



CITY OF GRASS VALLEY

Negative Declaration

Pursuant to Section 21000 et seq of the Public Resources Code and the City of Grass Valley Environmental Review Guidelines and Procedures, a Negative Declaration is hereby adopted for the following project:

1. Project Title and Number: Mill Street Project
2. Lead Agency Name and Address: City of Grass Valley
125 E. Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945
3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Tom Last, Community Development Director
toml@cityofgrassvalley.com
(530) 274-4711
4. Project Location and APN: Mill Street in Downtown Grass Valley
between Neal Street and West Main Street
5. Project Sponsor's Name & Address: City of Grass Valley
Community Development Department
125 E Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 274-4711
toml@cityofgrassvalley.com
6. General Plan Designation: C (Commercial)
7. Zoning: TC-H (Town Core – Historic Combing Zone)

8. Description of Project:

Since the Spring of 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City temporarily closed Mill Street from Neal Street to West Main Street to allow restaurants and retail businesses to expand their operations. In January 2021, City Council approved keeping Mill Street closed to continue to assist businesses and restaurants with expanding services under the ever-changing requirements of COVID-19. The Street remained open to delivery vehicles and for emergency vehicles.

The proposed Mill Street Project includes continuing the partial closure of Mill Street from Neal Street to West Main Street to create a more permanent and attractive pedestrian-only zone downtown. The partial closure will allow downtown businesses to maintain and enhance the expanded areas for outdoor dining. The closure would also allow for a more elaborate use of Mill Street for special events (i.e., city-sponsored annual holiday events, farmer's markets, etc.).

The Mill Street infrastructure improvements include removal of the existing asphalt street surface, replacement of the City's water main line, and the placement of permeable vehicular brick paving on the street. All improvements will take place between the existing sidewalk that runs down either side of Mill Street (replacement of the existing sidewalk is not included in the improvement plans). All lighting fixtures along Mill Street will be replaced with more decorative light poles and energy efficient (high efficacy) lights. Trenching will take place to provide irrigation in the street and to update/replace/add electrical to support any new lighting and outlets for speakers and/or event vendors' use. Modular planters are planned throughout and irrigation piping that complies with CA Title 23, Waters - Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance will be installed to support landscaping.

The physical development being proposed as part of this project includes installation of multiple outdoor seating areas to allow for the continued expansion of restaurant and retail services for downtown businesses on Mill Street. Seating areas include semi-permanent (movable/removable) enclosed patio dining areas and raised planters with built-in seating along the perimeter. Parklets are also being proposed along West Main Street (between Church Street and Richardson Street) to allow the Main Street businesses the opportunity to take advantage of expanding their services outdoors. West Main Street will remain open to vehicular traffic, but some sidewalks may bump out and/or include other buffering tactics and traffic calming components to ensure safe separation of pedestrians from flow of traffic.

To accommodate emergency vehicle access on Mill Street, a 15-foot fire lane will be maintained down the center of Mill Street for public safety vehicles (including fire ladder truck). The fire lane will also be utilized in the mornings (before 10:00 am) to allow for garbage service and deliveries to businesses located on the closed portion of Mill Street. Retractable/removable bollards will be installed at each end of Mill Street to prevent vehicular traffic during designated closure hours. Additionally, turn restriction signs will be posted to alert drivers traveling east/west along West Main Street and Neal Street where each intersects with Mill Street.

Since all the proposed improvements will take place within an existing street, the physical development being proposed as part of this project will not produce a significant environmental impact. The purpose of this analysis is to evaluate potential environmental impacts that could occur as a result of partially closing the above-described segment of Mill Street to vehicular traffic.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The Project is a partial street closure of an existing segment of Mill Street between Neal Street and West Main Street. Surrounding land uses include restaurants, retail stores, general service, and office uses.

10. Other Public Agencies whose approval is required: No other Agency approval is required.

Finding: Based on the attached Initial Study and the testimony received at a duly noticed public hearing, a Negative Declaration is granted, based on the judgement that:

X The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

_____ The significant effects of the project noted in the Initial Study attached have been mitigated by modifications in the project, or by imposition of required mitigation measures listed in the Initial Study, so that the potential adverse effects are reduced to a point where no significant affects would occur.

