



Prepared For:

Palm Springs Unified School District
150 District Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264
Julie Arthur, Executive Director

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Desert Hot Springs High School Career Tech Building



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April 2019

DRAFT

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

for the

Desert Hot Springs High School

Career Tech Building

PREPARED FOR:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

The Palm Springs Unified School District (District) is proposing to construct a Career Technical Education (CTE) Building and associated site improvements on the Desert Hot Springs High School (DHSHS) campus (proposed Project). The District has prepared this Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND; together, IS/MND) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed Project.

AUTHORITY

As part of the District's approval process, the proposed Project is required to undergo an environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This IS/MND has been prepared pursuant to CEQA for the proposed Project.

The preparation of an MND is governed by two principal sets of documents: CEQA¹ and the State *CEQA Guidelines*,² specifically, guide the process for the preparation of a negative declaration (ND) or MND. Where appropriate and supportive to an understanding of the issues, reference will be made to the statute, the State *CEQA Guidelines*, or the appropriate case law. An MND is prepared for a project when the IS has identified potentially significant effects on the environment but (1) revisions in the project plans or proposals made or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed ND and IS are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur; and (2) there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the public agency that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment.

Implementation of the proposed Project could cause some potentially significant impacts on the environment, but as evidenced by the environmental analysis contained in this IS, all of the proposed Project's potentially significant impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels through the implementation of mitigation measures. Consequently, the analysis contained herein concludes that an MND shall be prepared for the proposed Project.

1 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15000, et seq., State CEQA Guidelines.

2 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15000, et seq.

ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY

The purpose of the IS/MND is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. The content and format of this document are designed to meet the requirements of CEQA. This document is organized into the following sections:

- **Section 1: Introduction**, provides an introduction of the proposed Project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.
- **Section 2: Environmental Setting** describes the existing conditions, surrounding land use, General Plan, and existing zoning in the proposed Project area.
- **Section 3: Project Description** identifies the location, background, and provides a detailed description of the proposed Project.
- **Section 4: Environmental Checklist** presents the checklist responses and evaluation for each resource topic.
- **Section 5: Environmental Analysis** this section includes an analysis for reach resource topic and identifies impacts of implementing the proposed Project. It also identifies mitigation measures, if applicable.
- **Section 6: References** identifies all printed references and individuals cited in this MND.
- **Section 7: List of Preparers** identifies the individuals who prepared this report and their areas of technical specialty.
- Appendices present data supporting the analysis or contents of this IS/MND. These include:
 - **Appendix A: Distribution List**
 - **Appendix B: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Background and Modeling Data**
 - **Appendix C: Cultural Memo**
 - **Appendix D: Geotechnical Report**
 - **Appendix E: EDR Report**
 - **Appendix F: Construction Noise Worksheets**
 - **Appendix G: AB 52 Tribal Consultation Letters**

PUBLIC AND AGENCY REVIEW OF THE INITIAL STUDY

CEQA requires that the lead agency provide the public and agencies the opportunity to review and comment on a Draft MND. As outlined by CEQA, the District is providing a 30-day period for review and comment on the Draft MND. Upon completion of the public and agency review period, the District, as lead agency, will evaluate comments on environmental issues received from persons who reviewed the Draft MND and prepare written responses. The District will include these comments and responses in a

Final MND along with any changes that will be reviewed and considered for adoption by the District's Board of Trustees.

A complete distribution list is included in **Appendix A: Distribution List**.

Interested individuals, organizations, responsible agencies, and other agencies can provide written comments to:

Palm Springs Unified School District
Facilities Planning & Development Department
150 District Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264
Contact: Julie Arthur, Executive Director

Comments may also be sent by facsimile to (760) 325-8728 or by email at facilitiesplanning@psusd.us. Please put "DHSHS Career Tech Building Project" in the subject line.

Agency responses should include the name of a contact person within the commenting agency.

In addition, the Draft IS/MND is available on the District's website at:

<https://www.psusd.us/Page/2483>

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

PROJECT LOCATION

DHSHS is one of 4 high schools in the Palm Springs Unified School District (District) and currently serves approximately 1,800 students in grades 9 through 12 within the City of Desert Hot Springs (City). As shown in **Figure 2.0-1: Regional Location Map**, the City of Desert Hot Springs is in the central part of Riverside County and is surrounded by unincorporated Riverside County to the north, south, east, and west. Regional access to the City is gained through the Interstate 10 (I-10), which runs south of the City and 29 Palms Highway (State Route [SR] 62), which intersects the I-10 southwest and the central portion of the City. Primary access to DHSHS campus is gained through both I-10 and SR 62.

The DHSHS campus is located at 65850 Pierson Boulevard in the central portion of the City of Desert Hot Springs and is collectively identified by Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 664-190-040. As shown in **Figure 2.0-2: Project Location Map**, the DHSHS campus is bound by 5th Street to the north, Cholla Drive to the east, Pierson Road to the south, and Golden Eagle Way to the west. As shown in **Figure 2.0-2**, the approximately 1-acre Project site is located within the northwestern portion of the DHSHS campus situated between two existing 1- and 2-story classroom buildings, with Golden Eagle Way along the west.

GENERAL PLAN AND EXISTING ZONING

The City of Desert Hot Springs General Plan land use designation and associated zoning designation for the Project site is "P/S (School)" (**Figure 2.0-3: Desert Hot Springs General Plan Land Use Designations Map**). School uses are permitted under the City's Land Use and Zoning Designation for the Project site.

SURROUNDING LAND USES

The Project site is located within the northwestern portion of the DHSHS campus (refer to **Figure 2.0-2**). The Project site is bound to the north, south, and east by school uses, and single-family residential to the west across Golden Eagle Way. Land uses to the south of the Project site, located across Pierson Boulevard, consist of multi-family residential and commercial uses. Land uses to the east, located across Cholla Drive, consist of recreation, multi-family residential and open space. To the north, located across 5th Street, consists of vacant undeveloped land currently designated by the City for R-L (Residential Low Density) uses.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Originally constructed in 1998, the existing DHSHS campus consists of approximately 248,000 square feet of building area across a total 22 school buildings and other school facilities, containing a total of 95 classrooms, situated across a total area of approximately 48 acres. As shown in **Figure 2.0-4: Existing**

Desert Hot Springs High School Site Plan, the Project site is located within an open area in the northwestern portion of the DHSHS campus.

The Project site is located within the City of Desert Hot Springs and is in a previously developed area with a developed community surrounding the high school. The topography of the Project site is relatively flat and considered mostly arid desert land that has been landscaped as part of the overall campus development over the years. Elevation of the Project site is approximately 1,105 feet above mean sea level.³

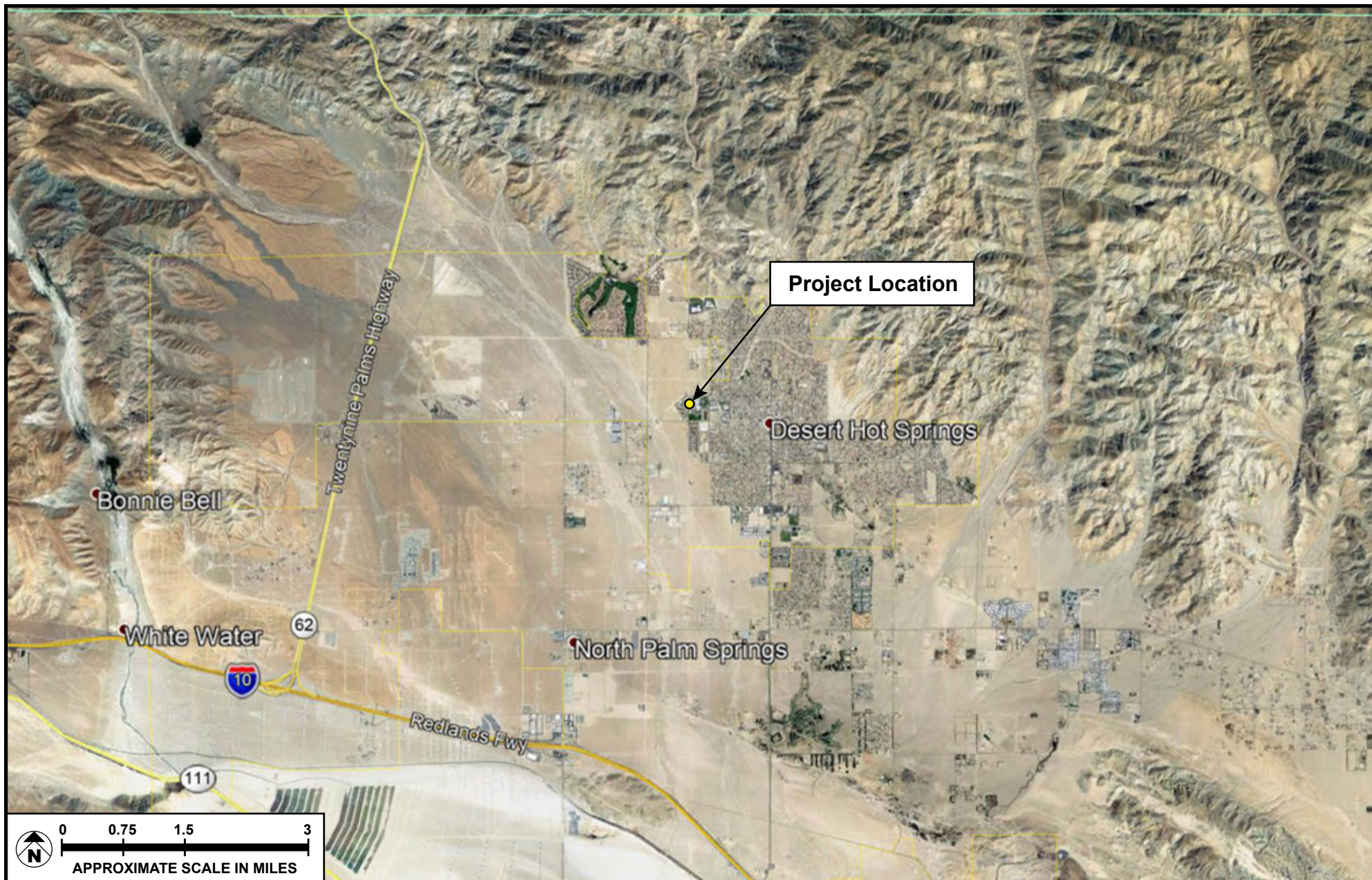
TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES⁴

In accordance with AB 52, the District provided notification to two California Native American Tribes (Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians) that have requested notification of the proposed Project (pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1). The letters notifying the tribes were issued on March 7, 2019 (see **Appendix G**). To date, the District has only received a response from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, who indicated, in their letter dated March 27, 2019, that while the proposed Project is not located within the boundaries of their Reservation, it is located within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians requested the inclusion of language in the Draft IS/MND addressing the potential disturbance of human remains in accordance with State law or Tribal burial protocol. The District recognizes this request and commensurate language has been provided in the Draft IS/MND to meet Tribal goals. In regard to a response from the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, the Tribe will have until April 6, 2019 to respond to the District identifying any potential Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) of concerns.

The Project site is located within an existing school campus that has been previously disturbed. Implementation of the proposed Project would not involve substantial ground-disturbing activities during construction. Given this prior development of the campus, the presence of any documented cultural resources on the Project site is considered low, and it is unlikely that site preparation and construction activities would identify any new potential TCRs of concern. However, as construction activities associated with the proposed Project could still have the potential to unearth undocumented archaeological resources beneath the site, the District has taken into consideration in this IS/MND that there may be potential albeit low, that TCRs could be encountered during site ground-disturbing activities. If any such TCRs are encountered, the District has included in the IS/MND provisions to address should that occur.

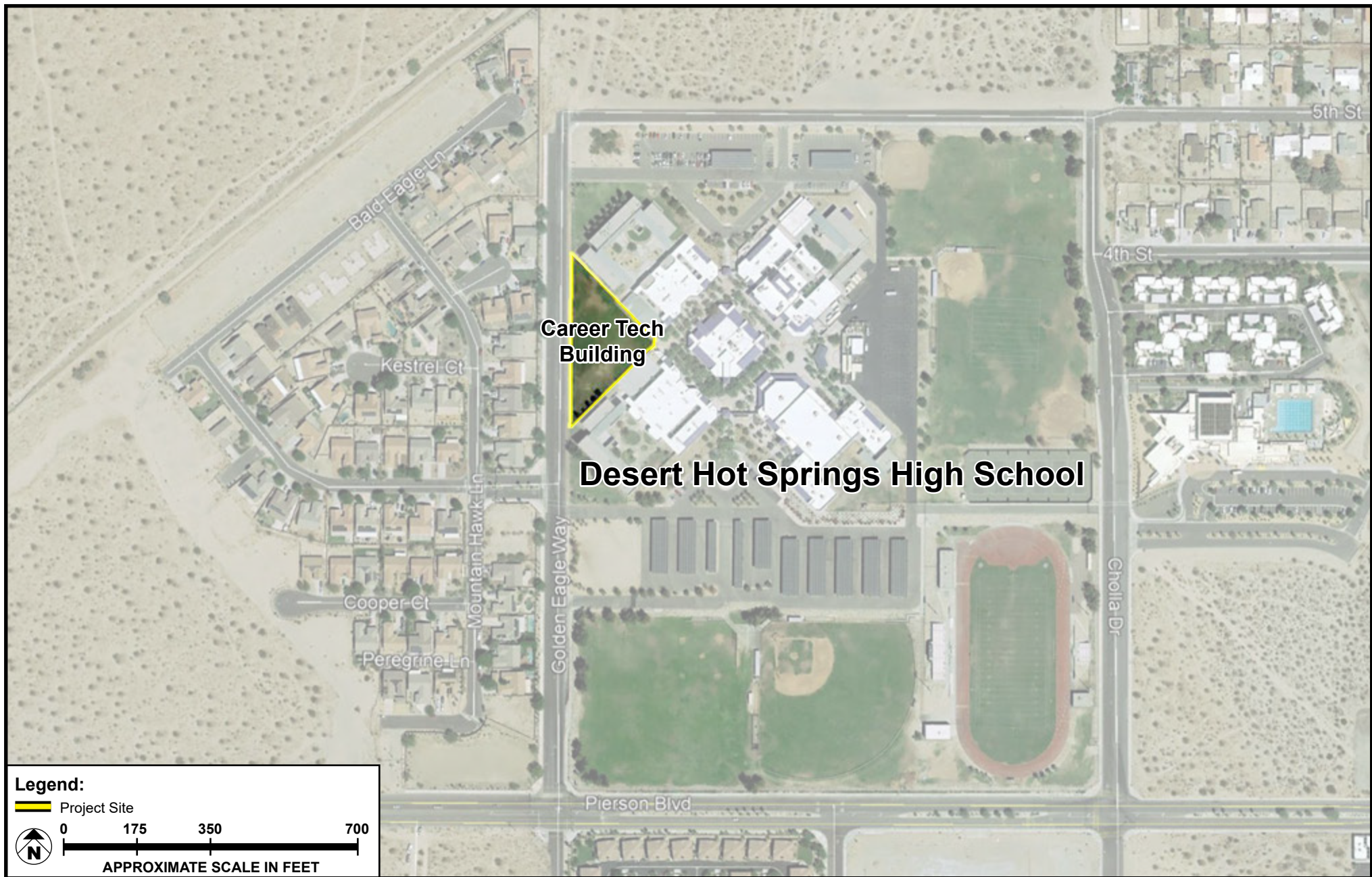
³ United States Geological Survey, *Quadrangle Map—Palm Springs* (1996).

