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5. **ZONING AMENDMENT TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES OF THE 2009 - 2014 COUNTY
HOUSING ELEMENT.**

PW-14-04

EXHIBIT B: Initial Study / Negative Declaration

Enclosed.

TRINITY COUNTY
2014-2019 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE
INITIAL STUDY/ NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Prepared for:

TRINITY COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
61 AIRPORT ROAD
P.O. BOX 2819
WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093

Prepared by:

Michael Baker
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2729 PROSPECT PARK DRIVE, SUITE 220
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670

FEBRUARY 2016

COUNTY OF TRINITY
2014–2019 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE
INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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Prepared by:

MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL
2729 PROSPECT PARK DRIVE, SUITE 220
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FEBRUARY 2016

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This document is an Initial Study, with supporting evidence, which concludes that a Negative Declaration is the appropriate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document for the Trinity County Housing Element 2014–2019. This Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with CEQA Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.

An initial study is conducted by a lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if an initial study indicates that the proposed project under review may have a potentially significant impact on the environment which cannot be initially avoided or mitigated to a level that is less than significant. A negative declaration may be prepared if the lead agency also prepares a written statement describing the reasons why the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore why it does not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a negative declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

- a) *The initial study shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or*
- b) *The initial study identifies potentially significant effects, but:*
 - (1) *Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed negative declaration is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur; and*
 - (2) *There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.*

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over a proposed project. Where two or more public agencies will be involved with a project, CEQA Guidelines Section 15051 provides criteria for identifying the lead agency. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." Based on the criteria above, the County of Trinity (County) is the lead agency for the proposed Trinity County Housing Element 2014–2019.

1.3 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

This document is divided into the following sections:

1.0 Introduction – This section provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of the document.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

2.0 Project Information – This section provides general information regarding the project, including the project title, lead agency and address, contact person, brief description of the project location, General Plan land use designation and zoning district, identification of surrounding land uses, and identification of other public agencies whose review, approval, and/or permits may be required. Also listed in this section is a checklist of the environmental factors that are potentially affected by the project.

3.0 Project Description – This section provides a detailed description of the proposed project.

4.0 Environmental Checklist – This section describes the environmental setting and overview for each of the environmental subject areas, and evaluates a range of impacts classified as "no impact," "less than significant impact," "less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated," and "potentially significant impact" in response to the environmental checklist.

5.0 References – This section identifies documents, websites, people, and other sources consulted during the preparation of this Initial Study.

1.4 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Section 4.0, Environmental Checklist, is the analysis portion of this Initial Study. The section provides an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the project. Section 4.0 includes 18 environmental issue subsections, including CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance. The environmental issue subsections, numbered 1 through 18, consist of the following:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Aesthetics | 10. Land Use and Planning |
| 2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources | 11. Mineral Resources |
| 3. Air Quality | 12. Noise |
| 4. Biological Resources | 13. Population and Housing |
| 5. Cultural Resources | 14. Public Services |
| 6. Geology and Soils | 15. Recreation |
| 7. Greenhouse Gases | 16. Transportation/Traffic |
| 8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials | 17. Utilities and Service Systems |
| 9. Hydrology and Water Quality | 18. Mandatory Findings of Significance |

Each environmental issue subsection is organized in the following manner:

The **Checklist Discussion/Analysis** provides a detailed discussion of each of the environmental issue checklist questions. The level of significance for each topic is determined by considering the predicted magnitude of the impact. Four levels of impact significance are evaluated in this Initial Study:

No Impact: No project-related impact to the environment would occur with project development.

Less Than Significant Impact: The impact would not result in a substantial adverse change in the environment. This impact level does not require mitigation measures.

Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated: An impact that may have a "substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15382). However, the incorporation of mitigation measures that are specified after analysis would reduce the project-related impact to a less than significant level.

