

Apple Valley Airport Detention Basin

Draft
Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Prepared for:

County of San Bernardino

Department of Airports

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and

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE	1
1.2 INITIAL STUDY INFORMATION SHEET	2
1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED	5
1.4 DETERMINATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEAD AGENCY)	6
2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST	7
I. AESTHETICS.....	8
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES	9
III. AIR QUALITY	10
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	14
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.....	21
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.....	25
VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.....	29
VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	30
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY	33
X. LAND USE AND PLANNING	36
XI. MINERAL RESOURCES.....	38
XII. NOISE.....	39
XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING.....	41
XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES	42
XV. RECREATION	43
XVI. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC	44
XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.....	46
XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.....	49
XIX. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	51
3.0 REFERENCES	54

TABLE OF CONTENTS (cont.)

LIST OF APPENDICES

- A Biological Resources Letter Report
- B Cultural Resources Survey

LIST OF FIGURES

No.	Title	Follows Page
1	Regional Location.....	2
2	USGS Topography	2
3	Project Features.....	4
4	Conceptual Grading Plan	4

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) addresses the Apple Valley Airport Detention Basin Project (project/proposed project), which would be located within APN 0463-381-77 near the southwestern corner of the Apple Valley Airport property. This IS/MND analyzes the environmental impacts associated with the proposed project in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the associated Guidelines (State CEQA Guidelines). The analysis includes responses to the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Initial Study Checklist. Where potential impacts have been identified, mitigation measures have been specified to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. The project site is located within the County of San Bernardino (County), and the County is the CEQA Lead Agency for the proposed project. The IS/MND demonstrates that all potentially significant project impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels, with mitigation incorporated; therefore, the County has filed a Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project.

1.2 INITIAL STUDY INFORMATION SHEET

1. Project title:

Apple Valley Airport Detention Basin

2. Lead agency name and address:

County of San Bernardino
Department of Airports
777 E. Rialto Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

3. Contact person and phone number:

Contact: Cyle Woodruff, Apple Valley Airport Manager
Phone: (760) 247-2371

4. Project location:

The proposed project location is the northern portion of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 0463-381-77, near the southwestern corner of the Apple Valley Airport property, north of Papago Road.

5. Project sponsor's name and address:

County of San Bernardino
Department of Airports
777 E. Rialto Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Phone: (909) 387-8813

6. General Plan designation:

Specific Plan Industrial (SP-I)

7. Zoning designation:

Specific Plan

8. Description of project:

The proposed project involves the purchase of land to provide for the construction and operation of a storm water detention basin and associated improvements to control runoff from the Apple Valley Airport, located in the County of San Bernardino (Figure 1, *Regional Location*). The detention basin would be installed on an 18.86-acre portion of APN 0463-381-77, which is an existing 59.87-acre parcel north of Papago Road, near the southwestern corner of the Apple Valley Airport (Figure 2, *USGS Topography*). The Apple Valley Airport is interested in acquiring the 18.86-acre portion of the parcel from the current land owner to provide for the basin and associated improvements, including an

earthen channel and emergency overflow channel. As such, a tentative parcel map and parcel map would need to be processed through the Town of Apple Valley to create a separate parcel and allow for the transfer of ownership to the County. This subsequent activity would not change the property owner's ability to use the balance of the property or change the environmental conditions that would affect it, since all of the existing development criteria currently applicable to the property would remain.

Runoff from the airport combines with off-site runoff from surrounding desert areas and generally flows in a southerly direction towards Runway 8-26. Three existing storm drains along Runway 8-26 direct flows into a swale that runs parallel to the runway, along its south side. Flows within the swale then turn southward near the eastern terminus of the runway and currently discharge to the natural ground surface near Papago Road. A proposed drainage channel/swale would connect to the swale near the west end of Runway 8-26 and direct flows to the proposed detention basin (Figure 3, *Project Features*). Storm water would then be detained in the basin and released slowly to the existing drainage channel to the east of the proposed basin.

