1	LAW OFFICES OF DONALD B. MOONEY	
2	DONALD B. MOONEY (SBN 153721)	
	417 Mace Boulevard, Suite J-334 Davis, California 95618	
3	Telephone: (530) 758-2377	
4	Facsimile: (530) 212-7812	
5	Email: dbmooney@dcn.org	
ې	Attorneys for Petitioners	
6	Yolo Land and Water Defense	
7	and Sierra Club	
8		
9	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF T	HE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10	FOR THE COUNT	TV OF VOLO
	TOK THE COOK	1 of Tobo
11	TIOL O. L. L. W. L. W. L. EDD. DEPENDED.	
12	YOLO LAND AND WATER DEFENSE, an unincorporated association; and SIERRA	
13	CLUB, a California Non-Profit Corporation)	
14	Petitioners)	Case No.
15	reduciners)	
16	v.	VERIFIED PETITION FOR
	COUNTY OF YOLO; YOLO COUNTY)	WRIT OF MANDATE
17	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, and DOES 1 to	
18	20,	(CCP §§1085 and 1094.5; California
)	Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA");
19	Respondents)	
20)	
21	TOTAL PROPERTY DATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO	
	TEICHERT, INC., a California Corporation;) LJ SHIFLER FAMILY TRUST; and	
22	DOES 21-40	
23)	
24	Real Parties in Interest.	
25		
26		
27		

- 1. By this action Petitioners Yolo Land and Water Defense and Sierra Club

 (collectively "Petitioners") petition this Court for a Writ of Mandate, directed to Respondents

 County of Yolo and Yolo County Board of Supervisors ("Respondents"). Petitioners challenge

 Respondents' January 11, 2022 certification of the Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") for the

 Teichert Shifler Mining and Reclamation Project and approval of the Project. Petitioners

 contend that Respondents' approvals for the Project violate the California Environmental

 Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.
- 2. The EIR fails to provide adequate environmental review under CEQA. The EIR fails to adequately disclose, discuss and analyze the Project's impacts to agricultural land from the failure to reclaim agricultural lands back to their original quality and potential impacts on groundwater from the failure to account for and analyze "data gaps" in an impacted groundwater sub-basin. The EIR also fails to adequately disclose, discuss and analyze the Project's impacts associated with the methyl mercury on wildlife and human health, on groundwater impacts; and greenhouse gas emissions and vehicles miles traveled ("VMT").
- 3. Petitioners seek a determination from this Court that Respondents' approval of the Project is invalid and void and that Environmental Impact Report for the Project fails to satisfy the requirements of CEQA, and the CEQA Guidelines, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15000 et seq.

PARTIES

4. Petitioner Yolo Land and Water Defense is an unincorporated association formed after the approval of the Project. (*See* Pub. Resources Code, § 21177(c).) Yolo Land and Water Defense is established to promote quality local and regional planning, land use and development, as well as to preserve a healthy human and natural environment in the Yolo County area. Yolo Land and Water Defense and its members have a direct and substantial beneficial interest in ensuring that Respondents comply with the laws relating to environmental protection. Yolo Land and Water Defense's members, have long-standing interests in the rural areas adjacent to the Project site, as well as in the surrounding farm community and County as a whole. Yolo Land and Water Defense's environmental, aesthetic,

cultural and property interests will be severely injured if the adoption of the Project is not set aside pending full compliance with CEQA and all other laws. Yolo Land and Water Defense's members enjoy the County's and State's natural resources. Yolo Land and Water Defense brings this petition on behalf of all others similarly situated who are too numerous to be named and brought before this Court as petitioners. Yolo Land and Water Defense was formed after Respondents' approval of the Project. (See Pub. Resources Code, § 21177(c).) Yolo Land and Water Defense is within the class of persons and entities beneficially interested in, and aggrieved by, the acts of Respondents as alleged below. Yolo Land and Water Defense's members participated in the administrative processes herein by submitting comment letters and objecting to the Project. Yolo Water and Land Defense has exhausted its remedies.

Accordingly, Yolo Water and Land Defense has standing to sue. The interests of Yolo Water and Land Defense and its members will be harmed by the Project unless court action is taken and Petitioner's requested relief is granted.