Potentially Significant Impact: An impact that is "potentially significant" but for which mitigation measures cannot be immediately suggested or the effectiveness of potential mitigation measures cannot be determined with certainty, because more in-depth analysis of the issue and potential impact is needed. In such cases, an EIR is required.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

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2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project title:** Trinity County 2014-2019 Housing Element Update
2. **Lead agency name and address:** Trinity County Planning Development
61 Airport Road P.O. Box 2819
Weaverville, CA 96093
3. **Contact person and phone number:** Carson Anderson, Senior Planner
(530) 623-1351 x3
4. **Project location:** The proposed project encompasses Trinity County in its entirety.
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:** Trinity County Planning Development
61 Airport Road P.O. Box 2819
Weaverville, CA 96093
6. **General Plan designation:** Countywide
7. **Zoning:** Countywide
8. **Description of project:**

The proposed project will update the current 2009 Trinity County General Plan Housing Element with an entirely new Housing Element entitled the 2014–2019 Housing Element update (project). The proposed changes are focused on refinement of existing policies with an emphasis on meeting California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) guidelines for the contents of a housing element.

No development project of any kind is approved as a part of the 2014–2019 Housing Element.
9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** The proposed project encompasses the unincorporated areas of Trinity County. The county is bounded by Humboldt County on the west, Siskiyou County and the Hoopa Valley Reservation on the north, Shasta County and Tehama County on the east, and Mendocino County on the south.
10. **Other public agencies whose approval may be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):**

None. While the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) must certify that the proposed Housing Element meets the regulatory requirements, HCD does not approve the element.

2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

11. Environmental factors potentially affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "potentially significant impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gases | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

12. Determination: (To be completed by the lead agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Carson Anderson
Signature

February 12, 2016
Date

Carson Anderson
Printed Name

Senior Planner
Title

Trinity County Planning Department
Lead Agency

2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

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3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project encompasses the unincorporated areas of Trinity County. The county is bounded by Humboldt County on the west, Siskiyou County and the Hoopa Valley Reservation on the north, Shasta County and Tehama County on the east, and Mendocino County on the south.

3.2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The proposed project will update the current 2009 Trinity County General Plan Housing Element with an entirely new Housing Element entitled the 2014–2019 Housing Element update (project). The proposed changes are focused on refinement of existing policies with an emphasis on meeting California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) guidelines for the contents of a housing element.

No housing project or physical development of any kind will be approved as a part of the proposed project. No land use designations or zone changes are proposed or recommended as part of the project. The current policies have been reviewed and amended to assist in the provision of housing countywide, and all development projects must be reviewed and approved through the existing development process. The County evaluates specific housing development proposals based on their compliance with the General Plan, relevant community plans, the Zoning Ordinance, and other regulations. Additional environmental review of development projects will be required in compliance with CEQA. Compliance with the programs and policies of the Housing Element does not ensure project approval.

Please contact the Planning Department to request a hard copy of the draft documents. The Planning Department may be contacted by phone at (530) 623-1351 or by e-mail at info.planning@trinitycounty.org.

3.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Table 3.0-1 summarizes the programs that will result in the modification of the existing Zoning Ordinance that are projects under CEQA and are evaluated in this document.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**TABLE 3.0-1
PROPOSED HOUSING ELEMENT MODIFICATIONS**

Program	Amendment	Time Frame
2.2	Amend Zoning Ordinance Section 30.3(F), which addresses the granting of density bonuses and concessions or incentives to development pursuant to Government Code Section 65915, to include more detail from the Government Code to provide clear direction to applicants about what is required to receive a density bonus or other incentives offered under these Government Code sections. Developer will demonstrate that the project will meet minimum building codes and other County zoning and land use regulations.	End of 2016
2.7	Per AB 2634, to further meet the needs of extremely low-income households, the County will amend the Zoning Ordinance to define and allow single-room occupancy units without a Use Permit in the R-3 zone.	End of 2016

