetland size:

- Wetland type. Explain:
- Wetland quality. Explain:

Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain:

acres

(b) <u>General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW</u>: Flow is: **Pick List**. Explain:

Surface flow is: **Pick List** Characteristics:

- Subsurface flow: **Pick List**. Explain findings:
- (c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:
 - Directly abutting
 - Not directly abutting
 - Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain:
 - Ecological connection. Explain:
 - Separated by berm/barrier. Explain:

(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW

Project wetlands are **Pick List** river miles from TNW. Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Flow is from: **Pick List**. Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the **Pick List** floodplain.

(ii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: Identify specific pollutants, if known:

(iii) Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):

- Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width):
- □ Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain:

Habitat for:

Federally Listed species. Explain findings:
 Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings:

Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:

Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:

3. Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: **Pick List** Approximately acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

Directly abuts? (Y/N)

Size (in acres) Directly abuts? (Y/N)

Size (in acres)

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

- Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D:
- 2. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
- 3. Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands. Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area:

 TNWs:
 linear feet,
 wide, Or
 acres.

 Wetlands adjacent to TNWs:

RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 2.

Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial:

Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally:

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

Tributary waters: linear feet wide.

Other non-wetland waters: acres.

Identify type(s) of waters:

3. Non-RPWs⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply):

wide.

☐ Tributary waters: linear feet, ☐ Other non-wetland waters: acres.

Identify type(s) of waters:

Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 4

Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands.

- U Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:
- U Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

5. Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisidictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 6.

Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

7. Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.⁹

As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional.

- Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or
- Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or
- Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).

E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):10

which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes.

from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce.

which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.

⁸See Footnote # 3

⁹ To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

¹⁰ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

Interstate isolated waters. Explain:
 Other factors. Explain:

Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination:

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

Tributary waters: linear feet, wide.

Other non-wetland waters: acres.

Identify type(s) of waters:

Wetlands: acres.

F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

☐ If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements.

Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.

- Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR).
- U Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain:

Other: (explain, if not covered above):

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the <u>sole</u> potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply):

Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, wide.

Lakes/ponds: acres.

Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource:

Wetlands: acres.

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):

Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, wide.

Lakes/ponds: acres.

Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource:

Wetlands: acres.

SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.

- A. SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):
 - Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: Enviroscientists, Inc. 2012. North Bullfrog Project Waters of the U.S. Jurisdictional Determination Report.
 - Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.

Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.

- Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
- Data sheets prepared by the Corps:
- Corps navigable waters' study:
 - U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:
 - USGS NHD data.
 - USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
- U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: 1:24K; NV-SPRINGDALE
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:
- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name:
- State/Local wetland inventory map(s):
- FEMA/FIRM maps:
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date):
 - or 🛛 Other (Name & Date): Enviroscientists, Inc. 2012. North Bullfrog Project Waters of the U.S. Jurisdictional Determination Report.
 - Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter:
 - Applicable/supporting case law:
- Applicable/supporting scientific literature: Malmberg, G.T. and T.E.Eakin. 1962. Ground-Water appraisal of Sarcobatus Flat and Oasis Valley, Nye and Esmeralda Counties, Nevada. State of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- Other information (please specify):

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:

Feature ID	Туре	Jurisdictional?	Length (feet)	Typical Width (feet)	Acreage	Notes
6	Ephemeral, low-flow, distributary	No	10,609	5	1.22	No connection to a TNW, not an interstate water and no commercial activity.
7	Ephemeral, low-flow, distributary	No	2,611	5	0.30	No connection to a TNW, not an interstate water and no commercial activity.
8	Ephemeral, low-flow, distributary	No	14,813	20	6.80	No connection to a TNW, not an interstate water and no commercial activity.
9	Ephemeral, low-flow, distributary	No	11,862	10	2.72	No connection to a TNW, not an interstate water and no commercial activity.
10	Ephemeral, low-flow, distributary	No	10,365	20	4.76	No connection to a TNW, not an interstate water and no commercial activity.
		Total Linear Feet	50,260	Total Acreage	17.06	

Table 1: Summary of Features Evaluated within Project Area