⁴ Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and Project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process (see PRC Section 20803.3.2). Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per PRC Section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historical Preservation. Please also note that PRC Section 20892.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2019; Meridian Consultants, LLC - 2019

FIGURE 2.0-1



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2019; Meridian Consultants - 2019

FIGURE 2.0-2

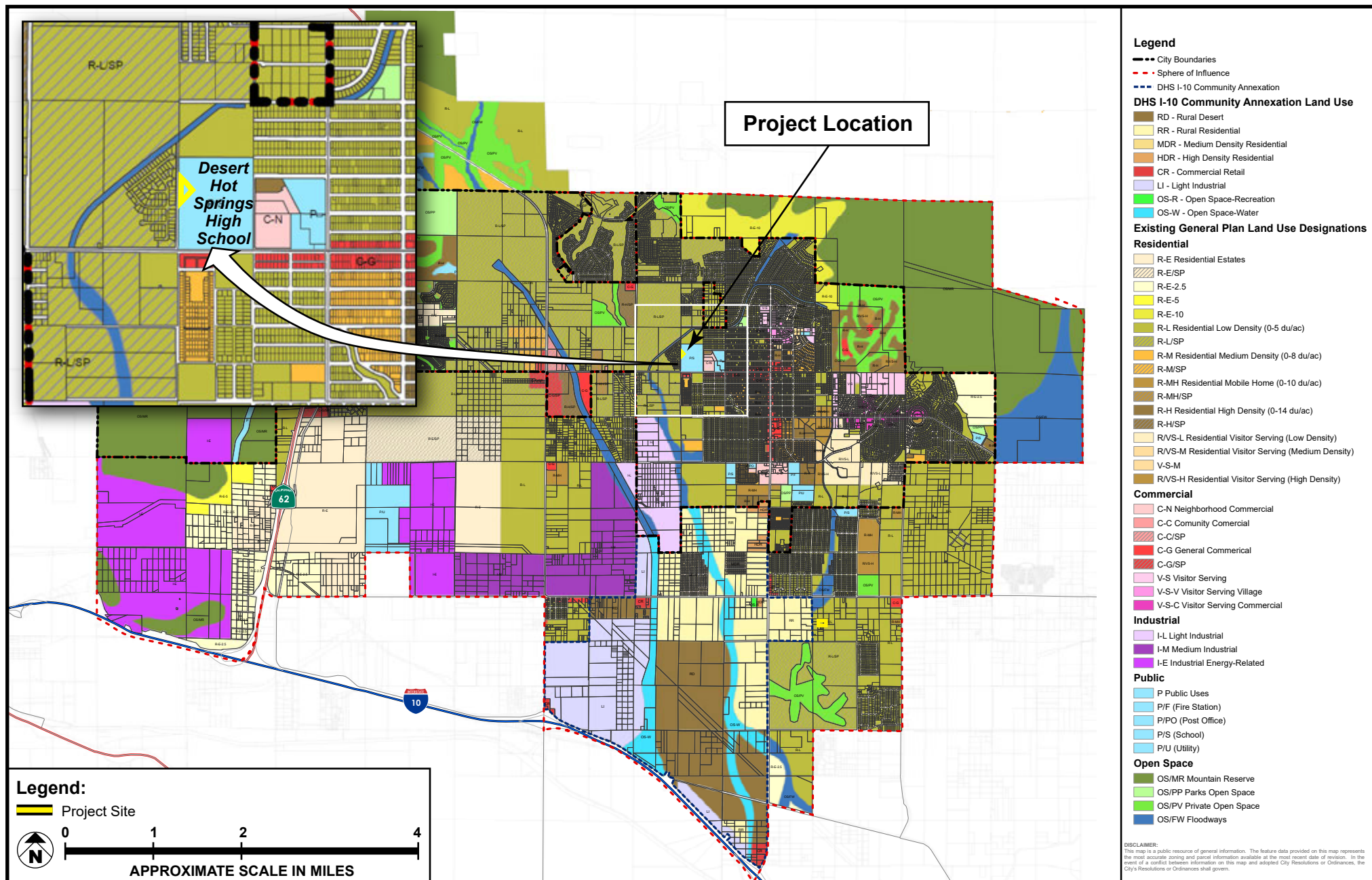


FIGURE 2.0-3

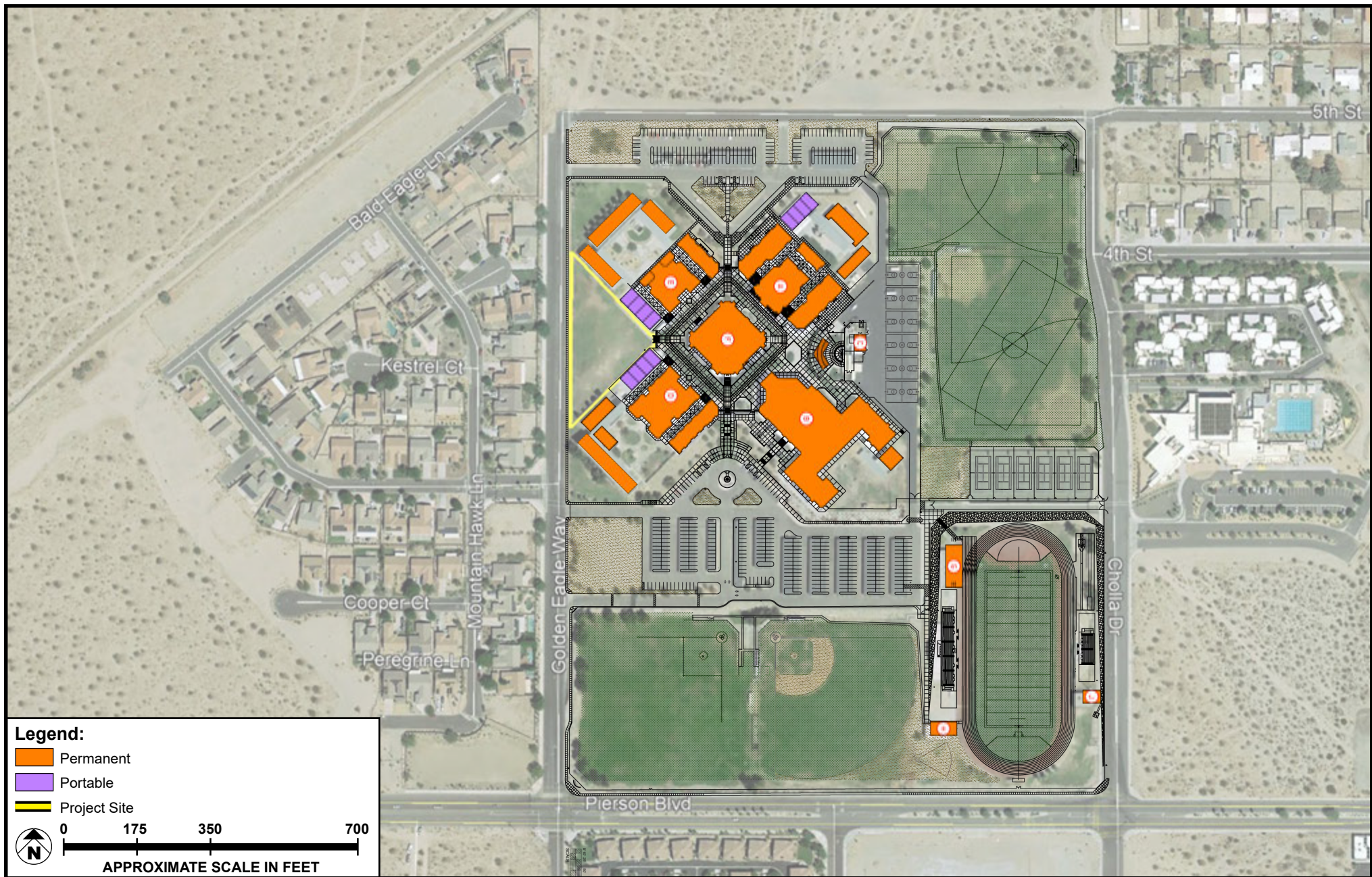


FIGURE 2.0-4

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW

The Palm Springs Unified School District (District) is proposing to construct a Career Technical Education (CTE) Building and associated site improvements on the DHSHS campus (proposed Project). The proposed CTE Building would accommodate existing academic programs currently occurring on the DHSHS campus. Implementation of the proposed Project would provide the District with an updated and modern school facility that creates flexible learning space to support CTE programs on the DHSHS campus. The new classroom building would meet the immediate and long-term educational programming needs of the campus community.

BACKGROUND

The DHSHS campus was originally constructed in 1998 and occupied in 1999. DHSHS is an academically competitive school where students focus on college and career readiness. Students master cross-curricular content and formulate a 10-year plan that suits their individual learning strengths and goals. The staff engages in collaboration, employs the latest technology, and promotes innovation to increase student achievement and students' ability to contribute positively to society. The DHSHS campus houses two linked learning academies—the Renewable Energy Academy of Learning (REAL) and Public Safety Academy (PSA), which each provide students with real-world experience to help them connect class work to their future career or college work. A third academy, the Academy for Careers in Education (ACE), opened recently and focuses on preparing future educators. DHSHS, through a partnership with the College of the Desert, has also expanded its AVID program, Advanced Placement offerings, and dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities.

The DHSHS currently serves a student population of approximately 1,800 students in grades 9 through 12 and a total of approximately 125 classified and certified staff members.

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The proposed Project would construct an approximately 13,630 square foot CTE Building on an undeveloped portion of the DHSHS campus. The proposed CTE Building would accommodate the REAL and PSA programs on the DHSHS campus by providing flexible classroom space for each academy. The proposed CTE Building would dedicate approximately 4,825 square feet for each of the REAL and PSA programs, with approximately 33,980 square feet dedicated for outdoor work spaces.

As shown in **Figure 3.0-1: Proposed Site Plan**, the proposed CTE Building would include one classroom and one training bay for the PSA academy, and two workshops for the REAL academy. The proposed CTE

Building would also include various other storage and outdoor work areas. A paved driveway would also be constructed along the northern boundary of the Project site to provide access for first responder and emergency vehicles working with the PSA academy.

Primary access to the proposed CTE Building would be gained within the DHSHS campus. Ornamental landscaping, including trees, shrubs, and ground cover, would be provided along the perimeter of the Project site.

Architectural Design

The proposed CTE Building would be 1-story and a maximum of 20 feet in height. The Project site would be secured through a combination of fencing and walls. Students and faculty would access the proposed CTE Building from the DHSHS campus through sliding gates within the interior fencing. The perimeter of the Project site adjacent to Golden Eagle Way would be secured with a wall.

As shown in **Figure 3.0-2: Conceptual Architectural Design—Northeast View**, **Figure 3.0-3: Conceptual Architectural Design—West View**, and **Figure 3.0-4: Conceptual Architectural Design—East View**, the overall design of the proposed CTE Building would be designed with a contemporary style to complement other structures on the DHSHS campus. The proposed CTE Building would be wood frame construction with stucco finish, with some concrete masonry perimeter screen walls.

Construction

Construction Schedule/Phasing

Construction of the proposed Project would take approximately 9 months, with the earliest commencement date of summer 2019 and an estimated completion date of summer 2020. Occupancy of the proposed CTE Building is projected to occur by the start of the 2020–2021 school year. As shown in **Table 3.0-1: Project Construction Phasing**, the proposed Project would be constructed in two primary phases: (1) Site preparation and (2) Building construction/architectural coating/asphalt paving.

Table 3.0-1
Project Construction Phasing

Construction Phase	Approximate Duration
Site preparation	1 month
Building construction/Architectural coating/Asphalt paving	8 months

The site preparation phase includes removal of existing vegetated surface located the Project site and subsequent replacement with properly compacted soil and fill. The building construction phase would include construction of the CTE Building, architectural coating, and paving.

As construction activities would be limited to the interior of the DHSHS campus, street closures of nearby streets are not anticipated. Construction staging would occur on the Project site or within the vacant area at the northwestern corner of the DHSHS campus at Golden Eagle Way and 5th Street.

Security would be provided by campus security guards and campus police during construction. All construction workers would be required to wear identification badges and check in through the school office prior to each day's construction activities. As the Project site is surrounded by classroom buildings and Golden Eagle Way, temporary fencing surrounding the Project site's construction area perimeter may be implemented in an effort to provide additional security and safety measures.

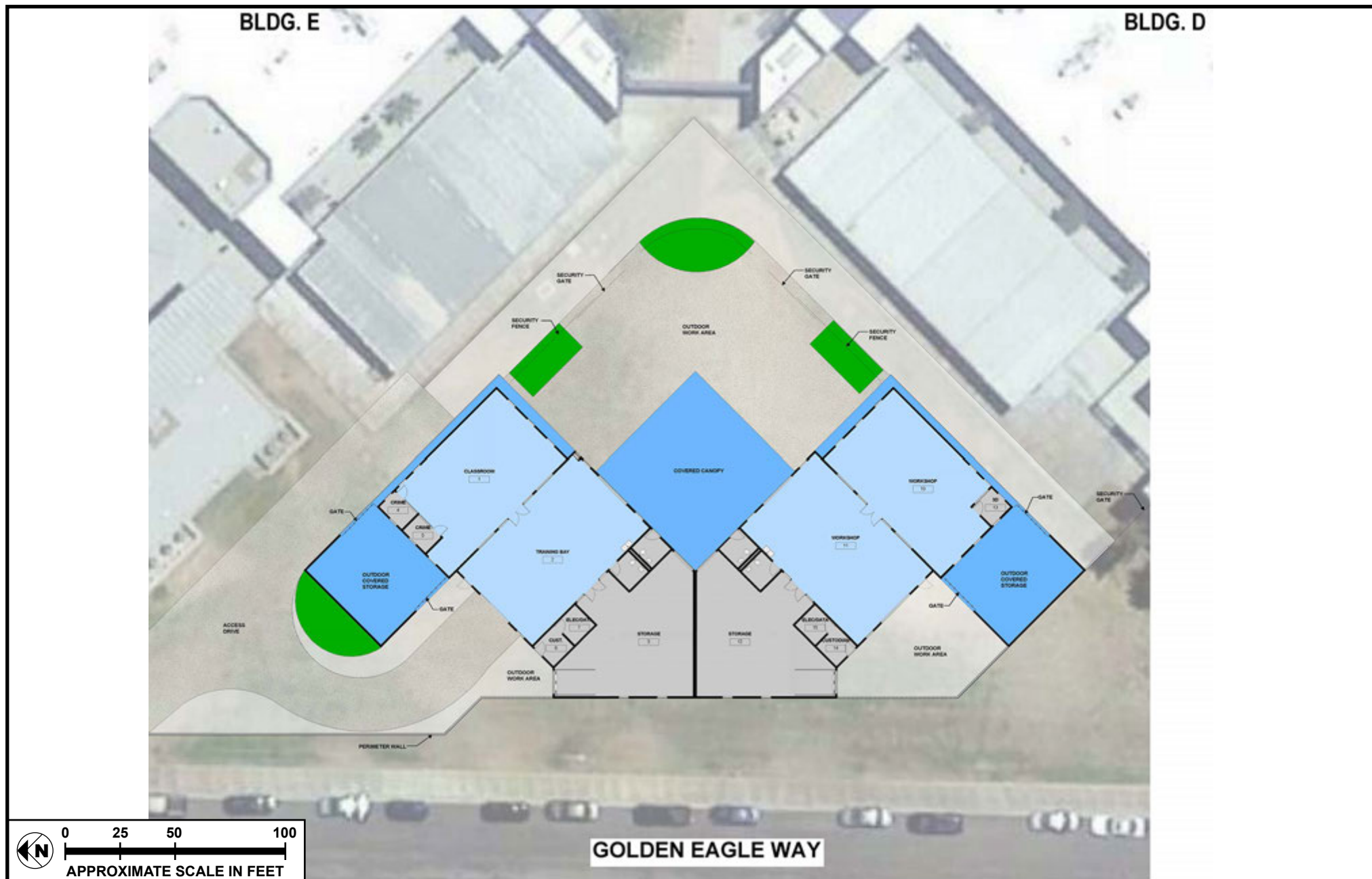
Haul Routes

All construction materials that cannot be recycled or diverted on the Project site will be hauled to Lamb Canyon Landfill. All truck staging would occur either on the Project site or at designated off-site locations and radioed into the site to be filled. The local haul route for the Project site would utilize Pierce Boulevard to access SR 62 toward the I-10.

SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTED ACTIONS

The District is requesting the approval of the following action, as described previously:

- Adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration



SOURCE: PBK Architects - June 2018

FIGURE 3.0-1



SOURCE: PBK Architects - June 2018

FIGURE 3.0-2



SOURCE: PBK Architects - June 2018

FIGURE 3.0-3



SOURCE: PBK Architects - June 2018

FIGURE 3.0-4

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST


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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology/Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards & Hazardous Materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.


 Signature
 Julie Arthur, Executive Director

03/28/2019
 Date

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE STATE SCHOOL FACILITY PROGRAM

In addition to the general environmental checklist provided by Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, projects involving primary and secondary public schools have several additional requirements established by the California Education Code (EDC), California Code of Regulations (CCR), and the Public Resources Code (PRC) as shown in **Table 4.2-1, Environmental Review Factors for State-Funded New School and State-Funded Addition to Existing School**. These requirements vary by type of school project and whether State funds are involved. The following table identifies the specific requirements for a State-funded new school or a State-funded addition to an existing school site.