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.1	AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on 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)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-d) *No Impact.* No changes to the existing land use designations are proposed as part of this project. Although Route 3 and Route 299 are eligible state scenic highways, and not officially designated, all development, whether it is proposed within a scenic setting or not, is required to comply with existing General Plan policies and ordinances regulating aesthetics. Review of projects will occur upon application to the County and completion of environmental analysis specific to the application. Because the proposed project does not entitle any development, change programs, and proposes two very minor changes to current ordinances and policies (per Table 3.0-1), and because all future projects proposed under either current or amended ordinances or policies must comply with the General Plan and development standards, the proposed project would have no impact to scenic vistas, state scenic highways, or scenic roadway corridors.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forestland, including the Forest and Range Assessment project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>				
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 nonagricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or 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, forestland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 1222(g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland 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 nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-e) *No Impact.* The proposed project does not recommend any land use designation change and therefore would not result in any new conversion of agricultural or forestland to urban uses beyond what already exists in the General Plan.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.3 AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. 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) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-e) *No Impact.* The proposed project analyzes adopted land use policies and serves as a policy guide for meeting existing and future housing needs in the unincorporated areas of Trinity County. The proposed Housing Element does not revise, replace, or attempt to supersede existing standards and procedures to ensure compliance with County codes and policies. Air quality is regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, and North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD). Individual future residential projects will be subject to supplemental environmental review as required by the NCUAQMD, state law, and County policy.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.4 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 or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<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, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal wetlands, 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"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-f) *No Impact.* Numerous native resident and migratory fish and wildlife species inhabit Trinity County, including the county's numerous water features, such as Ruth Lake, Ewing Reservoir, Hayfork Creek, Trinity Lake, Trinity River, Lewiston Lake and several small lakes, wetlands, and creeks in Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Potential biological impacts associated with future development will depend on the location, design, and type of application submitted for consideration. Each application is evaluated to ensure compliance with policies in the County's General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element. No development project or change in land use designation is proposed as part of the Housing Element update. Each development project would be subject to separate project and site-specific environmental review at the time a development proposal is

made, and project-specific biological constraints (e.g., presence of rare/endangered species, locally designated species or habitats) would be further assessed at that time in accordance with CEQA. Any development currently allowed with the existing General Plan could result in impacts to biological resources; however, the proposed project does not change this existing condition and therefore does not result in any impact to biological resources.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 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 Section 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"/>
d) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a–d) *No Impact.* Without project-specific data on the location and type of new residential development, and the design of a project, it is not possible to determine potential impacts to cultural (historic and archeological) resources. The proposed Housing Element update does not involve revisions to the existing development standards and would therefore not result in any greater impact to cultural or historical resources than currently possible with the existing General Plan. Review of individual development applications will include an analysis of how a precise development project could impact cultural resources. In addition, state laws address consideration of cultural and historic resources, such as Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, which establishes procedures for the handling of human remains, and Section 21084.2 (AB 52), which requires consultation with local tribes affected by a proposed project. Adherence to applicable County, state, and federal standards and guidelines related to the protection/preservation of cultural resources, as well as the requirements mandated during the environmental review of individual projects, will address impacts related to cultural resources. Because the proposed project does not change the development potential in the existing General Plan or alter any of the existing development application process regarding the review and mitigation of potential impacts, the proposed project results in no impact to cultural resources.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to 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"/>
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 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 geological feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-f) *No Impact.* Any future development will be subject to local and California building codes, County development standards, and applicable regulations addressing grading, drainage, and/or waste disposal. Potential geologic impacts associated with the construction of new housing units would vary on a project-by-project basis. Each development project would be subject to separate environmental review at the time a specific development proposal is made, and project-specific geologic constraints

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

(potential for fault rupture, ground shaking, etc.) would be evaluated at that time. Because the proposed project does not alter existing development patterns, nor make any changes to either the building code or policies regarding construction, there is no project-related impact due to geology and soils conditions.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.7 GREENHOUSE GASES. 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 gasses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- 1) *No Impact.* Without specific data on the location and type of new residential development, it is not possible to determine potential impacts to the environment. Development consistent with the General Plan could result in greenhouse gas emissions from construction activities, increased vehicle use, natural gas combustion, and other operational sources. Emissions would incrementally contribute to global greenhouse gas levels. However, the County has multiple policies, programs, and plans in place that serve to reduce emissions.
- 2) *No Impact.* The proposed Housing Element update does not alter existing development patterns or approve any development application. Therefore, there is no impact on any applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.8 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) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) 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"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *No Impact.* Future development consistent with the General Plan could involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction or operation. These materials might include gasoline, diesel, lubricants, or paints associated with heavy equipment and construction. However, all transport would be subject to federal, state, and local regulations regarding the handling and disposal of such materials, such as

Trinity County Municipal Code Section 8.08.110, which regulates disposal of hazardous materials. Further, the proposed project makes no changes in regulations or requirements regarding hazardous materials, and it results in no new specific development. Therefore, the proposed project results in no impact associated with the transport of hazardous materials.