The County of San Bernardino outlines detention criteria based on the 2-, 10-, 25-, and 100-year storms. A Storm Water Master Plan (SWMP) has been prepared for the Apple Valley Airport that analyzes storage requirements for the proposed detention basin and estimates flows for the 100-year storm. Based on the analysis conducted for the SWMP, the detention basin would need to provide a minimum of 304,920 cubic feet of storage to accommodate a 100-year flood event; however, the basin will be designed with additional storage capacity to provide for outlet works, appropriate freeboard, and a margin of safety for potential back-to-back storm events. The proposed maximum dimensions of the detention basin are 265 feet wide by 509.5 feet long by 4 feet deep, with a total internal volume of 540,070 cubic feet (20,003 cubic yards [cy]). The proposed drainage channel/swale would be 260 feet long and 20 feet wide, with a channel depth of 2.9 feet, with a total internal volume of 34,800 cubic feet (1,289 cy). The detention basin would also include an approximately 200-foot long emergency spillway/outlet near the southwestern corner of the basin that would discharge to an existing drainage channel. Figure 4, *Conceptual Grading Plan*, shows the existing elevations on the project site and proposed grading for the detention basin, drainage channel/swale, and emergency spillway.

Construction of the storm water detention basin would involve excavation to approximately five feet deep and removal of fill. Approximately 25 percent of the excavated fill would be used to construct the side slopes of the basin, and the remaining fill (approximately 16,000 cy) would be hauled off site to an appropriate disposal facility. An estimated 800 cy per day would be removed, with a total of approximately 54 truck trips per day (at 15 cy-capacity per truck). Construction activities are anticipated to occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and would last approximately three months.

Access to the site for construction would be from Papago Road (Figure 3). The proposed staging area for construction materials would be approximately 250 feet by 150 feet and would be located between Papago Road and the proposed detention basin site on the same parcel (Figure 3).

The Town of Apple Valley water quality requirements typically involve construction-related erosion control best management practices (BMPs). Project-specific construction BMPs will be outlined in the required Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and may include measures such as gravel bags, silt fencing, and straw wattles. Post-construction BMP requirements are not specifically defined by the Town of Apple Valley, although retention is commonly used to mitigate post-construction flows to pre-development levels. The detention basin will be designed to also serve as a BMP for meeting retention requirements.

Operation activities associated with the completed detention basin would involve periodic inspections and maintenance by airport staff. The basin would be emptied within 48 hours of a rain event and would be kept clear of vegetation and debris.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The project area is situated between Sidewinder Valley to the north and Apple Valley to the south, in the Western Mojave Desert of southwestern San Bernardino County. The climate of the Mojave Desert is characterized as a “high desert” with large fluctuations in daily temperatures and low humidity and rainfall. The San Bernardino mountains lie approximately 11 miles to the south, and the Mojave River is located approximately 5.5 miles to the west. Several smaller mountains and hills are found in the surrounding vicinity of the project, including Bell Mountain, located approximately 1.5 miles to the northwest; Black Mountain, located approximately 5.5 miles to the northeast; Fairview Mountain located approximately 2.3 miles to the east; and Catholic Hill, located approximately 2.3 miles to the southwest of the project site. The project site is located in a flat valley plain among the prominent mountains and hills described above.

The project site is located within the North Apple Valley Industrial Specific Plan area. Surrounding land uses include the Apple Valley Airport to the north and are predominantly light industrial and vacant land with some scattered semi-rural residences.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has this consultation begun?

Five Tribes (including Rincon, San Luis Rey and Soboba) were mailed notification regarding the proposed project in conformance with Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52). Two tribes (Morongo Band of Mission Indians and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians) responded requesting further project documentation. The requested documentation was provided, and the County worked with both tribes to identify appropriate mitigation measures which are included in this IS/MND to protect potential cultural resources and Tribal Cultural Resources during project-related ground disturbing activities.

1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

An Initial Study is conducted by a Lead Agency to determine if a project may have a potentially significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063). An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared if an Initial Study indicates that further analysis is needed to determine whether a significant impact will occur or if there is substantial evidence in the record that a project may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(f)).

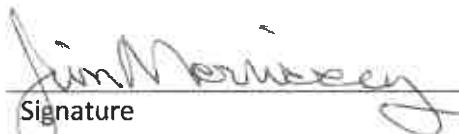
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact for each topic that would require mitigation to reduce the impact from “Potential Impact” to “Less than Significant” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. With the incorporation of mitigation, all of the impacts identified below would be reduced to less than significant, as discussed in Section 2.0 below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture/Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance		

1.4 DETERMINATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEAD AGENCY)

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 "potential 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 pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.