Table 4.2-1
Environmental Review Factors for State-Funded New School and
State-Funded Addition to Existing School

Topic	Applicable Code
<i>Air Quality</i>	
Is the boundary of the proposed school site within 500 feet of the edge of the closest traffic lane of a freeway or busy traffic corridor? If yes, would the project create an air quality health risk due to the placement of the School?	PRC §21151.8(a)(1)(D); EDC §17213(c)(2)(C)
<i>Geology and Soils</i>	
Does the site contain an active earthquake fault or fault trace, or is the site located within the boundaries of any special studies zone or within an area designated as geologically hazardous in the safety element of the local general plan?	EDC §17212; 5 CCR §14010(f)
Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on the trace of a geological fault along which surface rupture can reasonably be expected to occur within the life of the school building?	EDC §17212; 5 CCR §14010(f)
Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to moderate-to-high liquefaction?	5 CCR §14010(i)
Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to landslides?	5 CCR 5 §14010(i)
<i>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</i>	
Does the proposed school site contain one or more pipelines, situated underground or aboveground, which carry hazardous substances, acutely hazardous materials, or hazardous wastes, unless the pipeline is a natural gas line that is used only to supply natural gas to that school or neighborhood?	PRC §21151.8(a)(1)(C)
Is the proposed school site located near an aboveground water or fuel storage tank or within 1,500 feet of an easement of an aboveground or underground pipeline that can pose a safety hazard to the site?	5 CCR §14010(h)
Would the project create an air quality hazard due to the placement of a school within one-quarter mile of: (a) permitted and nonpermitted facilities identified by the jurisdictional air quality control board or air pollution control district; (b) freeways and other busy traffic corridors; (c) large agricultural operations; and/or (d) a rail yard, which might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions, or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste?	PRC §21151.8(a)(2); EDC §17213(b)

Topic	Applicable Code
Is the school site in an area designated in a city, county, or city and county general plan for agricultural use and zoned for agricultural production, and if so, do neighboring agricultural uses have the potential to result in any public health and safety issues that may affect the pupils and employees at the school site? <i>(Does not apply to school sites approved by CDE prior to January 1, 1997.)</i>	EDC §17215.5(a)
Is the property line of the proposed school site less than the following distances from the edge of respective power line easements: (1) 100 feet of a 50–133 kV line; (2) 150 feet of a 220–230 kV line; or (3) 350 feet of a 500–550 kV line?	5 CCR §14010(c)
Does the project site contain a current or former hazardous waste disposal site or solid waste disposal site and, if so, have the wastes been removed?	PRC §21151.8(a)(1)(A)
Is the project site a hazardous substance release site identified by the state Department of Health Services in a current list adopted pursuant to §25356 for removal or remedial action pursuant to Chapter 6.8 of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code?	PRC §21151.8(a)(1)(B)
If prepared, has the risk assessment been performed with a focus on children's health posed by a hazardous materials release or threatened release, or the presence of naturally occurring hazardous materials on the school site?	EDC §17210.1(a)(3)
If a response action is necessary and proposed as part of this project, has it been developed to be protective of children's health, with an ample margin of safety?	EDC §17210.1(a)(4)
Is the proposed school site situated within 2,000 feet of a significant disposal of hazardous waste?	5 CCR §14010(t)
Is the proposed school site within two miles, measured by air line, of that point on an airport runway or potential runway included in an airport master plan that is nearest to the site? <i>(Does not apply to school sites acquired prior to January 1, 1966.)</i>	EDC §17215(a)&(b)
Hydrology and Water Quality	
Is the project site subject to flooding or dam inundation?	EDC §17212; 5 CCR §14010(g)
Land Use and Planning	
Would the proposed school conflict with any existing or proposed land uses, such that a potential health or safety risk to students would be created?	5 CCR §14010(m)
Noise	
Is the proposed school site located adjacent to or near a major arterial roadway or freeway whose noise generation may adversely affect the educational program?	5 CCR §14010 (e)
Public Services	
Does the site promote joint use of parks, libraries, museums, and other public services?	5 CCR §14010(o)
Traffic and Transportation	
Are traffic and pedestrian hazards mitigated per Caltrans' <i>School Area Pedestrian Safety</i> manual?	5 CCR §14010(l)
Is the site easily accessible from arterials and is the minimum peripheral visibility maintained for driveways per Caltrans' <i>Highway Design Manual</i> ?	5 CCR §14010(k)
Is the proposed school site within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement?	5 CCR §14010(d)

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. “Negative Declaration: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from “Earlier Analyses,” as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Project Mitigation,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or

outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used, or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

5.1 AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. *Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*

Less than Significant Impact. Scenic vistas are typically views of features such as mountains, forests, the ocean, or urban skylines. The City is bordered by the San Bernardino Mountains to the northwest, the adjoining Santa Rosa Mountains and San Jacinto Mountains to the south and southwest, respectively, and the Little San Bernardino Mountains to the northeast. Views of these mountain ranges are identified in the City's General Plan as scenic resources.⁵ The Project site is located within the northwestern portion of the existing DHSHS campus, with school buildings surrounding along the north, south and east.

As shown in **Figure 5.1-1: View of San Bernardino Mountains**, **Figure 5.1-2: View of Adjoining San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains**, and **Figure 5.1-3: View of Little San Bernardino Mountains**, views of the San Bernardino Mountains, San Jacinto Mountains, Santa Rosa, and Little San Bernardino Mountains are visible from the DHSHS campus.

Implementation of the proposed Project would consist of the construction of a new classroom located within the northwestern portion of the existing DHSHS campus. The new CTE Building would be

5 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Community Design Element" (2000).

constructed to a maximum of 20 feet in height, which would be similar in height to the surrounding existing school buildings and would not affect existing views of the surrounding mountains. Views of scenic vistas would remain similar to existing conditions. Additionally, the elevations of the surrounding mountains would remain to provide a scenic backdrop to the campus without detriment from development of the proposed Project.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Less than Significant Impact. California’s Scenic Highway Program classifies SR 111 as an “Eligible Scenic Highway-Not Officially Designated” scenic highway.⁶ As previously identified, the City’s Community Design Element, notes that the San Bernardino Mountains, the adjoining Santa Rosa Mountains and San Jacinto Mountains, and the Little San Bernardino Mountains are scenic resources within the City. The majority of the City’s roadway system provides views to the south of these scenic resources. Although not designated by the State as scenic highways, the City’s roadway system provides a valuable visual resource for the community.⁷

The Project site is approximately 7 miles north of SR 111 and is not visible from the highway. Westerly views of the San Jacinto Mountains are visible from SR 111. Additionally, the existing DHSHS campus and the Project site are not visible from the SR 111 due to existing development and trees surrounding the highway. Development of the proposed Project would not be visible from SR 111, and no impacts to scenic highways would occur.

The Project site does not contain any scenic resources, such as rock outcroppings, trees, or historic buildings that would be damaged by the proposed Project.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

6 California Department of Transportation, *California Scenic Highway Mapping System*, “Riverside County,” accessed February 2019, http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm.

7 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, “Community Design Element” (2000).

- c. In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?***

Less than Significant Impact. The Project site is characterized as an undeveloped and open area on the DHSHS campus. The Project site is located in the northwestern portion of the existing DHSHS campus and is bound to the north, south and east by 1- and 2-story classroom buildings and 1-story single-family residential to the west across Golden Eagle Way.

The surrounding campus consists of a number of buildings and structures, staff and visitor parking areas, and other hardscape and landscape features. The proposed CTE Building would be designed with a contemporary style, which would retain various characteristics of the existing structure and would complement the other structures on the existing DHSHS campus. As shown in **Figures 3.0-2 through 3.0-4**, the proposed CTE Building would conform to the general aesthetics of the DHSHS campus.

The proposed Project would maintain the existing overall aesthetic character of the campus and conform to the aesthetic design of the existing campus. Implementation of the proposed Project would not affect any existing scenic vistas within the City and views across the Project site would remain similar to existing conditions.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?***

Less than Significant Impact. The Project site would construct a new classroom building within an undeveloped portion of the DHSHS campus, which consists of a number of buildings, structures, staff and visitor parking areas, and other hardscape and landscape improvements. Sources of light exist within the confines of the DHSHS campus and are related to surrounding buildings and parking areas. Other sources of light and glare exist off the campus in the Project area including streetlights along Pierson Boulevard to the south and Golden Eagle Way to the west.

The proposed Project would involve the construction of a modernized facility on the existing DHSHS campus. Sources of light and glare would be similar compared to existing conditions but would be updated in accordance with current design practices. Such design practices require the use of shielding features to

direct lighting downwards and minimize off-site impacts on surrounding uses. In addition, the proposed CTE Building would be constructed with building materials that would consist of nonreflective, textured surfaces and nonreflective glass to minimize the creation of daytime glare that could affect nearby sensitive uses.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



SOURCE: Meridian Consultants - 2019

FIGURE 5.1-1



SOURCE: Meridian Consultants - 2019

FIGURE 5.1-2



SOURCE: Meridian Consultants - 2019

FIGURE 5.1-3

5.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>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 Dept. 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 forest land, 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 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to nonforest 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 nonforest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?**

No Impact. The Project site is located within the northwestern portion of the existing DHSHS campus and is bound to the north, south and east by school uses. Other uses surrounding the Project site include multi-family residential and commercial uses to the south, single- and multi-family residential uses to the east and west, and vacant undeveloped land to the north.

According to the California Department of Conservation “Riverside County Important Farmland 2016” map, the Project site is designated as “urban and built-up land.”⁸ No portion of the Project site is designated as Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance. The Project site and surrounding development are not currently used for agricultural use.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or Williamson Act Contract?

No Impact. As previously noted, the Project site is located within a developed high school campus, and not in agricultural use not currently used for agricultural use. The Project site is not designated or zoned for agricultural use, used for agriculture, or subject to a Williamson Act contract. There are no designated agricultural land uses or Williamson Act contracts in use adjacent to or in proximity of the Project site.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

No Impact. The Project site is not designated or zoned for forest or timberland or used for foresting. As stated before, the Project site is in an urbanized area of the City and surrounding land uses consisting of school, residential, and commercial uses.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

8 California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, *Riverside County Important Farmland 2016*, map, sheet 2 of 3 (July 2017), Accessed February 2019, available at <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp>.

d. Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to nonforest use?

No Impact. The Project site is not designated or zoned for forest or timberland or used for foresting. Additionally, the Project site is in an urbanized area of the City and is not within any forestland area.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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 nonforest use?

No Impact. As previously noted, the Project site does not contain any farmland or forestland; therefore, no such land would be converted. Proposed development would construct a new classroom building. All proposed Project development would occur within the Project site, which is located within the developed campus.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.3 AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Is the boundary of the proposed school site within 500 feet of the edge of the closest traffic lane of a freeway or busy traffic corridor? If yes, would the project create an air quality health risk due to the placement of the School?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Less than Significant Impact. A consistency determination plays an important role in local agency project review by linking local planning and individual projects to the air quality management plan (AQMP). This determination fulfills the CEQA goal in informing decision makers of the environmental efforts of the project under consideration at an early enough stage to ensure that air quality concerns are fully addressed. It also provides the local agency with ongoing information as to whether they are contributing to clean air goals contained in the AQMP. Projects that are consistent with local general plans are considered consistent with the air quality related regional plans including the current AQMP, the Coachella Valley PM10 State Implementation Plan, and other applicable regional plans. The most recent adopted comprehensive plan is the 2016 AQMP, which was released March 2017 by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), in which the Project site is located.⁹

⁹ South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), *Final 2016 Air Quality Management Plan* (March 2017), accessed March 2019, <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/clean-air-plans/air-quality-management-plans/2016-air-quality-management-plan/final-2016-aqmp/final2016aqmp.pdf>.

The Project site is located in the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB). The SSAB comprises of a portion of the SCAQMD, which consists of the central portion of Riverside County (the Coachella Valley) and Imperial County Air Pollution Control District. Regional growth projections are used by SCAQMD to forecast future emission levels in the SSAB. For Southern California, these regional growth projections are provided by the Southern California Association of Governments and are partially based on land use designations included in city/county general plans. Typically, only large, regionally significant projects have the potential to affect the regional growth projections.

The new CTE Building would not result in any increase of students and faculty on site. The proposed Project would not affect the regional emissions inventory or conflict with strategies in the AQMP to attain the Ambient Air Quality Standards. Additionally, the regional emissions generated by construction and operation of the proposed Project would be less than the SCAQMD emissions thresholds (refer to **Table 5.3-1** and **5.3-2** below) and would not be considered by SCAQMD to be a substantial source of air pollutant emissions. The proposed Project would not conflict or obstruct implementation of the AQMP.

Construction Emissions

The construction emissions for the proposed Project were calculated according to the SCAQMD's *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* (Handbook)¹⁰ and construction emission factors contained in the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), version 2016.3.2. The analysis assumes that all construction equipment and activities would occur continuously over the day and that activities would overlap. In reality, this would not occur as most equipment would operate only a fraction of each workday and many of the activities would not overlap on a daily basis. For purposes of a conservative analysis, the unmitigated values for construction are shown below.

The maximum unmitigated daily emissions during proposed Project construction are listed in **Table 5.3-1: Maximum Construction Emissions**. As shown in **Table 5.3-1**, construction emissions of the proposed Project would not exceed SCAQMD regional construction thresholds for all criteria pollutants. Construction-related emissions would further be minimized through best development practices and adherence to SCAQMD local regulations such as: Rule 403–Fugitive Dust, Rule 403.1–Supplemental Fugitive Dust Control Requirements for Coachella Valley Sources, and Rule 1113–Architectural Coating.

¹⁰ SCAQMD, *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* (April 1993).

Table 5.3-1
Maximum Construction Emissions

Source	ROG	NOx	CO	SOx	PM10	PM2.5
	pounds/day					
Unmitigated maximum	5	8	9	<1	1	1
SCAQMD threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55
Threshold exceeded?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Notes: Refer to **Appendix B2 Summer** and **Appendix B3 (Winter)**, 2.1 Overall Construction.

CO = carbon monoxide; NOx = nitrogen oxide; PM10 = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM2.5 = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns; ROG = reactive organic compounds; SOx = sulfur oxide.

Operational Emissions

Stationary emissions of the CTE Building would be generated by the consumption of natural gas for space and water heating equipment. The proposed Project would not result in any increase of students and faculty on-site, therefore, mobile emissions would be negligible. The analysis of daily operational emissions has been prepared using the data and methodologies identified in the SCAQMD Handbook and the CalEEMod model and are presented in **Table 5.3-2: Maximum Operational Emissions**. As shown in **Table 5.3-2**, operation of the proposed CTE Building and support facilities would not exceed the regional thresholds of significance set by the SCAQMD. Impacts would be less than significant.

Table 5.3-2
Maximum Operational Emissions

Source	ROG	NOx	CO	SOx	PM10	PM2.5
	pounds/day					
Maximum	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
SCAQMD threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55
Threshold exceeded?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Notes: Refer to **Appendix B2 (Summer)** and **Appendix B3 (Winter)**, 2.2 Overall Operation.

CO = carbon monoxide; NOx = nitrogen oxide; PM10 = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM2.5 = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns; ROG = reactive organic compounds; SOx = sulfur oxide.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Less than Significant Impact. The Coachella Valley is designated by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as nonattainment for ozone and PM10, based on exceedances of both the State 1-hour and 8-hour for ozone and 24-hour and annual average standards for PM10.¹¹ Adherence to the SCAQMD rules and regulations and compliance with locally adopted AQMP and PM10 State Implementation Plan control measures will help reduce the pollutant burden contributed by the individual development project. Appropriate air quality measures are required by the City and implemented through enforcement of the City's Municipal Code consistent with SCAQMD Rules 403 and 403.1.¹²

In regard to determining the significance of the proposed Project contribution, the SCAQMD neither recommends quantified analyses of construction and/or operational emissions from multiple development projects nor provides methodologies or thresholds of significance to be used to assess the cumulative emissions generated by multiple cumulative projects. Instead, the SCAQMD recommends that a project's potential contribution to cumulative impacts should be assessed utilizing the same significance criteria as those for project-specific impacts. Furthermore, SCAQMD states that if an individual development project generates less than significant construction or operational emissions, then the development project would not generate a cumulatively considerable increase in emissions for those pollutants for which the SSAB is in nonattainment. As discussed above, the proposed Project would not generate construction and operational emissions that exceed the SCAQMD's recommended regional thresholds of significance (refer to **Table 5.3-1** and **Table 5.3-2**). Therefore, the Project would not generate a cumulative considerable increase in emissions of the pollutants for which the SSAB is in nonattainment.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than Significant with Project Mitigation. As shown above in **Table 5.3-1** and **Table 5.3-2**, construction and operational emissions would be below the SCAQMD regional thresholds. However, concentrations of pollutants may have the potential to impact nearby sensitive receptors. Sensitive receptors are defined as schools, residential homes, hospitals, resident care facilities, daycare centers or other facilities that

11 California Air Resources Board (CARB), "Area Designations Maps/State and National," accessed March 2019, <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm>.

12 City of Desert Hot Springs, Municipal Code, tit. 15, Buildings and Construction.

may house individuals with health conditions that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. The Project site has existing school uses on the north, south, and east with single-family residences to the west across Golden Eagle Way.

SCAQMD has divided its jurisdictional territory of the SSAB into 38 Source Receptor Areas (SRAs), most of which have monitoring stations that collect air quality data. These SRAs are designated to provide a general representation of the local meteorological, terrain, and air quality conditions within the particular geographical area. These geographical areas include urbanized regions, interior valleys, coastal areas, and mountains. The SCAQMD provides screening criteria for distances of 25, 50, 100, 200 and 500 meters and allows for linear interpolation to estimate the screening criteria between these distances. The Project site is located in the Coachella Valley SRA (SRA 30).¹³

Table 5.3-3: Localized Significance Threshold (LST) Worst-Case Emissions shows the maximum localized emissions during baseline on-site construction and operation of the Project. As shown in **Table 5.3-3**, the localized emissions for sensitive receptors would not exceed LST for NO_x, CO, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. In addition, construction phases that occur when school is in session, specifically those that generate increase air emissions such as building construction, students would be in the classrooms for the majority of school hours. Classroom doors and windows would be closed at all times and any form of pollutants would not enter into the classrooms. Areas where outdoor activities occur (physical education classes, lunch and nutrition break) are primarily located at a sufficient (several hundred feet) distance from the Project site. To avoid risk of students being exposed to pollutants during outdoor events, classes and outdoor activity areas can be temporarily relocated to other campus locations away from the Project site. Nearby sensitive receptors and students would avoid exposure to criteria pollutants (if any) associated with construction activities.

13 SCAQMD, *General Forecast Areas and Air Monitoring Areas*, map, accessed March 2019, <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/map-of-monitoring-areas.pdf>.

Table 5.3-3
Localized Significance Threshold (LST) Worst-Case Emissions

Source	NOx	CO	PM10	PM2.5
	pounds/day			
On-Site Construction				
Total maximum emissions	7	6	<1	<1
LST threshold	132	878	4	3
Threshold exceeded?	No	No	No	No
Operational				
Project area/energy emissions	<1	<1	<1	<1
LST threshold	132	878	1	1
Threshold exceeded?	No	No	No	No

Source: Refer to **Appendix B2 (Summer)** and **Appendix B3 (Winter)**, 2.2 Overall Operation and 3.2-3.7 Construction Detail.

Note: CO = carbon monoxide; NOx = nitrogen oxide; PM10 = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM2.5 = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns.