Tom Last
Community Development Director

Date

Prepared by Abigail Walker
Community Services Analyst II

Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ASSESSMENT

Items identified in each section of the environmental checklist below are discussed following that section. Required mitigation measures are identified (if applicable) where necessary to reduce a projected impact to a level that is determined to be less than significant. The General Plan Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse number 98082023) is herein incorporated by reference in accordance with Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines. Copies of this document and all other documents referenced herein are available for review at the City of Grass Valley Planning Division, 125 E Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| AESTHETICS <i>Except as provided in Public Resources Code 21099, would the project:</i> | | | | |
| a) Have a substantial effect upon a scenic vista? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: This project will not cause significant aesthetic impacts. No scenic vistas or state scenic highways are located within the project area; therefore, the project will not have a substantial effect on scenic vistas and will not damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway. The proposed improvements are expected to enhance the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. The project does not conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. Though new light fixtures will be installed, they will include energy efficient lighting that will also be directed towards the ground, so the new lighting will not create a new source of substantial light or glare that will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

The Mill Street project includes a variety of aesthetic improvements that will have a positive impact on the views in the area. The partial closure is designed to enhance the pedestrian-oriented environment and all the improvements being proposed will protect, complement and enhance the existing views of the historic building facades on Mill Street.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| AGRICULTURE & FOREST RESOURCES Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing agricultural zoning, agricultural use or with land subject to a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: There will be no agricultural or forest land impacts. The project area is a segment of paved street, there are no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, nor any existing agricultural zoning, agricultural use or land subject to a Williamson Act contract in the project area. The project will not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. There will be no changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| AIR QUALITY Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Expose sensitive receptors, which are located within one (1) mile of the project site, to substantial pollutant concentrations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Consistent with the Circulation Element of the City's General Plan, the project promotes walkability and non-vehicular modes of travel by partially closing a collector street to create a pedestrian-friendly area. The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant, will not expose sensitive receptors, which are located within one (1) mile of the project site, to substantial pollutant concentrations, and will not result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people. The air quality will improve on Mill Street because of this project as the element of idling vehicles will no longer exist; therefore, patrons and pedestrians will no longer be subject to vehicle exhaust fumes on Mill Street.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The project area is paved and fully developed; therefore, this project will not cause any substantial adverse effects on any of the following: a) any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), b) riparian habitat or any other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS, or c) state or federally protected wetlands. Furthermore, the Mill Street Project will not interfere or conflict with: d) the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites, e) any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, or f) with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
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|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|

CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: There will be no impact to cultural resources. The entire Mill Street Project area consists of previously disturbed areas that include underground utilities. Additional minor trenching will take place, but any area involved will include preexisting water, sewer and/or storm drain infrastructure; so the City does not anticipate the project to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5 or of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5, and the project will not disturb any human remains.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

ENERGY Would the project:

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with or obstruct a State or Local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a substantial increase in demand upon energy resources in relation to projected supplies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street project will not result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation. The project will not conflict with or obstruct a State or Local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. All light fixtures on Mill Street and West Main Street will be replaced with more energy efficient LED lighting, so the project will result in a decrease in demand upon energy resources.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project directly or indirectly:

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | | | | |
| i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iv) Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project will consist of removing the existing asphalt street surface, trenching to replace existing water main line, and replacing/adding additional utilities in previously disturbed soil; then, backfilling and refinishing surface with permeable vehicular brick pavers. All grading improvements for the Mill Street Project will comply with the City's current Development and Engineering Improvement Standards. The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: i) rupture of a known earthquake fault, ii) strong seismic ground shaking, iii) seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, or iv) landslides. The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The project is not located on c) a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse, or d) on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) and will not create a substantial direct or indirect risk to life or property. All properties within the project area are connected to the City's existing sewer system so there will be no negative or increased impact on the disposal of wastewater. The project will not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS Would the project: | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The project is designed to encourage walkability and will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Partially closing Mill Street to vehicular traffic aligns with CARB's mission and California's AB 32 goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the City's General Plan Circulation Policy 27-CP to *provide pedestrian friendly and walkable streets*. Furthermore, there are parallel streets to access or to travel through the area, so additional emissions are not expected. The addition of landscaping and trees will help reduce urban heat and improve local air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project:

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter (1/4) mile of an existing or proposed school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project will not include the handling of hazardous materials and, therefore, will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through a) the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or b) through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Implementation of the project will not interfere with any of the City's adopted emergency response plans, or any emergency evacuation plans. The project will not emit hazardous emissions or include the handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter (1/4) mile of an existing or proposed school. Mill Street is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project:

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on-site or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-site or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| g) Impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk the release of pollutants due to project inundation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: Mill Street is already designed to accommodate storm water runoff via existing storm drain system, but the proposed Mill Street project will enhance the City's storm water management on Mill Street via the installation of various improvements including replacement of the existing impervious street surface with permeable pavers (water will be diverted to perforated pipe located at the low end of the roadway), roof water discharge that was previously sheeting across the sidewalk into storm drains will be rerouted to trench drains and previously mentioned perforated pipe. Overall, the project is expected to improve the storm water and drainage system.