- b) *No Impact.* Future development under the updated Housing Element could involve the accidental release of hazardous materials during construction or operation of such uses. However, such projects would be subject to federal, state, and local regulations regarding the handling and disposal of such materials. The proposed project makes no changes in regulations or requirements regarding hazardous materials and results in no new specific development. Therefore, it results in no impact associated with the release of hazardous materials into the environment.
- c) *No Impact.* The existing development review process requires that projects be circulated to the affected school district for review and comment. Residential projects are usually compatible with school activities, although for projects near schools the construction process can be modified to occur when school is not in session. It is likely that homes will be located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school; however, the proposed project does not change the existing development review process and calls for very minor changes to existing ordinances consistent with state law (per Table 3.0-1), regulations, or development standards that apply to all new projects. Therefore, the proposed project has no impact on schools.
- d) *No Impact.* According to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (2016), Trinity County currently contains one hazardous waste site under evaluation located at Highway 3 and Marshall Road in Douglas City. In addition, there are sites that may not yet be documented. Although unlikely, future housing development projects could potentially be proposed in close proximity to hazardous material sites, and the project would then be subject to various federal, state, and local laws and agencies that regulate hazardous material sites, such as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the state and federal Environmental Protection Agencies, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Trinity County Fire Department. Therefore, the proposed project will not result in significant impacts related to hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Because the proposed project does not alter existing development patterns, there is no impact on hazardous waste or substances sites.
- e) *No Impact.* Five public airports are located in Trinity County: Hayfork Airport, Hyampom Airport, Ruth Airport, Trinity Center Airport, and Lonnie Pool Field-Weaverville Airport. Future development could be located within 2 miles of one of these airports. However, such projects would be subject to federal, state, and local regulations, including the Trinity County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (2009), regarding development within airport influence areas. Because the proposed project does not alter existing development patterns, there is no impact on the implementation of the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan or on any airport.
- f) *No Impact.* Two private airports are located in Trinity County: Silver Creek Ranch Airport and Heller High Water Airport. Future development under the updated Housing Element could be located within 2 miles of one of these airports. However, such projects would be subject to federal, state, and local regulations regarding development within airport

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

land use plans. Because the proposed project does not alter existing development patterns, there is no impact related to these private airports.

- g) *No Impact.* The Trinity County Emergency Preparedness Program addresses the County's response to emergencies associated with natural or human-caused health emergencies. Because the proposed project does not alter existing development patterns, there is no impact on an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

For future development that could occur under the Housing Element update, prior to the issuance of a building permit, the applicant is required to submit appropriate plans for plan review to ensure compliance with zoning, building, and fire codes. Adherence to these requirements ensures that future development would not have a significant impact on emergency response and evacuation plans. However, the proposed 2014–2019 Housing Element would not entitle or fund any specific projects and thus would not result in any direct physical changes to the environment. Therefore, the project would not impair implementation or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and no impact would occur.

- h) *No Impact.* As shown in the Trinity County Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE 2007), areas of the county are located in moderate to very high fire hazard zones. Future development under the Housing Element update would be subject to County Municipal Code Chapter 16.48.127, Fire Protection Improvements. Because the proposed project does not alter existing development patterns, impacts due to fire risk, including wildland fire risk, would not be expected to increase.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<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, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) 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"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *No Impact.* Section 303 of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to develop water quality standards to protect the beneficial uses of receiving waters. In accordance with California's Porter-Cologne Act, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) of the State Water Resources Control Board are required to develop water quality objectives that ensure their region meets the requirements of Clean Water Act Section 303.