- 5. Petitioner SIERRA CLUB is a California nonprofit membership organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California in 1892. Currently, the Sierra Club has approximately 820,000 members, approximately 180,000 of whom live in California. Approximately 20,000 members belong to the Sierra Club's Motherlode Chapter, and Motherlode Chapter members live, work, travel and enjoy recreational activities in Yolo County. The Sierra Club functions to educate and enlist people to protect and restore the natural and human environment, to practice and promote responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources, to explore, enjoy, and protect wild places, and to use all lawful means to achieve these objectives. The Sierra Club has expressed particular concern for the environment in which its members live, including Yolo County. Sierra Club and its members are adversely affected by the County's failure to comply with the law in approving the Project. Sierra Club and its members objected to approval of the Project and provided written comments on the Project EIR.
- 6. Respondent County of Yolo is a political subdivision of the State of California and a body corporate and politic exercising local government power. County of Yolo is the

CEQA "lead agency" for the Project. As lead agency for the Project, the County is responsible for preparation of an environmental document that describes the Project and its impacts, and, if necessary evaluates mitigation measures and/or alternatives to lessen or avoid any significant environmental impacts. The County also has principal responsibility for determining whether projects within its jurisdiction are consistent with applicable land use ordinances and other applicable laws.

- 7. Respondent Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo is a legislative body duly authorized under the California Constitution and the laws of the State of California to act on behalf of the County of Yolo. Respondent Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo is responsible for regulating and controlling land use within the County including, but not limited to, implementing and complying with the provisions of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15000 et seq. (the "Guidelines"), applicable land use ordinances and other laws. As the elected representatives of the people of the County, the Board of Supervisors establishes overall County priorities and sets policy. The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of the County and is ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving or denying the Project
- 9. Real Party in Interest Teichert, Inc. ("Teichert") is a State of California corporation that is authorized to conduct business in the State of California. Teichert Corporation is the applicant for the Project that is being challenged by this Petition. Teichert's address is 3500American River Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864. P.O. Box 15002, Sacramento, CA 95851.
- 10. Real Party in Interest LJ Shifler Family Trust owns the real property that is the Project site.
- 11. Petitioner is unaware of the true names and identities of DOES 1 through 20 and 21 through 40, inclusive, and sue such unnamed Respondents and Real Parties in Interest respectively, by their fictitious names. Petitioner is informed and believes, and based thereon allege, that fictitiously named Respondents and Real Parties in Interest also are responsible for all acts and omissions described above. When the true identities and capacities of Respondents

and Real Parties in Interest have been determined, Petitioner will, with leave of Court if necessary, amend this Petition to include such identities and capacities.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 12. This Court has jurisdiction over the matters alleged in this Petition pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1094.5, and Public Resources Code section 21168. In the alternative, this Court has jurisdiction pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1085 and Public Resources Code section 21168.5.
- 13. Venue for this action properly lies in the Superior Court for the State of California in and for the County of Yolo pursuant to sections 393, 394 and 395 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

BACKGROUND FACTS

A. THE PROJECT LOCATION

- 14. The Project site is bounded by Cache Creek to the north, County Road 94B to the west, County Road 22 to the south, and unpaved dirt access roads to the east. The project site consists of 319.3 acres located three miles west of the City of Woodland in unincorporated Yolo County. The Project site contains all, or portions of, the following parcels: 025-120-010, 025-120-011, 025-120-032, 025-120-033, 025-430-001, 025-430-002, 025-430-009.
- 15. Surrounding land uses include Teichert's Woodland Plant site to the northeast; Teichert's Strorz mining site and the Cache Creek Nature Preserve to the northwest; agricultural; and farm dwellings to the west; the Yolo Fliers Club golf course, the Watts-Woodland Airport and the Wild Wings residential area to the southwest; Monument Hill Memorial Park cemetery and rural residential area to the south; and agricultural lands to the east.

B. THE PROJECT

16. The Project involves the extraction of sand and gravel resources along Lower Cache Creek on 264.1 acres of a 319.3-acre site, with other project-related uses occurring on the remaining 55.2 acres. The Project includes the mining of a maximum of 35,400,000 tons (30,000,000 tons sold) of aggregate resources will occur over a 30-year period at an annual rate

not to exceed a maximum of 2,117,648 tons mined per year (1,800,000 tons sold). The Project also includes the transfer of tonnage allocations from the Teichert Esparto and Teichert Schwarzgruber operations to the Teichert Shifler operation. Aggregate excavated from the subject site will be processed at the adjoining Teichert Woodland plant.