The Mill Street Project will not: a) violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality, b) substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, c) substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area - the project will not alter the course of a stream or river and no impervious surface is being added to the area, d) will not result in substantial erosion or siltation on-site or off-site or e) result in substantial increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which will result in flooding on-site or off-site, f) will not create or contribute runoff water that will exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, g) will not impede or redirect flood flows, h) the project is not in a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, and therefore will not risk the release of pollutants due to project inundation, i) the project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any City water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| LAND USE/PLANNING Would the project: | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project is consistent with the City's General Plan policies. Specifically, the project promotes the City's circulation goals and objectives for downtown which include *Development of a viable pedestrian and bicycle transportation network (sidewalks paths, lanes and trails) providing alternatives to motorized vehicular transportation*. The proposed improvements will not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project will not disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community).

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project: | | | | |
| 2. Mineral Resources | | | | |
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the residents of the State? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project site involves work within an existing street. The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the residents of the State or in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| NOISE Would the project result in: | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project will generate a temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project area during construction. The City's noise ordinance (Municipal Code, Section 8.28.100) states *It is unlawful within a residential zone, or within a radius of five hundred feet of a residential zone, to operate equipment or perform outside construction or repair work on a building, structure, or project or to operate a piledriver, steam shovel, pneumatic hammer, derrick, steam or electric hoist, or construction type device between the hours of seven p.m. of one day and seven a.m. of the next day or on a Sunday or legal holiday in such a manner that a reasonable person of normal sensitivity residing in the area is caused discomfort or annoyance unless prior permission has been granted by the building official in the interest of public convenience or necessity.*

Out of necessity and the economic interest of the businesses on Mill Street, the City plans to conduct all construction between 10pm and 10am to avoid disrupting their daily operations. While noise levels may end up being in excess of standards established in the City's general plan or noise ordinance, the City will implement measures to avoid causing *discomfort or annoyance* to any *reasonable person of normal sensitivity*, including notifying any residential property owners within the five-hundred-foot radius of any potential noise disruption. The Mill Street Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, an airport land use plan, or within two miles of a public airport.

Mitigation: The project area is not within five hundred feet of a residential zone and the City will mitigate any potential noise complaints accordingly (the Engineering Department anticipates any noise complaints will stem from the backup beeping of construction equipment, and that can be mitigated by silencing the backup alarm and requiring a flagger).

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: There will be no population or housing impacts. The Mill Street improvements will not induce substantial unplanned population growth - no new homes or businesses are being proposed with the project. The project will not displace existing people or housing that would necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

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| PUBLIC SERVICES Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services: | | | | |
| 1) Fire Services | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) Police Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3) Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4) Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5) Other Public Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: There will be no public service impacts as a result of the Mill Street Project. Public safety and emergency vehicles will maintain full access to the closed street segment of Mill Street. Removable bollards will be installed at each of the end intersections of the closed portion of Mill Street (Mill and Neal Street and Mill and West Main Street). Additionally, a 15-foot fire lane will be maintained, clear of impediments, in the center of the closed segment of Mill Street. All movable planters, seating areas, etc. will be placed outside of the 15-foot fire lane to always allow ladder truck access. The project will not affect service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for Fire Services, Police Protection, Schools, Parks, or any Other Public Facilities.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

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| RECREATION Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities; therefore, there will be no substantial physical deterioration of a recreational facility.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| TRANSPORTATION Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. The project promotes goals for a walkable, pedestrian friendly downtown. The 2020 General Plan Circulation Policy 27-CP prioritizes *providing pedestrian friendly and walkable streets; protect the historical character of the Downtown*. Furthermore, *LOS E is an acceptable LOS for the following intersections: 1) Mill & Neal; 2) West Main & Mill. LOS "E" consists of very long traffic delays, extreme congestion. Delay > 30 sec/veh and < 45 sec/veh*. The project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) as the activity of partially closing Mill Street will not increase Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Due to adjacent parallel streets and availability of new public parking, no impact on VMT is expected. Furthermore, OPR Guidelines on VMT also presume transportation projects have an insignificant impact on VMT. Street parking previously available on Mill Street has been reallocated to the South Church Street public parking lot (abuts Mill Street - Chris Stevens Alleyway connects South Church lot and Mill Street) and access to this and the other surrounding public parking lots will not be affected by the proposed project; therefore, the public will not need to drive any more than they did previously to find parking downtown. Additionally, the two streets that run parallel to Mill Street (South Church and South Auburn), which provide access to the same cross streets as Mill Street, will not be affected by the proposed improvements, so the Mill Street Project will have a less than significant impact on VMT. Additionally, the traffic calming measures the City will implement with the Mill Street Project (bulb outs at the West Main Street/Mill Street intersection) coincide with the Tier 1 priority project list in the Nevada County Regional Transportation Plan (2015-2035) for Main Street in downtown Grass Valley. The project will not include geometric design features; therefore, the project will not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment). The Mill Street improvements will be designed to always include a 15-foot fire lane and access to nearby uses will not be affected, so the project will not result in inadequate emergency access. Though no longer a metric for measuring traffic impacts, the LOS on local streets is expected to remain minimal. As evidenced since the street closure since early 2020, the traffic delays are primarily on Neal Street, but the delays have been minimal.