Although future proposed development consistent with the General Plan could indirectly result in stormwater or wastewater discharges, compliance with Stormwater Management Plan requirements and the County's other development review regulations would be required and would ensure that water quality standards or wastewater requirements/standards are not violated. Because the proposed project does not alter existing development patterns, there is no impact on the implementation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

- b) *No Impact.* The proposed Housing Element update would not entitle or fund any specific projects and thus would not result in any direct physical changes to the environment. Development consistent with the General Plan would use the existing water supply system, Trinity County Regional Water Supply System (2015), which includes water from Lake Livingston. Any uses developed under the proposed Housing Element would be required to adhere to the 2013 California Plumbing Code and the 2013 California Green Building Standards Code, which require water-efficient indoor fixtures and irrigation controllers and result in a reduction in water demand by 5 to 6 percent. Because the proposed project does not alter existing development patterns or water conservation requirements, there is no impact on groundwater supplies.
- c) *No Impact.* The proposed project would not entitle or fund any specific projects and thus would not result in any direct physical changes to the environment. Implementation of the proposed project would not involve alteration of an existing drainage pattern, and the proposed project does not have the potential to alter the course of a stream or river. These issues would be addressed at the time of application of a specific development project. As all development projects must be consistent with the General Plan and adopted ordinances governing modification of drainage patterns, and the proposed project does not change land use patterns or the governing ordinances, no impact would occur.
- d) *No Impact.* The proposed Housing Element update would not entitle or fund any specific projects and thus would not result in any direct physical changes to the environment. Implementation of the proposed project would not involve alteration of a discernible watercourse and does not have the potential to alter drainage patterns or increase runoff that would result in flooding. These issues would be addressed at the time of application of a specific development project. As all development projects must be consistent with the General Plan and adopted ordinances governing modification of drainage patterns, and the proposed project does not change land use patterns or the governing ordinances, no impact would occur.
- e) *No Impact.* Development consistent with the General Plan could result in localized changes to drainage patterns. Since no physical improvements are currently proposed, the specific impacts that potential future development could have on the storm drain system cannot be identified. Future development would be required to comply with

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System standards; new development would not be expected to cause exceedances of the storm drainage system or generate substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Because the proposed project does not alter existing development patterns, or governing regulations, there is no impact.

- f) *No Impact.* Residential development is not usually a point-source generator of water pollutants. Further, any runoff from development would be addressed in the project application for development. As the proposed project does not include any development application or alter any existing land use pattern or regulations, there is no potential to substantially degrade water quality.
- g) *No Impact.* As shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Trinity County Flood Hazard map (2015), parts of the county are located in the 100-year flood zone. Future development would be required to comply with the standards in Section 15.16 Floodplain Management of the County Zoning Ordinance. Because the proposed Housing Element update does not alter existing development patterns, there is no impact related to development within a flood hazard area.
- h) *No Impact.* See response g) above.
- i) *No Impact.* As shown on the FEMA floodplain map, a large portion of Trinity County is affected by FEMA floodplains. Future development would be required to comply with the standards in the County's Zoning Ordinance. Because the proposed Housing Element update does not alter existing development patterns, there is no impact related to flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam.
- j) *No Impact.* Trinity County is not located near the Pacific Ocean so as to be inundated by a tsunami. Trinity County has numerous reservoirs and rivers so as to be inundated by seiche; however, future development would not be built along these protected areas. Mudflows result from the downslope movement of soil and/or rock under the influence of gravity. Future development will be evaluated for this potential as part of the soils analysis mandated by the California Building Code and the County development review process. The issue of landslide and soil stability would be addressed at the time of application of a specific development project. As all development projects must be consistent with the General Plan and adopted ordinances governing soil stability, landslide and mudflow, and the proposed project does not change land use patterns or the governing ordinances, there would be no impact from seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.10 LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-c) *No Impact.* Adoption of the Housing Element does not grant entitlements for any projects. As a part of the County General Plan, the Housing Element complies with the adopted General Plan and will not change residential land use designations outlined in the Land Use Element. Because the proposed Housing Element update does not alter existing development patterns, it will not physically divide an established community, conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation, or conflict with any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

Changes to the Zoning Ordinance that are part of the proposed project include:

- Amend Zoning Ordinance Section 30.3(F), which addresses the granting of density bonuses and concessions or incentives to development pursuant to Government Code Section 65915, to include more detail from the Government Code to provide clear direction to applicants about what is required to receive a density bonus or other incentives offered under these Government Code sections. Developer will demonstrate that the project will meet minimum building codes and other County zoning and land use regulations.
- Per AB 2634, to further meet the needs of extremely low-income households, the County will amend the Zoning Ordinance to define and allow single-room occupancy units without a Use Permit in the R-3 zone.