Signature

4/10/19
Date

Jim Morrissey
Printed Name:

Planning
For:

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

This section analyzes the potential environmental impacts which may result from the proposed project. For the evaluation of potential impacts, the questions in the CEQA Initial Study Checklist are stated and answers are provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of the Initial Study. The analysis considers the project's short-term impacts (construction-related), and its operational or day-to-day impacts. For each question, there are four possible responses. They include:

- A. "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.
- B. "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 may be cross-referenced).
- C. "Less Than Significant Impact" applies where the project creates no significant impacts, only less than significant impacts.
- D. "No Impact" applies where a project does not create an impact in that category. "No Impact" answers do not require an explanation if they are adequately supported by the information sources cited by the lead agency which 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 would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project specific screening analysis).

I. AESTHETICS

AESTHETICS: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact. The project site is located within the North Apple Valley Industrial Specific Plan area where there is limited existing development and the topography is relatively flat. Scenic views in this area include distant ridgelines to the east (Fairview Mountain) and northwest (Bell Mountain). No scenic vistas or view corridors would be adversely affected by installation of the proposed storm water detention basin, which would be an excavated basin and channel. No impacts to scenic vistas or scenic resources would occur.

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

No Impact. There are no officially designated state scenic highways in the vicinity of the project site. The nearest eligible state scenic highway (not officially designated) is State Route 247, which is approximately 13 miles to the east. Furthermore, implementation of the proposed project would not result in the removal of trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings, and no related impacts would occur.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is characterized by vacant land, with the Apple Valley Airport to the north and undeveloped parcels to the east and west. There is one residence approximately 325 feet from the southeastern corner of the project site. During the construction period, the presence of construction vehicles, equipment, and materials would result in short-term visual effects to the project site and its surroundings. Due to the short-term nature of these potential effects, however, impacts related to existing visual character or quality of the site and surrounding areas would be less than significant during construction. Upon project completion, all materials associated with construction would be removed and areas surrounding the detention basin and channel would be restored to their original condition. Once constructed, the proposed storm water detention basin would not substantially alter the visual character of the project site or surroundings, as it would be an earthen basin located in an area containing light industrial land uses and vacant land, and no associated impacts would occur.

- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. Project construction would occur during daylight hours and no nighttime lighting would be necessary. No structures are proposed that would require lighting for operation or that would emit glare. No associated light or glare impacts would occur.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

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

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

No Impact. The project site and surrounding areas are mapped as Grazing Land by the California Department of Conservation (CDC), with no designated Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance located within or adjacent to the property (CDC 2017). No impacts related to the conversion of the noted Farmland categories would occur.

- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. The project site and surrounding areas are mapped as Non-Enrolled Land by the CDC (CDC 2016). There are no areas zoned for agriculture or designated as Williamson Act Contract lands within or adjacent to the project site (CDC 2016, Apple Valley 2012). Implementation would not result in conflicts with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract, and no related impacts would occur.

- c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?

No Impact. The project site is not within or adjacent to areas designated or zoned for forest land, timberland, or Timberland Production (Apple Valley 2012). Implementation of the project would not conflict with existing zoning for such lands or cause such lands to be rezoned, and no related impacts would occur.

- d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. As previously stated, the project site is not located within or adjacent to areas designated or zoned as forest land. As a result, project implementation would not convert forest land to non-forest use, and no associated impacts would occur.

- e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. As described above in Items II.a through II.d, there are no pertinent agricultural- or forestry-related designations or associated uses located within or adjacent to the project site. The proposed project would not involve changes that could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use, and no related impacts would occur.

III. AIR QUALITY

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

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

No Impact. The project site is within the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD), which covers the majority of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (Basin) from the desert portion of San Bernardino County to the far eastern end of Riverside County. The MDAQMD develops and administers local regulations for stationary air pollutant sources within its portion of the Basin and also develops plans and programs to meet attainment requirements for both National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS).

Air quality is defined by ambient air concentrations of six specific pollutants identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to be of concern with respect to the health and welfare of the general public. These pollutants include ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (including both particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter [PM₁₀] and particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter [PM_{2.5}]), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and lead (Pb). Ozone and particulate matter are generally considered regional pollutants because they or their precursors affect air quality on a regional scale. Pollutants such as CO, NO₂, SO₂, and Pb are considered local pollutants that tend to accumulate in the air locally. The project area is classified as a moderate nonattainment area for ozone and a moderate nonattainment area for PM₁₀ (MDAQMD 2016).