Mitigation: TJKM (a multi-disciplinary firm with extensive expertise in broad areas of transportation, parking, and land use) to evaluate the traffic implications of the planned closure of Mill Street to vehicular traffic for the purpose of converting the street into a pedestrian plaza. Based on this analysis of the site and proposed project, TJKM concludes the project of closing Mill Street to vehicular traffic and encouraging pedestrian travel should have no significant impact for VMT nor require any mitigation measures. Their analysis is based on the California Office of Planning and Research position that new retail land uses do not generate 'new' traffic, but rather tend to redirect existing commercial travel to more convenient locations. The Mill Street pedestrian plaza doesn't directly create any new retail establishments, but may make downtown Grass Valley a more attractive shopping, dining, and employment destination, thereby resulting in reduced travel for residents and visitors of the greater Grass Valley area. And because of the grid pattern described in their analysis, no extra travel is required for travelers who merely want to travel through downtown. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
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TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, or cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, and that is:

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| a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1 (k)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? (In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: Since all the improvements and site disturbance will take place within an existing road, the Mill Street Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in Public Resources Code section 21074. Mill Street is not listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1 (k). All of the historical attributes (primarily historic building facades) on Mill Street will be emphasized and enhanced via the proposed improvements. The Mill Street Project area does not include a resource considered to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1; therefore, there will be a less than significant impact on tribal cultural resources.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage systems, whereby the construction or relocation would cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may service the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or Local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Be noncompliant with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: While the Mill Street Project will include replacing the City's main water line, adding MWELO-compliant landscaping irrigation, and modifications to the existing storm drainage system, the project construction will not cause significant environmental effects. In fact, the improvements will result in a more efficient and environmentally friendly drainage system.

The project will not result in insufficient water supply as the existing infrastructure sufficiently supplies water to the surrounding properties, and water demand will not increase as a result of the project. The project will not result in a change in the demand on the City's existing wastewater treatment plant. The Mill Street improvements will not generate solid waste in excess of State or Local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. The project will comply with all federal, state, and local solid waste management and reduction statutes and regulations.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| WILDFIRE If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project: | | | | |
| a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project is not located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. Per the Safety Issues identified in the City's General Plan, *The City limits have a distinct urban/wildland interface area. The greatest threat for wildfire hazards are from those that may originate outside the City.* The project will not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Mill Street is not located on sloped land and is buffered by large commercial buildings on either side. Neither prevailing winds or any other identifiable factors are anticipated to exacerbate wildfire risks; therefore, project occupants will not be exposed to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. The Mill Street Project will not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. The project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
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MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE Does the Project:

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|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self- sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project area is within an existing street and the improvements do not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self- sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

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| 2. | Have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects and probable future projects)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project will not have impacts that are individually limited or cumulatively considerable. When viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects and probable future projects in the downtown area, this project is not anticipated to cause cumulatively considerable impacts. Any cumulative impacts caused by the Mill Street Project will be positive as the improvements promote walkability and are planned to eventually be part of connecting existing and future segments of the Wolf Creek Trail. This project and other probable future projects are being designed to provide Grass Valley residents and visitors with walkable and bikeable connectivity to downtown, City Parks, and other outdoor recreational and community-based areas of Grass Valley.

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|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. | Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Findings of Fact: The Mill Street Project will have a positive environmental impact and will not cause adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. The project promotes walkability downtown and community togetherness, which fulfills the goals of various plans including the City's General Plan, the City's Strategic Plan and Downtown Strategic Plan, the Nevada County Regional Transportation Plan, California's CARB and AB-32 initiatives, among others.