The proposed changes to the ordinance (Program 2.2) will implement existing state law regarding density bonuses and the provision of affordable housing in excess of General Plan and zoning regulations. The density bonus provisions are applied to specific project applications and are considered individually by the County as part of the development review process. The review process includes coordination with other agencies such as the school district, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Transportation, etc., as part of the development review and as part of compliance with CEQA. The proposed project does not include any development request and the zone text changes refer to the process by which a density bonus can be requested. As the

zone text addresses application requirements and does not approve or result in physical changes to the environment, there is no impact.

Similarly, the zone text change (Program 2.7) to add a definition for single-room occupancies and remove the requirement for a conditional use permit will only affect existing structures. New buildings, or modifications to existing buildings, would be required to comply with CEQA and in most instances would likely be exempt. A conditional use permit would typically result in a project to be evaluated under CEQA wherein issues such as additional public services would be addressed. The existing building permit review process as well as Section 15.04 Buildings and Construction of the Trinity County Municipal Code will ensure that all utilities are in place, or available before issuance of any building permit for tenant improvements. As the proposed text change alters a limitation on land use but the existing code retains the ability of the Building Official to review plans for utilities and impacts to the built environment, and since the proposed use affected by the code would occur within an existing structure(s), there is no environmental impact from the proposed zone code amendment.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.11 MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and 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"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-b) *No Impact.* Adopting the Housing Element will not substantially result in the loss of the availability of mineral resources. All development proposals must be consistent with the General Plan and, as part of the development review process, impacts to mineral resources will be evaluated. Because the proposed Housing Element update does not alter existing development patterns, or modify the review process regarding mineral resources, there is no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.12 NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or of applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or a 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"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, 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"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-f) *No Impact.* Potential noise impacts associated with construction and occupation of future development consistent with the General Plan would vary on a project-by-project basis. Since no physical changes are currently proposed with this project, the specific vibration and groundborne noise concerns of future development cannot be identified. Regardless, given that there are limited, if any, permanent sources of vibration and groundborne noise in the county, exposure of future residents to vibration and groundborne noise is anticipated to be limited to short-term conditions (e.g., construction activities). The County's existing Noise Element would apply to proposed residential development. Each development project would be subject to separate environmental review at the time a specific development proposal is made; project-specific noise impacts or constraints would be evaluated at that time. Therefore, adhering to established County regulations would ensure that future development projects would not result in significant noise impacts. Because the proposed Housing Element update does not alter existing development patterns, or change any regulations regarding noise, there is no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.13 POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., 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 housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-c) *No Impact.* Adoption of the updated Housing Element will not induce substantial population growth in unincorporated Trinity County. Trinity County is a rural county that has experienced a declining population over the course of the last decade or more—a fact which is reflected, in part, in its very modest Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). As required by state law, the Housing Element is designed to demonstrate that housing of all income types and densities can be accommodated. There is nothing in the proposed project, or in state law, that mandates a specific growth rate. The Housing Element evaluates the existing land inventory and determines whether it is available to allow development of a diversity of housing types and income levels. As the County has adequate housing sites to meet the assigned RHNA, no change to the existing development pattern is necessary to comply with state housing element law. As a result, there is no increase in development potential beyond what currently exists in the General Plan. Further, the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance, which affect the interpretation of the ordinance, neither increase the development potential nor reduce any of the existing development review process. All projects must be consistent with the General Plan and must be evaluated using the existing development review procedures. As the proposed project does not result in any changes to this process, and does not increase the development potential of the county in any way, there is no impact.