Toxic Air Contaminants

Project construction would result in short-term emissions of diesel particulate matter, which is a toxic air contaminant (TAC). Diesel particulate matter poses a carcinogenic health risk that is generally measured using an exposure period of 30 years for sensitive residential receptors. Off-road heavy-duty diesel equipment would emit diesel particulate matter over the course of the construction period. Localized diesel particulate matter emissions (strongly correlated with PM2.5 emissions) would be minimal and would be substantially below localized thresholds as presented in **Table 5.3-3**. Nonetheless, while the proposed Project would result in a generally low level of diesel particulate emissions, it is potentially possible that the proposed Project could result in health impacts to sensitive receptors in the immediate vicinity of the Project site due to updated health risk assessment guideline and age sensitivity factors. **Mitigation Measure AQ-1** would require the use of equipment that meet the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Tier 3 emissions standards and are equipped with CARB certified Level 3 Diesel Particulate Filter or equivalent control device. The measure would be expected to reduce diesel particulate matter by approximately 85 percent or more.

Project operations would generate only minor amounts of diesel emissions from incidental maintenance activities, such as from the use of architectural coatings and other cleaning products. As a result, toxic or carcinogenic air pollutants are not expected to occur in any meaningful amounts in conjunction with operation of the proposed CTE Building. Therefore, potential long-term operational impacts associated

with the release of TACs would be minimal and would not be expected to exceed the SCAQMD thresholds of significance. Therefore, operational impacts would be less than significant.

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measure has been identified to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

AQ-1 Off-road, diesel-fueled, heavy-duty construction equipment greater than 50 horsepower used for this Project and located on the Project site for a total of five (5) days or more shall meet at a minimum the US Environmental Protection Agency Tier 3 emissions standards and the equipment shall be outfitted with Best Available Control Technology devices, including a CARB certified Level 3 Diesel Particulate Filter or equivalent control device.

d. *Is the boundary of the proposed (school) site within 500 feet of the edge of the closest traffic lane of a freeway or busy traffic corridor? If yes, would the project create an air quality health risk due to the placement of the School?*

Less than Significant Impact. The existing DSHS campus is bound by 5th Street to the north, Cholla Drive to the east, Pierson Boulevard to the south, and Golden Eagle Way to the west. The Project site is approximately 4 miles east of SR 62 and approximately 870 feet north of Pierson Boulevard, a major arterial roadway in the City.¹⁴ As such, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. *Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?*

Less than Significant Impact. According to SCAQMD, while almost any source may emit objectionable odors, some land uses will be more likely to produce odors because of their operation.¹⁵ Land uses that are more likely to produce odors include agriculture, chemical plants, composting operations, dairies, fiberglass molding, landfills, refineries, rendering plants, rail yards, and wastewater treatment plants.

As construction of the new CTE Building involves no elements related to these types of activities, no odors are anticipated. During the construction phase for the proposed Project, activities associated with the

¹⁴ City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Circulation Element" (2000).

¹⁵ SCAQMD, *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*.

operation of construction equipment, the application of asphalt, the application of architectural coatings, and other interior and exterior finishes may produce discernible odors typical of most construction sites. Although these odors could be a source of nuisance to adjacent receptors, they are temporary and intermittent in nature. As construction-related emissions dissipate from the construction area, the odors associated with these emissions would also decrease, dilute, and become unnoticeable.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game 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 state or federally protected wetlands (including but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- 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 Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?***

Less than Significant Impact. Special status species include those listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act or California Endangered Species Act; species otherwise given certain designations by the California Department of Fish and Game; and plant species listed as rare by the California Native Plant Society.

The Project site is located within a developed and urbanized area of the City. The Project site does not contain undisturbed habitat areas. No rare plant or animal species have been previously recorded as specifically existing on the Project site; however, the following species have been documented within the area of the Project Site:¹⁶

- **Prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*):** found within a 1-mile radius of the Project site vicinity. This species is State listed as threatened and globally ranked G5¹⁷ and State ranked S4.¹⁸ This species' habitat includes grasslands, rangelands, agricultural areas, deserts, or other dry areas with low vegetation. This species is presumed to be extant.
- **Burrowing owl (*Athene Cunicularia*):** found within the Project site vicinity. This species is State listed as threatened and globally ranked G4¹⁹ and State ranked S3.²⁰ This species' habitat includes dense coastal sage scrub growth. This species is presumed to be extant.
- **Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*):** found within a 0.1-mile radius of the Project site vicinity. This species is State listed as threatened and globally ranked G1Q²¹ and State ranked S1.²² This species' habitat includes fine, windblown sand deposits in the sandy plains. This species is presumed to be extant.

As previously stated, the Project site is located within a developed high school campus and does not contain any habitats that provide for candidate, sensitive, or special status species. The existing landscaping within the high school campus is ornamental and nonnative. There are no native habitats, sensitive natural communities, or riparian habitats on or in the vicinity of the Project site. Additionally, the National Wetlands Mapper does not show any federally protected streams, wetlands or other water bodies, or any riparian habitat on site or adjacent to the Project site.²³

Impacts would be less than significant.

16 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Natural Diversity Database, *RareFind*, database, accessed January 2019, <https://map.dfg.ca.gov/rarefind/view/RareFind.aspx>.

17 G5 Definition: Secure—Common; widespread and abundant.

18 S4 Definition: Apparently Secure—Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.

19 G4 Definition: Apparently Secure—Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.

20 S3 Definition: Vulnerable—Vulnerable in the state due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.

21 G1 Definition: Critically Imperiled—At very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors.

22 S1 Definition: Critically Imperiled—Critically imperiled in the state because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer occurrences) or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state.

23 United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), *National Wetlands Mapper*, accessed March 2019, <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html>.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?***

No Impact. The Project site is located within a developed high school campus. The surrounding area is completely developed and disturbed. No riparian habitat or sensitive natural community is located in the surrounding area or on the Project site.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?***

No Impact. The Project site is located within a developed high school campus. The Project site is neither in proximity to, nor does it contain, wetland habitat or a blue line stream. Implementation of the proposed Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- 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?***

No Impact. The Project site is in an urbanized area of the City and is surrounded by school, residential, and commercial development. The Project site is located within a developed high school campus. The existing landscaping on site is ornamental and nonnative. The Project site is not available for overland wildlife migration. The ornamental trees and shrubs on the Project site may provide suitable habitat, including nesting habitat, for migratory birds. However, Project development would not include the removal or disturbance of any trees.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. The City recognizes the importance of trees, and the City's General Plan recognizes that new development should utilize native trees as much as possible.²⁴ The City of Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code does not include an ordinance protecting trees; however, the City's Municipal Code states that the removal of healthy and aesthetically valuable trees is discouraged.²⁵ The City's Municipal Code also establishes that a permit must be obtained if more than five trees are removed within a 36-month period.²⁶

The Project site and surrounding area do not contain any biological resources and Project development would not include the removal or disturbance of any trees. As such, implementation of the proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

No Impact. The City (including the Project site) is within the boundaries of and covered by the Coachella Valley Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP).²⁷ The Project site is already developed and is not in an area designated as a preserve under the CVMSHCP. The proposed Project would not conflict with the provisions of the CVMSHCP, any other adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or any other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

24 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Biological Resources Element" (2000).

25 City of Desert Hot Springs, Municipal Code, sec. 17.53.090, Removal or Destruction of Trees.

26 City of Desert Hot Springs, Municipal Code, sec. 17.53.090, Removal or Destruction of Trees.

27 Coachella Valley Association of Governments, *Coachella Valley Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan*, Accessed February 2019, available at <http://www.cvmshcp.org/>.

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

Less than Significant Impact.

The existing DHSHS campus was originally constructed in 1998 and is not identified to be a historical resource as designated by the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR).²⁸ Additionally, none of the buildings or structures have been designed with any particular architectural style or design that is considered to be of historical significance.

The only modifications to the existing DHSHS campus would result from the construction of the proposed CTE Building, which would be designed with a contemporary style to complement other structures on the DHSHS campus. As such, the proposed Project would not alter any architectural styles or make any improvements or renovations to structures on the existing DHSHS campus that would degrade the campus' existing aesthetic character.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

28 PaleoWest Archaeology, Cultural Resource Records Review for the Palm Springs Unified School District Modernization Projects in Riverside County, California (November 2018).

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

Less than Significant Impact with Project Mitigation. The proposed Project would construct a new classroom within the previously disturbed and developed campus. Minor ground-disturbing activities would occur in areas that are already disturbed, which would include the site preparation and construction.

There several archaeological sites are located within the City of Desert Hot Springs and area near the campus; however, the Project site is not designated for having archaeological resources.²⁹ Furthermore, the Cultural Resources Records Review, dated November 16, 2018, prepared by PaleoWest Archaeology (see **Appendix C**), indicated that no archaeological resources have been documented on the Project site.

While implementation of the proposed Project does not involve excavation activities for subterranean development, the proposed Project could have potential to unearth undocumented archaeological resources beneath the Project site, which is currently located within a vacant and undeveloped. As discussed in **Section 5.18: Tribal Cultural Resources**, the District would implement **Mitigation Measure TCR-1** to ensure impacts to archaeological resources are reduced to level of less than significant.

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of **Mitigation Measure TCR-1** has been identified to reduce impacts to less than significant.

c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries

Less than Significant Impact. A significant impact would occur if previously interred human remains would be disturbed during excavation of the Project site. The Project site is located in an urbanized area and has been subject to grading and development in the past and is not within the vicinity of a cemetery or burial ground. The nearest cemetery is the Palm Springs District Cemetery, located in Cathedral City, approximately 10 miles southeast of the Project site. Due to the distance from the Project site to the cemetery uncovering or disturbing human remains are unlikely. While there are no other places of human internment, or burial grounds or sites known to occur within the Project area, there is always a possibility that human remains can be encountered during construction.

If human remains are encountered unexpectedly during site preparation, and/or construction, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County

²⁹ City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Archaeological and Historic Resources Element" (2000).

Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. If human remains of Native American origin are discovered during Project construction, compliance with State laws, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (PRC 5097), relating to the disposition of Native American burials will be adhered to.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.6 ENERGY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would consume electricity, natural gas, and transportation energy, during construction and operation. The proposed use of the CTE Building would be similar compared to surrounding buildings. Due to the limited nature of construction activities, the proposed Project is not anticipated to require a substantial increase energy consumption because construction activities would be temporary.

As the proposed CTE Building would be designed to meet current code requirements, it would comply with applicable provisions of Title 24 and the California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) to reduce energy demand.³⁰ Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in the wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of transportation fuel and impacts with respect to energy demand.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

30 California Energy Commission, *2016 Building Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings* (June 2015), Accessed February 2019, <https://www.energy.ca.gov/2015publications/CEC-400-2015-037/CEC-400-2015-037-CMF.pdf>.

b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

Less than Significant Impact. As stated above, the proposed Project would consume electricity, natural gas, and transportation energy consumption during both construction and operation. As the proposed Project would utilize modern construction materials and building techniques and would result in a new efficient building that meets current code requirements, it would not result in an unsustainable consumption of energy when compared to existing conditions. As such, the proposed Project would not conflict with any local or general plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. An active earthquake fault or fault trace, or is the site located within the boundaries of any special studies zone or within an area designated as geologically hazardous in the safety element of the local general plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. The construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on the trace of a geological fault along which surface rupture can reasonably be expected to occur within the life of the school building?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v. The construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to moderate-to-high liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vi. The construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

On September 6, 2018, Earth Systems conducted a Geotechnical Engineering and Geohazards Report (Geotechnical Report) for the proposed CTE Building at the existing DHSHS campus, attached as **Appendix D**.

a. *Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:*

i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Less than Significant Impact. The Project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Rupture Zone, as delineated by the California Geological Survey. Therefore, the California Geological Survey does not list the Project site in an earthquake fault zone and so active or potentially active faults with the potential for surface fault rupture are not known to be located directly beneath or projecting toward the Project site.³¹

The proposed Project would construct a new classroom building that would be required to be implemented in accordance with the current California Building Code (CBC),³² which contains provisions to safeguard against major structural failures or loss of life caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards. Construction of the proposed Project would comply with the Division of the State Architect (DSA) requirements mandated by AB 300 for seismic safety.³³ Adherence to these safety requirements would be met through implementation of the recommendations provided in the Geotechnical Report.

31 California Department of Conservation, *Map Data Layer Viewer*, accessed February 2019, <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/DataViewer/>.

32 California Building Standards Commission, "California Building Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24)," accessed February 2019, available at <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx>.

33 California Education Code, sec. 17317, AB 300, Corbett. Seismic safety: Schools.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- ii. **An active earthquake fault or fault trace, or is the site located within the boundaries of any special studies zone or within an area designated as geologically hazardous in the safety element of the local general plan?**

Less than Significant Impact. The Project site is located approximately 0.4 miles southwest of the Mission Creek Fault, which is the closest active fault to the Project site. The fault trace is approximately 20 miles in length, in which the fault section north of Desert Hot Springs runs east–west and is considered active as it is designated as Holocene in age.³⁴

The Project site is not designated in a specific safety zone within the Geotechnical Element of the General Plan. However, because the City is located in an area adjacent to active faults, the City is subject to substantial seismic hazards. All site and building improvements would be required to be implemented in accordance with the current CBC,³⁵ which contains provisions to safeguard against major structural failures or loss of life caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards. The proposed Project would also comply with the DSA requirements mandated by AB 300 for seismic safety.³⁶ Adherence to these safety requirements would be met through implementation of the recommendations provided in the Geotechnical Report.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- iii. **The construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on the trace of a geological fault along which surface rupture can reasonably be expected to occur within the life of the school building?**

Less than Significant Impact. As mentioned before, proposed Project would construct a new classroom building on the Project site. The Project site is located approximately 0.4 miles southwest of the Mission Creek Fault, which is the closest active fault to the Project site. The proposed Project would not involve

34 Earth Systems, *Geotechnical Engineering and Geohazards Report, Proposed Desert Hot Springs High School CTE Building*, (September 6, 2018).

35 California Building Standards Commission, "California Building Standards Code."

36 California Education Code, sec. 17317, AB 300, Corbett. Seismic safety: Schools.

construction of the new CTE Building along the trace of a fault. As such, surface rupture is not expected to occur within the life of the proposed CTE Building.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

iv. Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less than Significant Impact. Similar to the rest of Southern California, the Project site is subject to ground shaking and potential damage in the event of earthquakes. As noted previously, the most likely source of strong ground shaking within the region would be a major earthquake along the San Andreas Fault. Because the Project site is in a seismically active area, occasional seismic ground shaking is likely to occur within the lifetime of the proposed Project.

The City lies entirely within Seismic Zone 4 and is potentially subject to the high acceleration, or changes in speed or velocity, due to seismic shaking.³⁷ The State regulates development in California through a variety of tools that reduce hazards from earthquakes and other geologic hazards. The current CBC contains provisions to safeguard against major structural failures or loss of life caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards. The proposed Project would be required to adhere to the provisions of the current CBC. Compliance with the requirements of the current CBC for structural safety during a seismic event would reduce hazards from strong seismic ground shaking. The proposed Project would also comply with the DSA requirements mandated by AB 300 for seismic safety.³⁸ Adherence to these safety requirements would be met through implementation of the recommendations provided in the Geotechnical Report.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

v. The construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to moderate-to-high liquefaction?

Less than Significant Impact. Liquefaction refers to loose, saturated sand or gravel deposits that lose their load-supporting capability when subjected to intense shaking.

37 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Geotechnical Element" (2000).

38 Division of the State Architect, "Education Code: Section 17317," Accessed February 2019, <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/AboutUs/ab300/ab300edcode.aspx>.

Similar to much of the land in the City, the Project site is not in an area of liquefaction. According to the City's General Plan, the Project site is designated in an area of low liquefaction susceptibility, because the approximate depth to groundwater is greater than 50 feet.³⁹ In addition, the Geotechnical Report indicates that the potential for liquefaction to occur at this site is low. The proposed Project would be required to adhere to the current CBC, which contains provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from liquefaction and other seismic-related ground failures. Adherence to these safety requirements would be met through implementation of the recommendations provided in the Geotechnical Report.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

vi. The construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to landslides?

No Impact. The risks associated with landslides occur when building or structures are placed on slopes. The Project site is not within or near an area susceptible to landslides. Due to previous development, the Project site and surrounding areas are relatively flat and contain minimal rises or changes in elevation. The Project site is relatively flat and slopes are estimated to be less than 5 feet in height.⁴⁰ No major slopes or bluffs are on or adjacent to the site. According to the City's General Plan, the Project Site is located within an area with low susceptibility of being impacted by rockfalls and seismically induced landslides.⁴¹ As such, the proposed Project would not be subject to landslides.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than Significant Impact. Erosion is the movement of rock fragments and soil from one place to another. Precipitation, running water, waves, and wind are all agents of erosion. Significant erosion typically occurs on steep slopes where storm water and high winds can carry topsoil down hillsides.

The Project site is developed and located within the existing DHSHS campus, and no areas of erosion would occur within the confines of the site. The Project site and surrounding areas are urbanized, which

39 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan, "Geotechnical Element"* (2000).

40 Earth Systems, *Geotechnical Engineering and Geohazards Report, Proposed Desert Hot Springs High School CTE Building*, (September 6, 2018).

41 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan, "Geotechnical Element"* (2000).

are relatively flat and contain minimal rises or changes in elevation. No major slopes or bluffs are on or adjacent to the site. Upon proposed Project completion, the potential for soil erosion or the loss of topsoil would be expected to be extremely low.

Because the Project site is approximately 1-acre in size, the proposed Project would require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).⁴² Project construction would require minimal earthmoving activities such as grubbing and trenching. Therefore, the proposed Project would implement best management practices (BMPs) designed to prevent erosion and siltation during the proposed Project's construction phase, such as using nontoxic soil stabilizers, covering stockpiles of dirt or other loose granular construction materials, and containing soil runoff from disturbed areas by means of berms, vegetated filters, fencing, or catch basins.