- 17. The Project provides for the mining in two phases moving from north to south, commencing with Phase A (61.8 acres) on the north (above the Moore Canal), and Phase B (202.3 acres) on the south (below the Moore Canal).
- 18. The disturbed areas of the site are to be reclaimed for agricultural, habitat, and open space uses. Reclamation of the mined area is proposed in three phases: Phase A 47.5 acres of agricultural land on the north, above the Moore Canal; Phase B 34.6 acres of agricultural land on the west, south of the canal, and the western half of the lake; and Phase C 31.1 acres of agricultural land on the east, south of the canal; the eastern half of the lake; remaining 55.2 acres of related activity on the project site.
- 19. In total, the Project site would be reclaimed to approximately 119.9 acres of agriculture, 90.9 acres of open water lake, 61.2 acres of grassland and slopes, 24.7 acres of riparian habitat primarily along the lake frontage, 7.1 acres of access roads and the existing canal, and 1.6 acres in oak woodland.

C. THE COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR THE PROJECT

- 20. On December 18, 2020, the County released for public review and comment the Draft EIR for the Project.
 - 21. On October 15, 2021, the County released the Final EIR for the Project.

D. THE COUNTY'S APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT

- 22. On November 10, 2021, the Yolo County Planning Commission Special Hearing on held a public hearing on the Teichert Shifler Mining and Reclamation Project. After the public comment and staff report, the Planning Commission continued the hearing.
- 23. On December 9, 2021 the Planning Commission continued the hearing and recommended approval of a reduced sized Project.

percent, which equates to 235,295 tons mined (200,000 tons sold) in any single calendar year provided the running ten year average does not exceed the maximum permitted base allocation.

- i. Authorized Mining in the Streamway Influence Zone within 700 feet of, but no closer than 250 feet to, the Cache Creek bank, pursuant to Section 10-4.429(e) of the Mining Ordinance, subject to County approval of a Streambank Stabilization Plan ("SSP") in compliance with Section 10-4.429(e) of the Mining Ordinance, and a Flood Hazard Development Permit ("FHDP") in compliance with Section 8-4.404 of the County Code, which both shall ensure implementation of Teichert Shifler EIR Mitigation Measure 4.8-4(a) requiring reinforcement improvements in the 700-foot streamway influence zone.
- k. Approved a Reclamation Plan comprised of reclamation plan sheets R-01 through R-09 and Reclamation Plan Narrative reflecting reclamation of 319.3 acres to approximately 119.9 acres of agriculture, 90.9 acres of open water lake, 61.2 acres of grassland and slopes, 24.7 acres of riparian habitat primarily along the lake frontage, 13.9 acres in canal and related uses, 7.1 acres in access roads and buffers, 1.6 acres in oak woodland, subject to (and as modified by) conditions of approval.
- l. Authorized acceptance of additional net gains which provide for Teichert to dedicate to the County the Shifler In-Channel property and the Schwarzgruber lake and habitat property as additional net gains.
- m. Authorized execution of a Development Agreement (Agreement N0. 20-16) between Yolo County, Teichert, Inc., and LJ Shifler Family Trust documenting, among other items, payment of per-ton fees, implementation of all conditions of approval and EIR mitigation measures, compliance with the spirit and intent of the CCAP and all related policies and requirements, and implementations of identified public benefits known as "net gains."
- n. Directed County staff to require aggregate mining vehicles and equipment to be zero emission if feasible, as a component of the CCAP ten-year review of the program and permits.
- o. Directed County staff to make available an easy to use and understand reporting of CCAP monitoring, including operator compliance with CCAP requirements and

implementation of net gains.

24. On January 12, 2022, Respondents filed a Notice of Determination with the Yolo County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse (SCH #2019089053) as provided by Public Resources Code section 21152.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES AND INADEQUACY OF REMEDY

- 25. Petitioners have performed any and all conditions precedent to filing the instant action and has exhausted any and all available administrative remedies to the extent required by law.
- 26. Petitioners have complied with the requirements of Public Resources Code, section 21167.5 by mailing written notice of this action to the Respondents. A copy of this written notice and proof of service are attached as Exhibit A to this Petition for Writ of Mandate.
- 27. Petitioners have complied with Public Resources Code section 21167.6 by concurrently filing a request concerning preparation of the record of administrative proceedings relating to this action.
- 28. Petitioners have no plain, speedy or adequate remedy in the course of ordinary law unless this Court grants the requested writ of mandate to require Respondents to set aside their approval of the Project and certification of the EIR. In the absence of such remedies, Respondents' approval will remain in effect in violation of State law.
- 29. This action has been brought within 30 days of the filing of the Notice of Determination as required by Public Resources Code section 21167(c).