The proposed Housing Element contains programs and policies to facilitate housing conservation and maintenance and therefore has the potential to improve the quality of the existing housing stock in the county. The Housing Element also contains programs and policies to address Trinity County's future housing needs by encouraging housing that provides diversity in type and price. No aspect of the project involves the displacement of any number of people. No impacts would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.14 PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-e) *No Impact.* The proposed Housing Element analyzes adopted land use policies and will not change residential land use designations in the Land Use Element of the Trinity County General Plan, and therefore would not cause an increase in demand for public services. All future development will be subject to site-specific environmental studies as determined appropriate by the County and will comply with all applicable County policies and regulations related to public services. As all development projects must be consistent with the General Plan and adopted ordinances, and the proposed project does not change land use patterns or the governing ordinances, there is no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.15 RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and 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"/>
b) Does the project 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"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a-b) *No Impact.* The proposed Housing Element analyzes adopted land use policies and does not grant entitlements for any projects. It will not change residential land use designations in the Land Use Element of the Trinity County General Plan, and therefore would not cause an increase in demand for recreational facilities. All future development will be subject to site-specific environmental studies as determined appropriate by the County and will comply with all applicable County policies and regulations related to recreational services. Because the proposed project does not change the development potential in the existing General Plan or alter any of the existing processes regarding the review and mitigation of potential impacts, it results in no impact to recreational facilities.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.16 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a 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"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-g) *No Impact.* The proposed Housing Element and its programs will not affect regional transportation facilities or traffic conditions beyond what is considered and projected in the General Plan. The nature and extent of local traffic impacts would vary on a project-by-project basis. Project-specific traffic impacts (e.g., level of service operation, access problems, traffic, or pedestrian safety hazards) would be evaluated when such proposed project plans are submitted to the County. Traffic mitigation has been integrated into the General Plan in the form of goals, policies, and implementation measures to ensure that local traffic impacts are mitigated to less than significant levels. Because the proposed Housing Element update does not change the development potential in the existing General Plan or alter any of the existing processes regarding the review and mitigation of potential impacts, the proposed project results in no impact to transportation facilities and traffic.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.17 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve 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"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a-g) *No Impact.* Future development consistent with the General Plan would increase the demands on existing utilities and services systems. County regulations restrict the level of development to be consistent with available services, or require the expansion of the service. As all development projects must be consistent with the General Plan and adopted ordinances governing modification of drainage patterns, and the proposed project does not change land use patterns or the governing ordinances, there is no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.18 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to 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, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plants or animals, 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"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that 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, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project 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"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *No Impact.* The Housing Element is a policy document intended as a guide to decision-makers in meeting the County's housing objectives over the next five years. Accordingly, the draft element does not authorize specific housing development projects for specific sites, or change any existing ordinances adopted for the purpose of project review or mitigation of environmental effects. Therefore, adoption of the proposed Housing Element update would not degrade the quality of the environment; no impacts would occur.
- b) *No Impact.* The proposed project does not alter any existing land use designation or approve any project. The changes to the Zoning Ordinance are in the form of definitions to help with interpretation, or to respond to state-mandated updates. None of the changes proposed in the General Plan or the Zoning Ordinance increase the potential for development. As all development projects must be consistent with the General Plan and adopted ordinances, and the proposed project does not change land use patterns or the governing ordinances, there is no cumulative impact.
- c) *No Impact.* The Housing Element is a policy document intended as a guide to decision-makers in meeting the County's housing objectives over the next five years. Accordingly, the draft element does not authorize specific housing development projects for specific sites. Therefore, adoption of the proposed Housing Element update would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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5.0 REFERENCES

5.1 DOCUMENTS REFERENCED IN INITIAL STUDY AND/OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following documents were used to determine the potential for impact from the proposed project. Compliance with federal, state, and local laws is assumed in all projects.

CAL FIRE (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection). 2007. Trinity County FHSZ Map. http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_trinity.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control. 2016. Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List. <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/CorteseList/SectionA.htm>.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). 2015. Flood Map Service Center. Accessed December 1. <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search>.

TollFree Airline. 2015. Trinity County Public and Private Airports. <http://www.tollfreeairline.com/california/trinity.htm>.

Trinity County. 2009. *Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*. <http://www.trinitycounty.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=177>

_____. 2015. Municipal Code. https://www.municode.com/library/ca/trinity_county.

_____. n.d. Emergency Preparedness. Accessed December 1, 2015. <http://www.trinitycounty.org/index.aspx?page=267>

Trinity County Water Works District 1. 1996. <http://docs.trinitycounty.org/Departments/Planning/Community%20Plans/Hayfork%20Community%20Plan/Chapter%204%20-%20Public%20Services%20&%20Facilities.pdf>

5.0 REFERENCES

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