Furthermore, implementation of the proposed Project would not result in a substantial change in the amount of impervious surfaces and, for this reason, the quantity of runoff from the Project site in conjunction with the rest of the campus would not change substantially. All runoff would continue to drain through the campus' drainage system for conveyance into surrounding streets and storm drain catch basins around the Project site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

Less than Significant Impact. Proposed development would construct a new classroom building within the northwestern portion of the existing DHSHS campus. The Project site is located on flat developed land that is not prone to landslides. The phenomenon of liquefaction generally occurs when loose, unconsolidated, saturated, sandy soils are subjected to ground vibrations during a seismic event. Lands within the City of Desert Hot Springs have low possibility of being affected by liquefaction and lateral spreading.⁴³ This hazard is considered low because the approximate depth to groundwater for the entire area is greater than 50 feet.⁴⁴ In addition, the Geotechnical Report indicates that the potential for lateral

42 US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Developing Your Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/sw_swppp_guide.pdf.

43 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Geotechnical Element" (2000).

44 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Geotechnical Element" (2000).

spreading is considered low due to non-liquefiable geologic materials and lack of descending slopes in the proximity of the existing DHSHS campus.

As such, the proposed CTE Building would not be located on a geological unit or soil that is unstable. The construction would not result in substantial hazards from unstable or expansive soils. As such, the proposed Project would be required to adhere to the current CBC, which contains provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from liquefaction and other seismic-related ground failures. Construction of the proposed Project would also comply with the DSA requirements mandated by AB 300 for seismic safety. Adherence to these safety requirements would be met through implementation of the recommendations provided in the Geotechnical Report.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Less than Significant Impact. Expansive soils contain significant amounts of clay particles that have the ability to give up water (shrink) or take on water (swell). When these soils swell, the change in volume can exert pressures that are placed on them, and structural distress and damage to buildings could occur. Given the relatively minor amount of clay present in soils in the City, expansive soils are not considered a significant hazard for the proposed Project.⁴⁵ In addition, the Geotechnical Report indicates that the potential for the occurrence of expansive soils on the Project site is considered low.

The proposed Project would also be required to adhere to the current CBC, which contains provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from liquefaction and other seismic-related ground failures. Construction of the proposed CTE Building would also comply with the DSA requirements. Adherence to these safety requirements would be met through implementation of the recommendations provided in the Geotechnical Report.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

⁴⁵ City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Geotechnical Element" (2000).

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?

No Impact. Development of the proposed Project would not require the installation of a septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal system.

Implementation of the proposed Project would continue to utilize the existing wastewater infrastructure that serves the existing DHSHS campus and would not use septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. The proposed Project would not be constructed on soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks surrounding the area.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Less than Significant Impact with Project Mitigation. The proposed Project would construct a new classroom building within an open area on the previously disturbed DHSHS campus. Minor ground-disturbing activities would be required, such as grubbing and grading.

The Cultural Resources Records Review, dated November 16, 2018, prepared by PaleoWest Archaeology (see **Appendix C**), did not identify any documented paleontological resources within a quarter-mile of the Project site. Sediments within the Project area are highly disturbed, and it is unlikely that intact subsurface deposits of historic or prehistoric significance would be encountered during Project construction. While unlikely, ground-disturbing activities on the undeveloped Project site could affect the integrity of an as-yet-unknown paleontological site, thereby causing a substantial change in the significance of the resource. As such, the District would implement **Mitigation Measure GEO-1** to ensure impacts to paleontological resources are reduced to level of less than significant.

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measure has been identified to impacts to less than significant:

GEO-1 Geology and Soils (Paleontological Resources)

Should unexpected paleontological resources be discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area of the discovery shall be halted and the District shall require an assessment by a qualified paleontologist to determine the significance of the find. As necessary and determined by the paleontologist, the District shall require preparation and implementation of a treatment plan outlining measures for monitoring, data recovery, and/or handling discoveries determined to be significant.

5.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less than Significant Impact. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions refer to a group of emissions that are believed to affect global climate conditions. These gases trap heat in the atmosphere, and the major concern is that increases in GHG emissions are causing global climate change. Global climate change is a change in the average weather on earth that can be measured by wind patterns, storms, precipitation, and temperature.

There are no federal, State, or local adopted thresholds of significance for addressing an institutional project's GHG emissions. The SCAQMD has not formally adopted any threshold or methodology for land use projects. The Working Group has released draft documents that recommend all new land use projects not exceed a screening threshold of 3,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}) per year. Although a significance threshold has not been formally adopted, the Working Group draft recommendations represent the best available information which to evaluate project significance with respect to GHG emissions and climate change for projects located in the SSAB.

Section 15064.4 of the CEQA Guidelines Amendments serves to assist lead agencies in determining the significance of the impacts of GHGs. As required in Section 15064.4 of the CEQA Guidelines, this analysis includes an impact determination based on the following: (1) an estimate of the amount of GHG emissions resulting from the Project; (2) a qualitative analysis or performance-based standards; (3) a quantification of the extent to which the Project increases GHG emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting; and (4) the extent to which the Project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a Statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions.

The proposed Project would result in short-term emissions of GHGs during construction. Site- or Project-specific data were used in the CalEEMod model where available. Although GHGs are generated during construction and are accordingly considered one-time emissions, it is important to include construction-related GHG emissions when assessing all of the long-term GHG emissions associated with a project. Current practice is to annualize construction-related GHG emissions over a project's lifetime in order to include these emissions as part of a project's annualized lifetime total emissions so that GHG reduction measures will address construction GHG emissions as part of the operational GHG reduction strategies. A project lifetime has generally been defined as 30 years; therefore, the proposed Project's estimated construction GHG emissions have been annualized over a 30-year period and are included in the annualized operational GHG emissions.

The new CTE Building would result in GHG emissions due to area source emissions from natural gas, electricity demand, water consumption, and solid waste generation. The annual GHG emissions associated with the construction and operation of the proposed Project are provided in **Table 5.8-1: Estimated Construction and Operational Greenhouse Gas Emissions**. As shown in **Table 5.8-1**, the Project would result in 55 MTCO₂e annually and would not exceed the recommended 3,000 MTCO₂e threshold. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

Table 5.8-1
Estimated Construction and Operational Greenhouse Gas Emissions

GHG Emissions Source	Emissions (MTCO ₂ e/Year)
Construction	3
Area sources	<1
Energy	37
Waste	9
Water	6
Annual total	55

*Note: Refer to **Appendix B1 (Annual)**, 2.1 Overall Construction and 2.2 Overall Operation.*

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Less than Significant Impact. Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, focuses on reducing GHG emissions in California.⁴⁶ GHGs, as defined under AB 32, include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. AB 32 requires that GHGs emitted in California be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. In November 2017, CARB adopted an updated Climate Change Scoping Plan, which details strategies to meet that goal. The Climate Change Scoping Plan⁴⁷ also recommends energy-efficiency measures in buildings such as maximizing the use of energy efficient appliances and solar water heating, as well as complying with green building standards that result in decreased energy consumption compared to Title 24 building codes.⁴⁸ In addition, the Climate Change Scoping Plan encourages the use of solar photovoltaic panels and other renewable sources of energy to provide clean energy and reduce fossil fuel-based energy.

The proposed Project would be designed in accordance with the 2016 Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards, which represent an approximate improvement of 30 percent beyond the 2008 Standards that were used in assumptions for the City's 2013 CAP GHG analysis. Conformance with the 2016 Standards is consistent with the City's objectives to reduce GHG emissions to meet regional and Statewide emission reduction targets. Therefore, the proposed Project does not interfere with the State's implementation of (i) Executive Order B-30-15 and Senate Bill 32's target of reducing Statewide GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 or (ii) Executive Order S-3-05's target of reducing Statewide GHG emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 because it does not interfere with the State's implementation of GHG reduction plans described in the CARB's updated Scoping Plan.

The proposed Project is considered consistent with the above goals. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

46 California Air Resources Board (CARB), "Assembly Bill 32 Overview" (last reviewed August 4, 2014), accessed March 2019, <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32/ab32.htm>.

47 CARB, "AB 32 Scoping Plan" (last reviewed January 8, 2019), accessed March 2019, <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scopingplan.htm>.

48 California Building Standards Commission, "California Building Standards Code."

5.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the proposed school site contain one or more pipelines, situated underground or aboveground, which carry hazardous substances, acutely hazardous materials, or hazardous wastes, unless the pipeline is a natural gas line that is used only to supply natural gas to that school or neighborhood?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Is the proposed school site located near an aboveground water or fuel storage tank or within 1,500 feet of an easement of an aboveground or underground pipeline that can pose a safety hazard to the site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Create an air quality hazard due to the placement of a school within one-quarter mile of: (a) permitted and nonpermitted facilities identified by the jurisdictional air quality control board or air pollution control district; (b) freeways and other busy traffic corridors; (c) large agricultural operations; and/or (d) a rail yard, which might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions, or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Is the school site in an area designated in a city, county, or city and county general plan for agricultural use and zoned for agricultural production, and if so, do neighboring agricultural uses have the potential to result in any public health and safety issues that may affect the pupils and employees at the school site? <i>(Does not apply to school sites approved by CDE prior to January 1, 1997.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
h. Is the property line of the proposed school less than the following distances from the edge of respective power line easements: (1) 100 feet of a 50–133 kV line; (2) 150 feet of a 220–230 kV line; or (3) 350 feet of a 500–550 kV line?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. 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"/>
j. Does the project site contain a current or former hazardous waste disposal site or solid waste disposal site and, if so, have the wastes been removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
k. Is the project site a hazardous substance release site identified by the state Department of Health Services in a current list adopted pursuant to Section 25356 for removal or remedial action pursuant to Chapter 6.8 of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. If prepared, has the risk assessment been performed with a focus on children's health posed by a hazardous materials release or threatened release, or the presence of naturally occurring hazardous materials on the school site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. If a response action is necessary and proposed as part of this project, has it been developed to be protective of children's health, with an ample margin of safety?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Is the proposed school site situated within 2,000 feet of a significant disposal of hazardous waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Is the proposed school site within two miles, measured by air line, of that point on an airport runway or potential runway included in an airport master plan that is nearest to the site? <i>(Does not apply to school sites acquired prior to January 1, 1966.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
p. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
q. 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"/>
r. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less than Significant Impact.

Project Construction

Construction activities may involve the use of hazardous materials, which may include fuels, lubricants, coatings, and grease related to construction equipment and activities. However, hazardous materials would be used in accordance with regulatory standards and protocols and would not be used in such quantities or stored in such a manner as to pose significant safety hazards. These activities would also be short term or one time in nature and would cease upon proposed Project completion.

The use, transport, storage, and disposal of construction-related hazardous materials would be required to conform to existing laws and regulations. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing hazardous materials would ensure that all potentially hazardous materials are used and handled in an appropriate manner, which would minimize the potential for safety impacts to occur. For example, all spills or leakage of petroleum products during construction activities are required to be immediately contained, the hazardous material identified, and the material remediated in compliance with applicable State and local regulations regarding the cleanup and disposal of the contaminant released.

All contaminated waste encountered would be required to be collected and disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal or treatment facility. Strict adherence to all emergency response plan requirements set forth by the City, Riverside County Department of Environmental Health (RCDEH), and Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) would be required through the duration of the proposed Project construction.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Project Operation

The types and amounts of hazardous materials that would be used in connection with operation of the proposed CTE Building would be typical of those used on school campuses (e.g. cleaning solutions, solvents, pesticides for landscaping, painting supplies, and petroleum products). These materials would be stored on the Project site in small quantities. The use, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials by maintenance staff would be required to comply with existing regulations of several agencies, including the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), USEPA, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), RCDEH, and RCFD.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

Less than Significant Impact. On January 8, 2019, Environmental Data Resources Inc. conducted a search of available environmental records and prepared a Radius Map Report (EDR Report), attached as **Appendix E.**

Project Construction

According to the EDR Report, the campus was identified on multiple databases. However, the structures that were identified are not associated with the Project site.

The proposed Project would not involve any demolition of any existing structures. Construction activities on the Project site would also involve the temporary use of potentially hazardous materials, including vehicle fuels, paints, oils, and transmission fluids. However, all potentially hazardous materials would be used and stored in compliance with applicable federal, State, and local regulations. Additionally, the RCFD would have the authority to perform inspections and enforce federal and State laws governing the storage, use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes.

Hazardous material impacts typically occur in a local or site-specific context. Although other foreseeable developments within the area would likely increase the potential to disturb existing contamination, the handling of hazardous materials would be required to adhere to applicable federal, State, and local requirements that regulate work and public safety. Therefore, impacts of the proposed Project would not have the potential to create a significant hazard to the public or environment through reasonably

foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Impacts would be less than significant.

Project Operation

The proposed CTE Building would operate similar to other school buildings on the existing DHSHS campus. Operation on the Project site would not create a hazard through upset or accident conditions involving hazardous materials. The types and amounts of hazardous materials that would be used in connection with the proposed Project would be typical of those used on school campuses (e.g., cleaning solutions, solvents, landscaping pesticides, painting supplies, and petroleum products).

All materials and substances would be subject to applicable health and safety requirements. This would include affixing appropriate warning signs and labels; installing emergency wash areas; providing well-ventilated areas and special plumbing; and maintaining adult supervision. Compliance with existing regulations would result in no reasonably foreseeable upset or accident conditions that would create a significant hazard to the public due to the release of hazardous materials during construction.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Does the school site contain one or more pipelines, situated underground or above ground, which carry hazardous substances, acutely hazardous, or hazardous wastes, unless the pipeline is a natural gas line that is used only to supply natural gas to that school or neighborhood?

No Impact. The Project site is currently located within the fully developed high school campus. Surrounding uses around the Project site include school, commercial, and single- and multi-family residences. No known underground or aboveground pipelines exist that carry hazardous substances or hazardous wastes to the Project site.⁴⁹

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

49 US Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, *National Pipeline Mapping System, Public Viewer*, accessed March 2019, <https://pvnprms.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer/>.

d. Is the proposed school site located near an above ground water or fuel storage tank or within 1,500 feet of an easement of an above ground or underground pipeline that can pose a safety hazard to the site?

No Impact. The Project site is currently located within the fully developed high school campus. Surrounding uses around the Project site include school, commercial, and single- and multi-family residences. No known underground or aboveground pipelines exist within 1,500 feet that pose a safety hazard to the Project site.⁵⁰

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Less than Significant Impact. Construction activities of the proposed Project may involve the use of hazardous materials. Such materials may include fuels, lubricants, coatings, and grease related to construction equipment and activities. However, the materials used would not be in such quantities or stored in such a manner as to pose a significant safety hazard. These activities would also be short term or one time in nature and would cease upon Project completion.

The use, transport, storage, and disposal of construction-related hazardous materials would be required to conform to existing laws and regulations. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing hazardous materials would ensure that all potentially hazardous materials are used and handled in an appropriate manner, thereby minimizing the potential for safety impacts to occur. For example, all spills or leakages of petroleum products during construction activities are required to be immediately contained, the hazardous material identified, and the material remediated in compliance with applicable State and local regulations regarding the cleanup and disposal of the contaminant released. All contaminated waste encountered would be required to be collected and disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal or treatment facility. Strict adherence to all emergency response plan requirements set forth by the City, the RCFD, and DTSC would be required through the duration of the Project construction.

Impacts would be less than significant.

50 State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker, accessed March 2019, <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- f. Create an air quality hazard due to the placement of a school within one-quarter mile of: (a) permitted and nonpermitted facilities identified by the jurisdictional air quality control board or air pollution control district; (b) freeways and other busy traffic corridors; (c) large agricultural operations; and/or (d) a rail yard, which might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions, or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste?***

Less than Significant Impact.

(a) Permitted and Nonpermitted Facilities Identified by the Jurisdictional Air Quality Control Board or Air Pollution Control District

A proposed project would expose sensitive receptors to elevated pollutant concentrations if it were to place the school in an area with pollutant concentrations above ambient concentration in the SCAQMD area. Recent air pollution studies have shown an association between proximity to major air pollution sources and a variety of health effects, which are attributed to a high concentration of air pollutants. The Facility Information Detail (FIND) database shows all the permitted facilities within the SCAQMD boundary.⁵¹ As shown in the EDR Report, the campus shows up once on the FIND database.

The Project site has not been identified by this database or an air quality control board. As shown above in **Section 5.3: Air Quality**, regional construction and operation emissions would be less than significant. In addition, the proposed Project is not classified as a project type listed to expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The proposed Project is not anticipated to use hazardous materials in appreciable quantities. Hazardous substances currently are regulated under the California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program.⁵² The CalARP Program satisfies the requirements of the Federal Risk Management Plan Program and contains additional State requirements. The CalARP Program applies to regulated substances in excess of specific quantity thresholds. The majority of the substances have thresholds in the range of 100 to 10,000 pounds. The uses associated with the proposed Project may contain small, if any, amounts of these hazardous substances typical with classroom and computer lab spaces. However, typical use of these products would not result in quantities at any one location that exceed the thresholds. Therefore, hazardous air emissions generated from mobile and stationary sources

51 SCAQMD, "Facility INformation Detail (F.I.N.D.)," accessed March 2019, <https://www.aqmd.gov/nav/FIND/facility-information-detail>.