STANDING

- 30. Petitioner Yolo Land and Water Defense, formed after Respondents approval of the Project, has standing to assert the claims raised in this Petition because Petitioner's aesthetic, environmental and property interests are directly and adversely affected by Respondent's certification of the EIR and approval of the Project. (*See* Pub. Resources Code, § 21177(c).)
 - 31. Petitioner Sierra Club has standing to assert the claims raised in this Petition

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

because Petitioner's aesthetic, environmental and property interests are directly and adversely affected by Respondent's certification of the EIR and approval of the Project. (See Pub. Resources Code, § 21177(c).)

ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS ACTIONS

32. Petitioners bring this action on the basis, among others, of Government Code section 800, and other applicable laws, which award Petitioners' attorneys' fees in actions to overturn agency decisions that are arbitrary and capricious, such as the decisions here in question.

PRIVATE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOCTRINE

33. Petitioners bring this action as private attorneys general pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, and any other applicable legal theory, to enforce important rights affecting the public interest. Issuance of the relief requested in this Petition will confer a significant benefit on a large class of persons by ensuring that Respondents do not approve the Project in the absence of lawful environmental review.

CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.)

- 34. Petitioners reallege and incorporate by reference Paragraphs 1 through 33, inclusive, of this Petition, as if fully set forth below.
- 35. Respondents committed a prejudicial abuse of discretion and failed to proceed in a manner required by law by relying on an EIR that fails to meet CEQA's requirements for disclosure, analysis, and/or mitigation of significant project impacts.
- 36. In approving the Project as described herein, Respondents prejudicially abused their discretion in violation of CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21168 and Code of Civil Procedure section 1094.5, because the County certified an EIR that fails to include information necessary for informed decision making and informed public participation, including information necessary to reach informed conclusions regarding the significance of the Project's environmental impacts, the effectiveness of mitigation measures to avoid the Project's significant environmental impacts, or feasibility of mitigation measures to reduce the Project's

significant environmental impacts; and because the EIR fails to use the best available information and/or accepted methodology for analyzing information.

- 37. The EIR fails to adequately address, analyze, disclose and mitigate the possibility that the mined land will not be reclaimed back to its original agricultural quality. While the EIR claims that the Yolo County Reclamation Ordinance requires that farmland will be reclaimed to its original quality, the record demonstrates that reclaimed farmland may not be the same quality as the original land. The EIR, however, fails to disclose and provide any such analysis nor proposed mitigation measures to address the potential loss of agricultural land.
- 38. The EIR fails to adequately address, analyze, disclose and mitigate the Project's potentially significant impacts to groundwater sub-basins adjacent to the mining site. The EIR states that the Project will not have any material impacts on groundwater depths in nearby wells. The EIR's analysis, however, is based on extremely limited analysis of data from wells located on and within 1000 feet of the Project site and fails to take into account and disclose that the entire area on which the Teichert Shifler mine is proposed in an area (the Plainfield Ridge geological formation) in which naturally obstructed aquifer recharge has been noted in recent years and for which "data gaps" exists according to the Yolo Sub basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
- 39. The EIR fails to adequately address, analyze, disclose and mitigate the Project's potentially significant impacts of the post-reclamation water impoundment that will create favorable conditions for the formation of methyl mercury, a highly toxic neurotoxin that has adverse effects on wildlife and human health. Methyl mercury may bio-accumulates in fish and other wildlife to dangerous levels and thus may impact human health if such wildlife is consumed.
- 40. The EIR fails to adequately disclose and analyze the environmental baseline with respect to the Project's Priority Pollutants and greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions. The EIR's analysis relies upon the transfer of emissions from the Esparto Plant to inflate the baseline for GHG emissions. The EIR, however, fails to adequately disclose and discuss that the emissions will be curtailed upon the closing of the plant, thus impacting the baseline. Nothing in the

permits, agreements or entitlements for the existing Teichert Esparto plant allow for the transfer of such emissions to the new Teichert-Shifler mining site.

41. The EIR fails to adequately address, analyze and disclose the VMT and associated emissions generated by the Project. The EIR fails to adequately disclose and analyze that the newly allocated tonnage processed may be transported to further points of sale (exported to points outside of Yolo County) than analyzed under the "Baseline (Permitted Capacity)" conditions and would thus have a larger average truck trip VMT and associated emissions than those analyzed in the EIR.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays for judgment as follows:

- 1. That this Court issue a peremptory writ of mandate ordering Respondents to vacate and set aside the following approvals and actions:
- a. Resolution No. 22-07 certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Teichert Shifler Mining and Reclamation Project (SCH #2019089053) based on Findings of Fact and a Statement of Overriding Considerations.
- b. Resolution No. 22-08 approving a General Plan Amendment to extend the Mineral Resources Overlay ("MRO") land use designation over an additional approximately 212 acres in order to cover the entire 319.3-acre project site.
- c. approval of Zoning Ordinance No. 681.235 to add the Sand and Gravel Overlay ("SG-O") over the entire 319.3-acre project site.
 - d. approval of the Off-Channel Surface Mining Permit;
- e. approval of the Mining Tonnage Allocation Transfer from the Teichert Schwarzgruber operation to the Teichert Shifler;
- f. approval of the Mining Tonnage Allocation Transfer of 941,177 tons mined (800,000 tons sold) annually from the Teichert Esparto operation to the Teichert Shifler operation at completion of the Teichert Esparto operation.

VERIFICATION

I, Alan Pryor, am a member of the Yolo Water and Land Defense, I am authorized to make this verification for and on behalf of Petitioner Yolo Water and Land Defense and I make this verification for that reason. I have read the foregoing Verified Petition for Writ of Mandate and know its contents. I am informed and believe, and on that ground allege, that the matters stated in the Verified Petition for Writ of Mandate are true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct.

Executed this 11th day of February, 2022, at Davis, California.

Alan Pryor

VERIFICATION

I, Alan Pryor, chair of the Yolano Group of the Sierra Club. I am authorized to make this verification for and on behalf of Petitioner Sierra Club and I make this verification for that reason. I have read the foregoing Verified Petition for Writ of Mandate and know its contents. I am informed and believe, and on that ground allege, that the matters stated in the Verified Petition for Writ of Mandate are true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct.

Executed this 11th day of February, 2022, at Davis, California.

Alan Pryor

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

LAW OFFICE OF DONALD B. MOONEY

417 Mace Boulevard, Suite J-334 Davis, CA 95618 530-758-2377 dbmooney@dcn.org

February 9, 2022

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS AND ELECTRONIC MAIL clerkoftheboard@yolocounty.org

Clerk of the Board County of Yolo 625 Court Street, Room 204 Woodland, CA 95695

Re: Notice of Intent to File CEQA Petition

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please take notice that under Public Resources Code section 21167.5, that Petitioners Yolo Land and Water Defense and Sierra Club intend to file a Petition for Writ of Mandate in Yolo County Superior Court under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq, against the County of Yolo and the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. The Petition for Writ of Mandate will challenge the County's January 11, 2022 certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") for the Teichert Shifler Mining and Reclamation Project ("Project") and approval of the Project.

The Petition for Writ of Mandate will request that the court direct Respondents to vacate and rescind the certification of the Final EIR, along with all Project approvals. Additionally, the Petition will seek Petitioners' costs and attorney's fees associated with this action.

Very truly yours,

Donald B. Mooney

Attorney

PROOF OF SERVICE

I am employed in the County of Yolo; my business address is 129 C Street, Suite 2 Davis, California; I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the foregoing action. On February 9, 2022, I served a true and correct copy of as follows:

Notice of Intent to File CEQA Petition – Public Resources Code section 21167.5

(by mail) on all parties in said action listed below Procedure §1013a(3), by placing a true copy thereof en United States mailbox in Davis, California.	•	
X (by overnight delivery service) via Federal Exp forth below:	ress to the person at the	address set
X (by electronic mail) to the person at the address	s set forth below:	
(by facsimile transmission) and to the person at forth below:	t the address and phone	number set
Clerk of the Board County of Yolo 625 Court Street, Room 204 Woodland, CA 95695		
clerkoftheboard@yolocounty.org		

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed February 9, 2022, at Davis, California.

Donald B. Mooney