52 California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, "California Accidental Release Prevention Program FAQ" (February 2014,) accessed March 2019, <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/FireRescueSite/Documents/CalARP%20FAQ%20-%20Feb2014.pdf>.

within a quarter-mile radius of the site are not anticipated to pose an actual or potential endangerment to students or staff at a school facility.

Impacts would be less than significant.

(b) Freeways and Other Busy Traffic Corridors

No freeways are located within one-quarter mile of the Project site. EDC Section 17213 states that a busy traffic corridor is defined as having 50,000 or more average daily trips (ADT) in a rural area or 100,000 or more ADT in an urban area.⁵³

Currently, the City has compiled traffic data for 2017. The closest main street to the Project site would be Pierson Boulevard, a major east–west arterial near the Project site that bounds the southern border of the DHSHS campus. This roadway segment would contain the highest roadway ADT in the Project site vicinity at approximately 5,000 ADT which is fewer than the 50,000 ADT standard.⁵⁴ In addition, the proposed Project would not generate any increase of daily vehicle trips, as analyzed in **Section 5.17: Transportation**. Therefore, the other surrounding roadway segments have fewer than 50,000 or more ADT in a rural area, or 100,000 or more ADT in an urban area.

Impacts would be less than significant.

(c) Large Agricultural Operations

No large agricultural operations are within a quarter-mile of the Project site because surrounding land uses include residential and commercial uses.

No impacts would occur.

(d) A Rail Yard, Which Might Reasonably be Anticipated to Emit Hazardous Air Emissions, or Handle Hazardous or Acutely Hazardous Material, Substances, or Waste

There are no rail yards within one-quarter mile of the Project site.

No impacts would occur.

53 California Education Code (EDC), sec. 17213, accessed March 2019, https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC§ionNum=17213.

54 Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Traffic Signal Interconnect Master Plan (February 2017), pg. 4-18, accessed March 2019, https://www.cvag.org/library/pdf_files/trans/TSI/04_CVAG ITS%20Master%20Plan_Priority%20Corridors_Final_Ver%201.0_Submittal.pdf.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- g. Is the school site in an area designated in a city, county, or city and county general plan for agricultural use and zoned for agricultural production, and if so, do neighboring agricultural uses have the potential to result in any public health and safety issues that may affect the pupils and employees at the school site?***

No Impact. As stated before, the City's General Plan land use designation and associated zoning designation for the Project site are for school uses. Therefore, the Project site is not designated or zoned for agricultural use, used for agriculture, or subject to a Williamson Act contract (see **Section 5.2**). There are no designated agricultural land uses or zoning adjacent or proximate to the Project site.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- h. Is the property line of the proposed school less than the following distances from the edge of respective power line easements: (1) 100 feet of a 50–133 kV line; (2) 150 feet of a 220–230 kV line; or (3) 350 feet of a 500–550 kV line?***

No Impact. The Project site is not within the prescribed distances of a 50 to 133 kilovolt (kV) line, a 220 to 230 kV line, or a 500 to 550 kV line.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- i. 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?***

No Impact. The following databases of hazardous materials sites were searched for listings of hazardous materials on the Project site as part of the EDR Report: GeoTracker (State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB]), EnviroStor (DTSC), and EnviroMapper (USEPA). A review of these databases found that the campus was included on a list of hazardous materials pursuant to Government Code 65962.5, which is the Hazardous Waste and Substances (Cortese) List, as shown in **Appendix E**.

Although the DHSHS campus is listed several times on various databases, the Project site itself is not included. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, a condition of approval for the Project for construction permits would be subject to review and/or approval by regulatory oversight agencies. These agencies could also require additional site investigation to more fully delineate the extent of contaminants of concern at the site. If extensive on-site excavation and/or soil off-haul is determined to be the appropriate response action for a site, additional CEQA review may be required to evaluate potential impacts for the response related to air quality, noise, and traffic.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

j. Does the project site contain a current or former hazardous waste disposal site or solid waste disposal site and, if so, have the wastes been removed?

No Impact. Under EDC Section 17213(a)(1), the Project is prohibited from acquiring any current or former hazardous waste disposal site or solid waste disposal site unless the site is a former solid waste disposal site and the wastes have been removed. The EDR Report compiled comprehensive lists of contaminated sites, including the DTSC EnviroStor and SWRCB GeoTracker databases, to determine whether the proposed site is a current or former hazardous waste disposal site or solid waste disposal site. Based on a review of the EDR Report, no current or former hazardous waste disposal sites exist on the Project site.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

k. Is the project site a hazardous substance release site identified by the state Department of Health Services in a current list adopted pursuant to Section 25356 for removal or remedial action pursuant to Chapter 6.8 of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code?

Less than Significant Impact. Where a proposed school site is listed by DTSC under Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 25356, the Project would, through the CEQA processes and under DTSC's oversight, undertake all required removal and/or remedial actions; ensure that DTSC removes the site from this listing; determine that the site as remediated poses no significant health risk to students, faculty, and staff; and secure DTSC's certification that all school buildings may be occupied and used for their intended purpose. The public would then have the opportunity to review the site-specific investigations through the public review process. Compliance with the process and steps outlined would ensure that impacts from any site used for a school project that DTSC formerly listed under HSC Section 25356 would not be a

hazard to people on or near the site. As there are no existing buildings on the Project site that would be demolished, the likelihood for asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint, and polychlorinated biphenyls presence would be considered low.

The proposed Project would comply with federal and State regulations and the City guidelines and procedures outlined for lead, asbestos, and PCBs removal and remediation, if found on the Project site. With regulatory compliance, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

l. If prepared, has the risk assessment been performed with a focus on children's health posed by a hazardous materials release or threatened release, or the presence of naturally occurring hazardous materials on the school site?

Less than Significant Impact. Surrounding uses around the Project site include school, commercial, and single- and multi-family residences. The closest of these—the residences to the east—are approximately 60 feet away from the Project site boundary.

Because these sensitive receptors could house or contain children for periods of the day, impacts from construction activities could have an impact on children's health. However, as shown in **Section 5.3: Air Quality**, the proposed Project would not have impact on human health.

Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the proposed Project must comply with the standards put forth by the DTSC or other responsible regulatory agencies. These agencies could also require additional site investigation to more fully delineate the extent of contaminants of concern at the site. If extensive on-site excavation and/or soil off-haul is determined to be the appropriate response action for a site, additional CEQA review may be required to evaluate potential impacts for the response related to air quality, noise, and traffic.

With regulatory compliance, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

m. If a response action is necessary and proposed as part of this project, has it been developed to be protective of children's health, with an ample margin of safety?

Less than Significant Impact. Surrounding uses around the Project site include school, commercial, and single- and multi-family residences. Because these sensitive receptors could house or contain children for

periods of the day, impacts from construction activities could have an impact on children's health. As shown in **Section 5.3: Air Quality**, the proposed Project would not have impact on human health. In addition, prior to the issuance of a building permit, the proposed Project must comply with the standards put forth by the DTSC or other responsible regulatory agencies. These agencies could also require additional site investigation to more fully delineate the extent of contaminants of concern at the site. If extensive on-site excavation and/or soil off-haul is determined to be the appropriate response action for a site, additional CEQA review may be required to evaluate potential impacts for the response related to air quality, noise, and traffic.

With regulatory compliance, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

n. Is the proposed school site situated within 2,000 feet of a significant disposal of hazardous waste?

Less than Significant Impact. The EDR Report noted five additional mapped sites on a Cortese-related database or other related database within 2,000 feet of the campus, as shown in **Appendix E**. According to the EDR-provided review of the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery Solid Waste Information system, no active landfills were identified within 0.5-mile search of the Project site of and, therefore, would be farther than 2,000 feet from the Project site. Furthermore, the proposed Project would comply with the standards set forth by DTSC. It is unlikely this site has adversely affected the environmental condition of the Project site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

o. Is the proposed school site within two miles, measured by air line, of that point on an airport runway or potential runway included in an airport master plan that is nearest to the site?

No Impact. The Project site is located approximately 8.3 miles northwest of the Palm Springs International Airport. The proposed Project would be implemented within the existing campus and would not encroach into any potential runway. The EDC identifies requirements for schools located near airports, but these

requirements do not apply to sites acquired prior to January 1, 1966, nor to any additions or extensions to those sites.⁵⁵

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

p. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area?

No Impact. The Project site is located approximately 8.3 miles northwest of the Palm Springs International Airport. The proposed Project would be implemented on the existing campus and would not encroach into any potential runway. In addition, the Project site is not located within the boundaries of any military or restricted airspace.⁵⁶ The CEC identifies requirements for schools located near airports, which do not apply to sites acquired prior to January 1, 1966, nor to any additions or extensions to those sites.⁵⁷

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

q. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. Project development would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with the City's Emergency Operations Plan and Local Mitigation Plan.⁵⁸ The purpose of the plan is to identify the local hazards, review and assess past disaster occurrences, estimate the probability of future occurrences and set goals to mitigate potential risks to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural and man-made hazards.

During construction and subsequent operation, the proposed Project would not interfere with any of the daily operations of the City's Emergency Plans or the RCFD. All construction activities, including staging, would occur on the campus and would be required to be performed per the District's, City's, and RCFD's

55 EDC, Sections 17215(a) and 17215(b).

56 State of California, "California Military Land Use Compatibility Analyst," accessed March 2019, <http://cmluca.gis.ca.gov/>.

57 EDC, Sections 17215(a) and 17215(b).

58 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Emergency Operation Plan*, accessed March 2019, available at <https://www.cityofdhs.org>.

standards and regulations. The proposed Project would provide the necessary on- and off-site access and circulation for emergency vehicles and services during the construction and operation phases.

The proposed Project would be required to incorporate all applicable design and safety standards and regulations as set forth by RCFD and the current CBC to ensure that they do not interfere with the provision of local emergency services (provision of adequate access roads to accommodate emergency response vehicles, adequate numbers/locations of fire hydrants, etc.). Project development would not require road closures or otherwise impact the functionality of the surrounding roads as public safety access routes. The proposed Project would not introduce any roadways or infrastructure that would bisect or transect surrounding uses.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

r. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

Less than Significant Impact. Given the City's generally sparsely vegetated open desert lands and hillsides, developed areas are the source for most fire-related incidents.⁵⁹ In addition, the northern and northeastern portions of the City with hilly areas with slopes of 10 percent or greater, access problems, lack of water or sufficient pressure, and excessively dry brush are generally the most susceptible to wildland fire.⁶⁰

The Project site is not in a fire hazard zone as designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.⁶¹ The Project site is in an urbanized area of the City and is not adjacent to or near wildlands that could be subject to wildland fires. No significant risk of injury, loss, or death involving wildland fires would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

59 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Fire and Police Protection Element" (2000).

60 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Fire and Police Protection Element" (2000).

61 California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection, "California Fire Hazard Zone Map Update Project," accessed March 2019, available at: http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland_zones_maps.

5.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. 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; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Is the project site subject to flooding or dam inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. *Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?*

Less than Significant Impact. Section 13050 of the California Water Code (CWC) states that if discharges associated with the proposed Project were to create pollution, contamination, or nuisance regulatory standards are violated, as defined in the applicable National Pollution Discharge Elimination System

(NPDES) stormwater permit or Water Quality Control Plan for the receiving water body, there would be a significant impact on surface water quality. For the purpose of this specific issue, a significant impact may occur if the proposed Project were to discharge water that does not meet the quality standards of local agencies that regulate surface water quality and water discharge into stormwater drainage systems. Significant impacts would also occur if the proposed Project were to not comply with all applicable regulations with regard to surface water quality as governed by the SWRCB. These regulations include compliance with the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) requirements to reduce potential water quality impacts

Construction Phase

During construction, the proposed Project could result in short-term adverse impacts to surface water quality. Construction activities within the site would involve the disturbance of on-site soils for utility improvements and building pad preparation, thereby increasing the potential for erosion and off-site transport of sediment in stormwater runoff.

The use of heavy equipment, machinery, and other materials during construction could result in adverse water quality impacts if spills were to encounter stormwater and polluted runoff were to enter downstream receiving waters. Peak stormwater runoff could result in short-term sheet erosion within areas of exposed or stockpiled soils. Additionally, the compaction of soils by heavy equipment may reduce the infiltration capacity of soils and increase runoff and erosion potential.

Discharges from construction sites that could affect storm water, including soil and sediment entering storm water or carried off site by wind, would be regulated by the Statewide General Construction Permit issued by the SWRCB.⁶² Based on the small-scale nature of the Project site, the Project is not anticipated to have any substantial grading activities; therefore, no erosion-control measures would be required.

As the Project site is approximately 1-acre in size, under NPDES, the Project Applicant is responsible for preparing a SWPPP to mitigate the effects of erosion and the inherent potential for sedimentation and other pollutants entering the stormwater system. Surface water runoff from the Project site would continue to be collected on the site and directed toward existing storm drains in the Project vicinity that have adequate capacity. Pursuant to local practice and City regulations, stormwater retention will be required as part of SUSMP implementation features. Any contaminants gathered during routine cleaning

62 State Water Resources Control Board, 2009-0009-DWQ Construction General Permit, accessed March 2019, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml.

of construction equipment would be disposed of in compliance with applicable stormwater pollution prevention permits.

With regulatory compliance, any potential water quality impacts from the proposed Project during construction would be less than significant.

Operational Phase

The Project site is relatively flat, with surface water flows directed toward the existing municipal storm drains serving the campus. Project development would occur within the previously developed DHSHS campus. A permanent erosion-control program, such as proper care of drainage control devices, would continue to be implemented upon Project completion. The amount of runoff from the site would not be substantially changed to that of existing conditions, as Project development would not increase the amount of runoff. The Project would also comply with water quality standards and wastewater discharge requirements set forth by the SUSMP and approved by the RWQCB.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Less than Significant Impact. The City's water supply is provided primarily from groundwater sources. The Desert Water Agency (DWA) provides water to the City of Desert Hot Springs, including the Project site.⁶³ As the proposed Project would construct a new classroom building to meet the existing programming needs on the existing DHSHS campus, the overall water consumption anticipated from the proposed Project would not substantially change. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in depleting existing groundwater supplies. The proposed Project would add a new school building, which is in an urbanized area of the City, and would not affect groundwater recharge. Additionally, no groundwater wells or other potential sources of groundwater are located on or near the Project site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

63 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Water Resources Element" (2000).

c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site.

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would not alter the drainage pattern of the Project site or area in a manner that would result in erosion, siltation, or flooding on or off site. The Project does not propose to alter any drainage patterns in such a manner that would cause on- and off-site surface runoff impacts. The proposed Project would not involve an alteration in the course of a stream or river because there are no nearby streams or rivers.⁶⁴

Erosion and siltation impacts that would potentially result from the proposed Project would most likely occur during construction activities. However, as stated above, given the small-scale nature of the Project site, the proposed Project is not anticipated to have any grading; therefore, no erosion-control measures would be required. After construction is completed the Project site will be covered in impervious surfaces, decreasing any chances for potential erosion or siltation on or off site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site.

Less than Significant Impact. No streams or rivers are located within the Project site. Therefore, the proposed Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alternation 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.

The proposed Project would construct a new classroom building within an already developed high school campus; as a result, the amount of impervious surface on site upon proposed Project completion would be similar to existing conditions. Drainage patterns of the Project site would not be altered upon construction completion because the site will still be flat and surface runoff would be directed into the existing retention basin. The proposed Project does not propose to alter any drainage patterns in such a manner that would cause on- and off-site surface runoff impacts.

⁶⁴ USFWS, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, accessed March 2019, available at: <https://rivers.gov/>.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- iii. **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.**

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would construct a new classroom building in the northwestern portion of the existing DHSHS campus. The existing drainage pattern would remain the similar upon proposed Project completion. Development of the proposed Project would use the established drainage patterns and utilize improvements on the Project site to ensure existing runoff volumes do not increase off site. As previously noted, during proposed Project construction activities, BMPs for minimizing soil erosion would be implemented.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- iv. **Impede or redirect flood flows.**

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would construct a new classroom building that would be similar to the existing buildings on the DHSHS campus. The existing drainage pattern would remain the similar upon proposed Project completion. Development of the proposed Project would use the established drainage patterns and improvements of the Project site and surrounding area. As previously noted, during proposed Project construction activities, BMPs for minimizing soil erosion would be implemented.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. *Is the project site subject to flooding or dam inundation?*

Less than Significant Impact. As provided in the Geotechnical Report, the Project site is not located within area at risk for flooding as it lies within an area designated as Zone X.⁶⁵ As previously noted, both flood

⁶⁵ Areas of 0.2% annual chance floodplain; areas of 1 annual chance flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; and areas protected by levees from 1% annual chance flood.

control structures within the City are required by the California State Water Code to be monitored for structural safety and that have the potential to pose a flooding risk to the City. However, in the event of failure, the Project site is located outside the inundation pathway.⁶⁶ Due to this, threat of inundation is considered very low.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

No Impact. The following describes potential impacts to people and structures from seiches, tsunamis, and mudflows. The proposed Project would not expose people or structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

Seiche

A seiche is a surface wave created when an inland water body is shaken, usually by an earthquake. Seiches are of concern relative to water storage facilities because inundation from a seiche can occur if the wave overflows a containment wall, such as the wall of a reservoir, water storage tank, dam, or other artificial body of water. There are no water storage facilities or bodies of water on or near the Project site; the nearest large body of water is the Salton Sea located nearly 40 miles to the southeast. The Project site is not located near any inland water bodies or water storage tanks that could pose a flood hazard to the site due to a seiche or failure.

No impacts would occur.

Tsunami

A tsunami is a series of ocean waves caused by a sudden displacement of the ocean floor, most often due to earthquakes. The Project site is approximately 80 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. Impacts from a tsunami are highly unlikely.

No impacts would occur.

⁶⁶ City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Geotechnical Element" (2000).

Mudflow

A mudflow is a landslide composed of saturated rock debris and soil with a consistency of wet cement. The Project site and surrounding area are generally flat with gradual changes in elevation and there are no major slopes or bluffs on or adjacent to the site. Land surrounding the Project site is developed and is generally flat. Impacts from mudflows are highly unlikely.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would construct a new classroom building on the previously developed DHSHS campus. The proposed Project would not result in a significant increase in site runoff or any changes in the local drainage patterns. Runoff from the Project site currently is, and would continue to be, collected on the site and directed toward existing storm drains in the Project vicinity. Pursuant to local practice and City policy, stormwater retention would be required as part of the SUSMP implementation features (despite no increased imperviousness of the site). Any contaminants gathered during routine cleaning of construction equipment would be disposed of in compliance with applicable stormwater pollution prevention permits. The proposed Project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Would the proposed school conflict with any existing or proposed land uses, such that a potential health or safety risk to students would be created?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The proposed Project would construct a new classroom building within the existing DHSHS campus. Proposed Project development would not divide any established residential communities. As development would occur within a developed high school campus, no new roadways or infrastructure that would bisect or transect the surrounding neighborhoods would be required.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Less than Significant Impact. The City's General Plan designates the existing DHSHS campus as School Use, with a zoning designation of Open Space. Land use designation and associated zoning designation for the Project site is "P/S (School)".

The proposed Project would construct a new classroom building on an existing high school campus. The DHSHS campus would continue to operate similar compared to existing conditions. The proposed CTE Building would solely accommodate the REAL and PSA programs on the DHSHS campus by providing flexible classroom space for each academy. Project implementation would not change existing land uses

or zoning designations or regulations. In addition, the construction of the proposed CTE Building would be designed complement the other structures on the campus.

As such, the proposed Project would conform to the design and policies of the City's General Plan.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Would the proposed school Project conflict with any existing or proposed land uses, such that a potential health or safety risk to students would be created?

No Impact. The proposed Project would construct a new CTE Building on the existing DHSHS campus. There are no existing or proposed land uses surrounding the Project site that would pose a health or safety risk to students, teaches, campus staff, or visitors. Surrounding land uses consist of school, residential, and commercial space. None of these land uses are considered a health or safety risk to students.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future 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

a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State?

No Impact. According to the Riverside County General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element, the Project site is located within a Mineral Resources Zone 3 (MRZ-3), which is an area where significant mineral deposits cannot be evaluated based on current and available data.⁶⁷ Additionally, the City of Desert Hot Springs General Plan indicates that a majority of the City contains few mineral resources.⁶⁸ The only mineral resources considered to be of economic value are the sand and gravel deposits that occur on the outcroppings of the Little San Bernardino Mountains.⁶⁹ These resources have not been exploited, nor is the Project site located near these deposits. The State of California has not classified or designated mineral resource zones within the area and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) mineral potential maps also indicate no prospective valuable deposits.

The Project site is developed and there are no records of mineral resources within the Project area.⁷⁰ The proposed Project would be implemented within the existing campus and would not disrupt any mining operations.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

67 County of Riverside, General Plan, "Multipurpose Open Space Element" (2008).

68 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Open Space and Conservation Element" (2000).

69 County of Riverside, General Plan, "Multipurpose Open Space Element" (2008).

70 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Open Space and Conservation Element" (2000).

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?

No Impact. According to the *Riverside County General Plan*, the Project site is within a Mineral Resources Zone 3 (MRZ-3).⁷¹ While the Project site is vacant, the existing DHSHS campus and surrounding areas are developed and there are no records of significant mineral resources existing within the Project area.⁷²

The City does not currently contain any active mining operations within its boundaries. In addition, the Project site is developed within the existing DHSHS campus and surrounded by urban development, making it unavailable as a mining site or mineral resource recovery site.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

71 County of Riverside, General Plan, "Multipurpose Open Space Element" (2008).

72 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Open Space and Conservation Element" (2000).

5.13 NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project result in:				
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Is the proposed school site located adjacent to or near a major arterial roadway or freeway whose noise generation may adversely affect the educational program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?**

Less than Significant with Project Mitigation.

Noise Compatibility

The City's General Plan Noise Element⁷³ and the City's Noise Control Ordinance⁷⁴ include guidelines to evaluate ambient noise and land use compatibility. For schools, outdoor noise levels up to 65 A-weighted decibels (dBA) and indoor noise levels up to 45 dBA are considered acceptable. **Table 5.13-1: Existing Ambient Noise Levels**, shows the existing ambient noise levels located at the surrounding sensitive receptors. **Figure 5.13-1: Noise Monitoring Locations**, shows the location of each ambient noise level

⁷³ City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Noise Element" (2000).

⁷⁴ City of Desert Hot Springs, Municipal Code, sec. 8.12, Noise Control.

monitoring point. As shown in **Table 5.13-1**, ambient noise ranged from a low of 57.4 dBA (Site 3) to a high of 61.6 dBA (Site 2).

It is important to note, construction of the proposed CTE Building would not result in any increase of students and faculty on site. The existing operation of the DHSHS would remain the same as current conditions and would not generate any additional traffic, thus would remain similar to existing conditions. As such impacts would be less than significant.

Table 5.13-1
Existing Ambient Noise Levels

Location	Description	15-minute Leq
Site 1	Along Golden Eagle Way, west of the Project site	59.3
Site 2	Along Golden Eagle Way, southwest of the Project site	61.6
Site 3	Along Cholla Drive, east of the Project site	57.4

*Source: Refer to **Appendix F1** for noise monitoring worksheets.*

Stationary-Source Noise

The major sources of noise within the existing campus are from school bells, students, teachers, outdoor activities, and sporting events. School bells would continue to operate, and outdoor activity areas and sporting events would remain at their current locations. The nearest noise-sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the Project site are the residences to the west across Golden Eagle Way. The classrooms would continue to experience sporadic noise from school bells, outdoor activities, and sporting events. All theatre or production activities would stay in the confines of the building. In addition, the proposed Project would not increase the surrounding population, nor would generate additional students who may generate noise. As such, the proposed Project would not result in an increase in the ambient noise at the vicinity of the Project site, and noise would remain similar to existing conditions.



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2019; Meridian Consultants - 2019

FIGURE 5.13-1

Construction Noise

Construction of the proposed Project would take approximately nine months (summer 2019 to mid-2020). According to the City of Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code, construction activities can only occur during the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM on weekdays and 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM during daylight savings time.⁷⁵

As the DHSHS campus is typically in session from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM, activities would occur during the most-sensitive timeframe. To further reduce exposure of noise-sensitive receptors (both on- and off-campus) to the proposed Project's construction-related activities, the District would coordinate the noisiest construction activities to occur during periods when school is not in session, including when classes are not fully operational such as during summer and winter session breaks.

Estimated noise levels associated with construction activities are presented in **Table 5.13-2: Maximum Noise Levels for Construction Phases**. Equipment estimates used for the analysis for demolition and building construction noise levels are representative of "worst-case" conditions because they assumed several pieces of equipment operating simultaneously. As shown in **Table 5.13-1**, the maximum exceedance for Site 1 would reach 23.9 dBA respectively, above the 5-dBA threshold for an increase in noise from construction activities.

Table 5.13-2
Maximum Noise Levels for Construction Phases

Receptor ID	Distance from Project Site (ft)	Estimated Construction Noise Levels by Phase, dBA		Ambient Noise Level, Leq (dBA)	Logarithmic Maximum Noise Increase Over Ambient (without mitigation), Leq (dBA)
		Building Construction	Architectural Coating		
Site 1	60	83.2	72.1	59.3	+23.9
Site 2	620	62.9	51.8	61.6	+3.7
Site 3	1,100	57.9	46.8	57.4	+2.8

Source: Refer to **Appendix F2** for construction noise worksheets.

Notes: dBA = A-weighted decibel; Leq = equivalent sound level.

With implementation of **Mitigation Measures MM NOI-1** through **NOI-11**, the use of optimal muffler systems for all equipment and the break in line of sight to a sensitive receptor would reduce construction noise levels by approximately 10 dB or more.⁷⁶ In addition, limiting the number of noise-generating heavy-duty off-road construction equipment simultaneously used on the Project site within 50 feet of off-site

⁷⁵ City of Desert Hot Springs, Municipal Code, sec. 8.12.100, Construction—Hours of work permitted.

⁷⁶ FHWA, *Special Report – Measurement, Prediction, and Mitigation*, updated June 2017, accessed February 2019, https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Environment/noise/construction_noise/special_report/hcn04.cfm.

noise-sensitive receptors surrounding the site to no more than one or two pieces of heavy-duty off-road equipment would further reduce construction noise levels by approximately 10 dBA. Implementation of these measures would reduce construction noise levels at minimum of 20 dBA. As such, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures has been identified to impacts to less than significant:

- NOI-1** The District shall direct construction activities that result in noise above 65 dB(a) to correspond with the school schedule to minimize noise and vibration impacts when classes are in session, and to avoid critical (testing) periods. Intensive construction activities such as grading shall be scheduled to occur after 3:00 PM Monday through Friday.
- NOI-2** The District's construction contractor shall ensure that construction equipment is properly muffled according to industry standards and is in good working condition.
- NOI-3** The District's construction contractor shall utilize diesel generators and compressors that are listed as "quiet units" by the manufacturer.
- NOI-4** For all noise- and vibration-generating construction activity on the Project Site, the District's construction contractor shall employ additional noise and vibration attenuation techniques to reduce noise and vibration levels. Such techniques may include but are not limited to the use of sound blankets on noise-generating equipment and the construction of temporary sound barriers between construction sites and nearby sensitive receptors.
- NOI-5** The District's construction contractor shall turn off all idling equipment when not in use for more than 5 minutes.
- NOI-6** The District's construction contractor shall disconnect backup alarms on vehicles that require them.
- NOI-7** The District's construction contractor shall utilize temporary noise deflector walls during construction, where feasible.
- NOI-8** The District's construction contractor shall place noise- and vibration-generating construction equipment and construction staging areas away from sensitive uses, including operating classrooms, where feasible.

- NOI-9** The District's construction contractor shall coordinate the reduction of construction activities with nearby classrooms during exam periods to minimize noise and vibration. Provide construction activity schedules and try to minimize noisy activities when construction is taking place to the fullest extent practicable.
- NOI-10** Notification shall be provided to all occupied residences within 200 feet of an area where construction activities may result in ground-borne vibration of more than 80 VdB, at least 10 days in advance of such activities.
- NOI-11** Before any site activity, the contractor shall be required to submit a material haul route plan to the City of Desert Hot Springs for review and approval. The contractor shall ensure that the approved haul routes are used for all materials hauling, to minimize exposure of sensitive receivers to potential adverse noise levels from hauling operations.

b. Is the proposed school site located adjacent to or near a major arterial roadway or freeway whose noise generation may adversely affect the educational program?

No Impact. There are no freeways adjacent to the Project site. The DHSHS campus is bound by 5th Street to the north, Cholla Drive to the east, Pierson Boulevard to the south, and Golden Eagle Way to the west. The Project site is approximately 4 miles east of SR 62, but is approximately 870 feet north of Pierson Boulevard, a major arterial roadway in the City.⁷⁷ The proposed Project would not add additional traffic to Pierson Boulevard and any impacts would be similar to existing conditions. As such, roadway noise would not affect any educational program at the Project site or surrounding campus facilities.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?

Less than Significant with Project Mitigation. Ground-borne vibration can be described as perceptible rumbling, movement, shaking or rattling of structures and items within a structure. Ground-borne vibration can generate a heightened disturbance in residential or in sensitive-prone areas. These vibrations can disturb structures and household items while creating difficulty for residential or school activities such as reading or other tasks. Although ground-borne vibration is sometimes perceptible in an

⁷⁷ City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Circulation Element" (2000).

outdoor environment, it is not generally deemed a problem as it is when this form of disturbance is experienced inside a building. Ground-borne vibration can be measured in terms of amplitude and frequency or vibration decibels (VdB). Trains, buses, large trucks, and construction activities that include pile driving, blasting, earth moving, and heavy vehicle operation commonly cause these vibrations. Other factors that influence the disturbance of ground-borne vibration include distance to source, foundation materials, perimeter controls, and soil and surface types.

Construction activities could generate varying degrees of ground vibration, depending on the construction procedures, construction equipment used, and proximity to vibration-sensitive uses. Operation of construction equipment generates vibrations that spread through the ground and diminish in amplitude with distance from the source. Typical source levels of construction equipment can range from 58 VdB for a small bulldozer to 112 VdB for an impact pile driver at 25 feet.⁷⁸ Ground vibrations from construction activities rarely reach levels that could damage structures but can achieve perceptible ranges in buildings close to a construction site. Project construction will involve the temporary operation of vehicles and equipment that could result in localized, short-term vibration increases during the permitted hours of construction established by the City.

Construction activities would be limited to Project site and not surrounding campus. As with generated noise levels, construction activities would be scheduled to avoid critical school schedule periods (e.g., testing periods) to reduce vibration impacts while students are in class. Equipment that generates the highest levels of vibration would be scheduled to be operated after school hours to the degree possible or when classes are not in session. However, as construction-related vibration levels would be considered high for intermittent periods of time throughout the 9–12-month phased construction schedule, impacts to students, staff, and faculty are considered to be potentially significant.

In regard to operation, the proposed Project would not typically involve activities that would be expected to generate excessive vibration impacts. Adherence to the City's Noise Control will continue to be a measure to restrict noise and vibration generation resulting from the future operations.⁷⁹

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of **Mitigation Measures NOI-1** through **NOI-11** have been identified to reduce impacts to less than significant.

⁷⁸ US Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*, FTA report no. 0123 (September 2018), accessed March 2019, https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/research-innovation/118131/transit-noise-and-vibration-impact-assessment-manual-fta-report-no-0123_0.pdf.

⁷⁹ City of Desert Hot Springs, Municipal Code, sec. 8.12, Noise Control.

- d. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?***

No Impact. The Project site is located approximately 8.3 miles from the Palm Springs International Airport. There are no other private airports, airstrips, or heliport stations within the vicinity of the Project site. The City's General Plan notes that existing and future levels associated with airport operations will have no significant impact on the City.⁸⁰ As such, the proposed Project would not expose people in the Project area to excessive noise levels from an airport.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

80 City of Desert Hot Springs, *Comprehensive General Plan*, "Noise Element" (2000).

5.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

Discussion

- a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?**

No Impact. The proposed Project does not include the development of new homes or businesses, and would not extend utilities off site, such as roads or other infrastructure. As such, it would not introduce any new population into the area. The number of students and faculty on site would not change due to proposed Project development.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

No Impact. No housing exists on the Project site. The Project site is located within the developed high school campus. Therefore, proposed Project development would not displace any existing people or housing.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a. 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 public services:				
i. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v. Other public services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the site promote joint use of parks, libraries, museums, and other public services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. 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 public services:

i. Fire protection?

Less than Significant Impact. Fire protection and emergency medical services in the City are provided by the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD). The nearest fire station to the Project site is Fire Station No. 37 (Desert Hot Springs) at 65958 Pierson Blvd, located approximately 0.4 miles east of the Project site.⁸¹

⁸¹ City of Desert Hot Springs, "Fire Department," accessed February 2019, <https://www.cityofdhs.org/fire-department>.

During construction and subsequent operation, the proposed Project would not interfere with any of the daily operations of the City's Emergency Plans nor would it require additional staff from the RCFD. All construction activities, including staging, would occur within the existing DHSHS campus and would be required to be performed per the District's, City's, and RCFD's standards and regulations. In addition, construction of the proposed CTE Building would be required to comply with all applicable fire code and CBC provisions to the satisfaction of the City and RCFD.

Project development would neither increase nor reduce the number of students and faculty on site. A paved driveway would also be constructed along the northern boundary of the Project site to provide access for first responder and emergency vehicles working with the PSA academy. The proposed Project would not involve any circulation improvements or changes that would interfere with ingress and egress points on the Project site. Thus, access to and within the DHSHS campus would remain adequate for emergency services. The proposed Project is not expected to result in an increase in calls for emergency fire and emergency medical services. Project development would not require the construction of new or expanded fire protection facilities.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

ii. Police protection?

Less than Significant Impact. Police protection services in the City are provided by the City of Desert Hot Springs Police Department (DHSPD), which operates out of its police facility at 65950 Pierson Blvd, approximately 0.4 miles east of the Project site.⁸²

The proposed Project involves the construction of a new CTE Building and associated site improvements on the existing DHSHS campus. There would be no change in the number of students and faculty on site. The proposed Project would incorporate any necessary fencing around the portions of the Project site undergoing construction to minimize trespassing and vandalism. With regards to safety during operation of the proposed Project to reduce demand on DHSPD, the Project site would be secured through a combination of fencing and walls, and the proposed CTE Building would include security lighting features.

82 City of Desert Hot Springs, "Police Department," accessed February 2019, <https://www.cityofdhs.org/police-department>.

Therefore, police services would be adequate, and development of the proposed Project would not result in an increase in calls for police services, as it would not generate additional population. Project development would not require the construction of new or expanded police facilities.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

iii. Schools?

No Impact. Proposed development would involve the construction of a new CTE Building on the existing DHSHS campus. Development of the proposed Project would not generate additional students nor require the construction a new school; rather, it would construct a facility that would serve the existing campus.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

iv. Parks?

No Impact. Demand for parks in an area are usually determined by the area's population. The proposed Project would not construct any dwelling units, nor would it generate additional population. Demand for recreational services would remain the same. Therefore, the proposed Project would not require construction of new or expanded parks or recreational facilities.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

v. Other public facilities?

No Impact. A public library is provided by the City, which is located at 11691 West Drive, approximately 0.45 miles east of the Project site. Implementation of the proposed Project would not require the construction of new or expanded library facilities, nor would the proposed Project increase the number of students and faculty on site. Demand for library services would remain the same compared to existing conditions.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Does the site promote joint use of parks, libraries, museums, and other public services?

No Impact. Demand for public services in an area are usually determined by the area's population. The proposed Project would not result in any increase in population and would not construct any dwelling units. The proposed Project would not promote joint use of parks, libraries, museums, and other public services. The proposed Project would also not require construction of any of these public services.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.16 RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a. 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. 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

- 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?***

No Impact. Demand for parks and recreational facilities in an area are usually determined by the area's population. Implementation of the proposed Project would construct a new classroom building. As there would be no increase to population, demand for recreational services would remain the same and deterioration to recreational facilities would not occur.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- 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?***

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed Project would involve the construction of a new classroom building on the existing DHSHS campus. The proposed Project would provide a modernized facility within the high school campus. No off-site recreational facilities are proposed, and none would be required.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.17 TRANSPORTATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a. Conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Are traffic and pedestrian hazards mitigated per Caltrans' <i>School Area Pedestrian Safety</i> manual?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Is the site easily accessible from arterials and is the minimum peripheral visibility maintained for driveways per Caltrans' Highway Design Manual?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Be within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a. *Conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?***

Less than Significant Impact.

Construction Phase

Short-term increases to traffic would occur during the construction phase of the proposed Project. It is expected that construction workers would enter the campus via Golden Eagle Way. Staging areas and parking areas for construction would occur on the parking lots or vacant area at the northwestern corner of the DHSHS campus along Golden Eagle Way. It is anticipated that construction workers would arrive and leave the construction site during off-peak school hours, thus minimizing any traffic increases for students, parents and teachers. The amount of traffic generated by construction workers is considered incremental due to the relatively small-scale nature of the proposed Project.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Operational Phase

The proposed CTE Building would be constructed to accommodate the existing students and faculty members of the REAL and PSA programs on the DHSHS campus by providing flexible classroom space for each academy. The proposed Project would not increase the population or generate additional students. As the new facility would not increase the existing student or faculty population on the campus, there would not be an anticipated increase in traffic volumes existing operation of the campus would remain similar compared to existing conditions.

Furthermore, the proposed Project would not require any new roadways or infrastructure to support events associated with the Project area. The only circulation improvements on the Project site include the construction of a paved driveway along the northern boundary of the Project site to provide access for first responder and emergency vehicles working with the PSA academy. Due to overall conditions staying the same, the proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

Less than Significant Impact. Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) states that evaluating a project's vehicles miles traveled (VMT) is the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts. As stated above, the proposed Project would involve the construction of a new CTE Building on the existing DHSHS campus, which would have an overall increase in total building area. However, the proposed Project would not increase the existing student or faculty population on the DHSHS campus. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in a change in total VMT on the campus when compared to existing conditions.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?***

Less than Significant Impact.

Project Circulation and Design Features

The proposed Project would construct a new classroom building and associated site improvements on the existing DHSHS campus, including a paved driveway along the northern boundary of the Project site to provide access for first responder and emergency vehicles working with the PSA academy. As such, the proposed Project would not introduce any new roadways with sharp curves or dangerous intersections that would interrupt access to the campus for emergency response vehicles. Other driveways across the DHSHS campus providing access for emergency response vehicle would remain the same. In addition, as no changes are proposed to the surrounding road system, clear and uninterrupted access to the Project site for emergency response vehicles would continue to be provided via Golden Eagle Way.

Adherence to all emergency response plan requirements set forth by the City and RCFD would be required through the duration of proposed Project construction and operation phases. Existing emergency access to properties along the surrounding roadways would not be altered or disrupted under construction and operational phases and no changes to the off-site roadway system would be necessary.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Conflicting or Incompatible Land Uses

The proposed Project would involve the construction of a new classroom building located in the northwestern portion of the DHSHS campus. Surrounding land uses consist of school and residential uses; and construction of the proposed Project would be compatible within the campus and surrounding land uses.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- d. Are traffic and pedestrian hazards mitigated per Caltrans' School Area Pedestrian Safety manual?***

No Impact. The proposed Project would construct a new classroom building within the existing DHSHS campus. The proposed Project would not implement any improvements that could affect pedestrian and bicycle systems. All improvements proposed by the Project would be contained within the Project site.

Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase the exposure of students to traffic and pedestrian hazards. Surrounding roadways are already marked with appropriate school zone signs and crosswalks. As necessary, the proposed Project would comply with Caltrans traffic control requirements for school areas.⁸³

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. Is the site easily accessible from arterials and is the minimum peripheral visibility maintained for driveways per Caltrans' Highway Design Manual?

No Impact. The Project site is located within the northwestern portion of the existing DHSHS campus. The associated parking lots on the campus that would provide access to the Project site would be accessed via driveways along Golden Eagle Way. No changes are proposed to the surrounding road system or the on-site circulation system and driveways. No buildings, structures, or landscaping would be introduced near any of the existing driveways that would impair drivers' vision. Clear and uninterrupted access to the campus would continue to be provided via the existing access driveways.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. Is the proposed school site within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement?

No Impact. The Project site is not within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

g. Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. The proposed Project would be required to incorporate all applicable design and safety requirements as set forth in the most current adopted fire codes, building codes, and safety standards set forth by the City and RCFD. Existing emergency access to properties along the surrounding roadways would not be altered or disrupted under construction and operational phases and no changes to the off-

83 California Department of Transportation, *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Schools*, available at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/>.

site roadway system would be necessary. Project-related construction activities would not require lane closures of any surrounding roadways.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with the cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (d) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)***

Less than Significant Impact.

As defined in PRC Section 21074, there are no resources on the Project site that are listed or eligible for listing resources in the CRHR, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k). Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project, including the construction of the proposed CTE Building on the DHSHS campus would not cause an adverse change to a historic resource.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- b. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.***

Less than Significant with Project Mitigation. As discussed in the Cultural Resources Records Review (see **Appendix C**), a Sacred Lands File Search was conducted in November 2018 with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to determine whether there are sensitive or sacred TCRs that could be affected by the proposed Project. The results of the search from the NAHC did not indicate the presence of any known TCRs within the immediate Project area.

AB 52 establishes a formal consultation process for California Native American tribes to identify potentially significant impacts to TCRs, as defined in PRC Section 21074 as part of CEQA. As specified in AB 52, lead agencies must provide notice to tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project if the tribe has submitted a written request to be notified. The NAHC provided a list of Native American groups and individuals who might have knowledge of the religious and/or cultural significance of resources that may be in and near the Project site.

In accordance with AB 52, the District provided notification to two California Native American Tribes (Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians) that have requested notification of the proposed Project (pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1). The letters notifying the tribes were issued on March 7, 2019 (see **Appendix G**). To date, the District has only received a response from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, who indicated, in their letter dated March 27, 2019, that while the proposed Project is not located within the boundaries of their Reservation, it is located within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians requested the inclusion of language in the Draft IS/MND addressing the potential disturbance of human remains in accordance with State law or Tribal burial protocol. The District recognizes this request and commensurate language has been provided in the Draft IS/MND to meet Tribal goals. In regard to a response from the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, the tribes have until April 6, 2019 to respond to the District identifying any potential TCRs of concerns.

The Project site is located within an open area on a previously disturbed site containing the developed DHSHS campus. Implementation of the proposed Project would not involve substantial ground-disturbing activities during the site preparation or construction phases. As the presence of any documented cultural resources on the Project site is considered low, it is unlikely that those tribes requesting consultation from

the District would identify any potential TCRs of concern that could be affected by implementation of the proposed Project.

Given this prior development of the DHSHS campus, the presence of any documented cultural resources on the Project site is considered low, it is unlikely that site preparation and construction activities, including earth disturbing activities, would identify any new potential TCRs of concern. However, as construction activities associated the proposed Project could still have the potential to unearth undocumented archaeological resources beneath the site, the District has taken into consideration in this IS/MND that there may be potential albeit low, that TCRs could be encountered during site ground-disturbing activities. If any such TCRs are encountered, the District would implement standard mitigation through **Mitigation Measure TCR-1** to ensure impacts to TCRs are reduced to level of less than significant.

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measure has been identified to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

TCR-1 In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during site preparation activities, all earth-disturbing work would be temporarily suspended or redirected until a qualified archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the resources, in accordance with federal, State, and local guidelines, including those set forth in California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2. Construction personnel shall not collect or move any archaeological materials and associated materials. The designated archaeologist would consult with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians with regard to the identification of any cultural resources present on the Project site. After the resources have been addressed appropriately, work in the area may resume.

5.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, or wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a. *Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, or wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?***

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would involve the construction of a new classroom building on the existing DHSHS campus to provide new areas to the existing students. The construction of the proposed CTE Building would consist of 2 workshops, a classroom, a training bay, outdoor work areas and several storage spaces. Thus, the proposed CTE Building would be a new modernized facility that is not anticipated to contain features that would generate an unsustainable demand on water and wastewater.

In regard to stormwater drainage, stormwater runoff would be conveyed similar to existing conditions and the proposed Project would use the established drainage improvements of the Project site and surrounding area. Upon completion of the proposed Project, drainage runoff from the Project site would be adequately handled by the existing on- and off-site drainage system. The existing storm drain system has been engineered to handle runoff from the Project site and has adequate capacity to handle drainage flows from the site. Additionally, the amount of runoff from the site would be similar to that of existing conditions. Project development would not require the construction or expansion of storm water drainage facilities.

As the proposed CTE Building would be constructed to meet Title 24 and CalGreen requirements, it would be more energy efficient and would have a reduced energy demand. Thus, the existing energy infrastructure serving the Project site for electric power and natural gas. Lastly, the proposed CTE Building would be served by the existing telecommunication infrastructure that serves the Project site.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?

Less than Significant Impact. The Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) provides water to the Project site. According to the DWA's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan, a planning document for water supply and demand, the total 2020 water supply is projected to be 52,800 acre-feet per year.⁸⁴ The DWA has sufficient supplies available to meet this projected demand during normal and dry years.⁸⁵ The proposed Project would involve the construction of a new modernized classroom building on the existing DHSHS campus. As the proposed CTE Building would be constructed to meet Title 24 and CalGreen requirements it is not anticipated to contain features that would generate an increased demand on water and wastewater. Therefore, the proposed Project would not require the construction or expansion of water treatment facilities.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

⁸⁴ Desert Water Authority (DWA), *Final 2015 Urban Water Management Plan* (June 2016), pg. II-2, accessed February 2019, <https://dwa.org/board-meeting-agenda/urban-water-management-plan/183-2015-urban-water-management-plan/file>.

⁸⁵ DWA, *Final 2015 Urban Water Management Plan*.

- c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which 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?**

Less than Significant Impact. As mentioned before, the proposed Project is not anticipated to generate an increased demand on wastewater.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- d. Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?**

Less than Significant Impact. Desert Valley Disposal, Inc. (DVD) provides trash collection and recycling services to the City of Desert Hot Springs, including the Project site.⁸⁶ The proposed Project would generate construction waste, as well as minimal amounts during the operational phase. Solid waste from the proposed Project would most likely be transported to the Edom Hill Transfer Station in Cathedral City, which is then transferred to and disposed at the Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill in Beaumont, approximately 30 miles southwest of Desert Hot Springs.

Lamb Canyon Landfill is permitted to accept 5,000 tons of waste per day.⁸⁷ The remaining capacity of the landfill is 19,242,950 cubic yards of waste, and it is expected to close in 2029.⁸⁸ Other landfills available to Desert Hot Springs are the Badlands Landfill, with a remaining capacity of 15,748,799 cubic yards of waste and an expected close date in 2022;⁸⁹ and the El Sobrante Landfill, with a remaining capacity of 143,977,170 cubic yards of waste and an expected close date in 2051.⁹⁰

⁸⁶ City of Desert Hot Springs, "Desert Valley Disposal," accessed February 2019, <https://www.desertvalleydisposal.com/>.

⁸⁷ CalRecycle, "Facility/Site Summary Details: Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill (33-AA-0007)," accessed February 2019, <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/swfacilities/Directory/33-AA-0007>.

⁸⁸ CalRecycle, "Facility/Site Summary Details: Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill (33-AA-0007)," accessed February 2019, <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/swfacilities/Directory/33-AA-0007>.

⁸⁹ CalRecycle, "Facility/Site Summary Details: Badlands Sanitary Landfill (33-AA-0006)," accessed February 2019, <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/swfacilities/Directory/33-AA-0006>.

⁹⁰ CalRecycle, "Facility/Site Summary Details: El Sobrante Sanitary Landfill (33-AA-0217)," accessed February 2019, <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/33-AA-0217/Detail/>.

The proposed Project would generate solid waste during site preparation and construction activities, as well as during operation.

Based on the square footage of the proposed CTE Building at approximately 13,630 square feet, and the standard construction waste generation of 4.34 pounds per square foot, this proposed construction is estimated to generate 59,154 pounds per square foot, or approximately 29.58 tons of construction debris.⁹¹ This estimate is conservative; it does not factor in any recycling or waste diversion programs.

Operation of the proposed CTE Building would generate solid waste typical of a classroom building, which is anticipated to be slightly increase compared to existing conditions. Based on the net increase of approximately 13,630 square feet of proposed floor area and the generation rate of 0.007 square feet for school uses, the proposed CTE Building is estimated to generate approximately 95 pounds, or 0.05 tons of solid waste per day.⁹² As with construction debris, this estimate is conservative as it does not factor in any recycling or waste diversion programs that would be implemented on the Project site.

The amount of solid waste generated by the proposed Project during construction and operations would be within the available capacities at area landfills. Furthermore, the proposed Project would be required to comply all applicable federal, State, and local regulations related to solid waste.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. Construction and operation of the proposed Project would comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Solid waste generated by the proposed Project would not interfere with the California Integrated Waste Management Act, which requires that local municipalities implement programs to divert at least 50 percent of their solid waste from landfills. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

91 USEPA, "Estimating 2003 Building-Related Construction and Demolition Materials Amount," EPA530-R-09-002, (March 2009), accessed February 2019, <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-09/documents/estimating2003buildingrelatedcanddmaterialsamounts.pdf>.

92 CalRecycle, "Estimated Solid Waste Generation Rates," accessed February 2019, <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/WasteCharacterization/General/Rates>.

5.20 WILDFIRES

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

Discussion

- a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**
- b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose Project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?**
- c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?**
- d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?**

No Impact. The Project site is located in a developed and urbanized area of the City that does not contain wildlands or high fire hazard terrain or vegetation. The Project site is not located in a Very High Fire Hazard

Severity Zone.⁹³ As such, none of the above thresholds would be applicable to the proposed Project. No further analysis is required.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

93 CalFire, Riverside County (West) FHSZ Map, accessed March 2019,
http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_riversidewest.

5.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Does the Project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the Project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a. Does the Project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?**

Less than Significant with Project Mitigation. The proposed Project would not have any significant impacts on the quality of the natural environment or on evidence of California's history or prehistory. Project development would construct a new classroom building.

The Project site is located within the existing DHSHS campus, which has been previously disturbed and graded, and is surrounded by development. Natural communities and populations of rare or threatened plant or animal species do not exist on or near the Project site and therefore would not be impacted. While the Project site is within the boundaries of and covered by the CVMSHCP), the Project site is located

within a developed high school campus and is not in an area designated as a preserve under the CVMSHCP. As such, the proposed Project would not have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal.

Additionally, under the criterion for evaluating properties for listing in the NRHP or CRHR for their association with the lives of persons important to the history of the existing DHSHS campus, there are no building or structures on the campus have been designed with any particular architectural style or design that is considered to be of historical significance.⁹⁴ Thus, the proposed Project would not have potential to degrade any historic resources.

The proposed Project would not result in significant environmental impacts that have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment. Compliance with regulatory standards and implementation of **Mitigation Measure TCR-1** and **Mitigation Measure GEO-1** would ensure the proposed Project would not have the potential to eliminate important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory, including historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in significant environmental impacts that have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment.

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of **Mitigation Measure TCR-1** and **Mitigation Measure GEO-1** have been identified to reduce potential impacts a less than significant level.

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.)

Less than Significant Impact. Development of the proposed Project would not result in impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. The proposed Project would be developed within the existing DHSHS campus. The proposed Project would be consistent with the General Plan and zoning

94 PaleoWest Archaeology, *Cultural Resource Records Review for the Palm Springs Unified School District Modernization Projects in Riverside County, California* (November 2018).

designations of the Project site. Therefore, the proposed Project would not weigh short-term goals above long-term environmental goals of the City.

Issues relevant to the proposed Project are localized and confined to the immediate Project area. There are no unusual circumstances relating to the proposed Project, nor are there any successive projects of the same type in the same place that would render any impacts as significant or cumulatively considerable. No significant cumulatively considerable impacts are anticipated to result from the proposed Project.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Does the Project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less than Significant Impact with Project Mitigation. The proposed Project's potential impacts to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, traffic, and other environmental issues have been reviewed. The preceding environmental analysis found that implementation of the proposed Project would not have significant environmental effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Any potentially significant impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels through the implementation of the applicable mitigation measures noted in **Section 5.1** through **5.20**.

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of applicable Mitigation Measures noted in **Sections 5.1** through **5.20** has been identified to reduce impacts to less than significant.

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