The proposed project is required to comply with the applicable provisions of the MDAQMD, California Air Resources Board (CARB), and USEPA. The MDAQMD and CARB are the responsible agencies for developing attainment plans to achieve attainment with the NAAQS, and the USEPA reviews and approves these plans. CARB has issued a number of CAAQS, and these standards include pollutants not covered under the NAAQS and also control some pollutants to more stringent levels than those in the corresponding NAAQS. Pollutants regulated under CAAQS include ozone, NO₂, CO, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, Pb, sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, vinyl chloride, and visibility reducing particles. The MDAQMD has adopted several related Air Quality Management Plans (AQMPs), including most recently the Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan (Western Mojave Desert Nonattainment Area), adopted in 2008 (MDAQMD 2016).

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the regional planning agency for Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial counties. SCAG addresses regional issues relating to transportation, economy, community development, and environment. With regard to air quality planning, SCAG has prepared the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG), which includes Growth Management and Regional Mobility chapters that form the basis for the land use and transportation control portions of the AQMP. The RCPG is used in the preparation of the air quality forecasts and consistency analysis included in the AQMP. Both the RCPG and AQMP are based, in part, on projections originating with county and city general plans.

The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a storm water detention basin and associated improvements related to the Apple Valley Airport. As discussed in Item XIII.a, under Population and Housing, the proposed project would not result in population growth. Because the project does not include any growth-generating components, it would be consistent with projections contained in the County's General Plan, and thus, consistent with SCAG and AQMP forecasts. Because the proposed project is consistent with the local general plan and the regional growth management plan, pursuant to MDAQMD guidelines, it also would be considered consistent with the AQMP. Accordingly, project-related emissions are accounted for in the AQMP. No impact would occur because the project would not conflict with the applicable air quality plan.

- b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed storm water detention basin project would not result in operational emissions of criteria pollutants; however, temporary construction-related air quality impacts would occur. Temporary air quality impacts would result from construction activities such as site preparation, excavation, berm construction, and export of excess soil. These activities would result in the emission of exhaust from construction vehicles and equipment; however, emissions would be limited by the relatively small size of the project, the temporary nature of construction, and the localized area of emission. Additionally, construction equipment and procedures would comply with applicable MDAQMD requirements and the construction contractor would implement measures, such as the following, to reduce emission of exhaust from construction vehicles and equipment:

- All equipment would be maintained as recommended by manufacturer's manuals.
- Idling engines would be shut down when not in use for over 30 minutes.
- Electric equipment would be used whenever possible in lieu of diesel or gasoline powered equipment.
- All construction vehicles would be equipped with proper emissions control equipment and kept in good and proper running order to substantially reduce nitrogen oxide (NOX) emissions.
- On-road and off-road diesel equipment would use diesel particulate filters if permitted under manufacturer's guidelines.

Construction of the proposed project could expose nearby residences to fugitive dust (i.e., solid particulate matter that becomes airborne as a direct or indirect result of human activities) from excavation activities and construction equipment over the construction period of approximately one month. The closest sensitive receptor to the project site is the residence located approximately 360 feet to the southeast on Papago Road. Two additional residences are located approximately 1,250 feet to the southwest and 1,300 feet to the southeast on Waladi Road. Under MDAQMD Rule 403, Fugitive Dust, the project would be required to implement measures to control fugitive dust emissions during construction, such as the following, to minimize fugitive dust emissions:

- All disturbed surface areas, including unpaved roads in areas with active operations, would be sufficiently watered to prevent excessive dust.
- All clearing, grading, earth-moving, or excavation activities would cease during periods of high winds (i.e., greater than 35 miles per hour averaged over one hour) so as to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- Stockpiles of soil or other fine loose material would be stabilized by watering, or by other appropriate methods such as non-toxic soil binders, to prevent wind-blown fugitive dust.
- On-site vehicle speed on unimproved roads would be limited to 15 miles per hour.
- Streets adjacent to the project site would be kept clean, and project-related accumulated silt would be removed to prevent excessive amounts of dust.

- All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered.

Based on implementation of such required measures to control fugitive dust and exhaust emissions, impacts associated with air quality would be less than significant.

- c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Less Than Significant Impact. As stated in Item III.a, the project area is classified as a moderate nonattainment area for ozone and a nonattainment area for PM₁₀. Project-related emissions would not be cumulatively considerable due to the relatively small size of the project, the temporary nature of construction, the localized area of emission, and control measures that would be implemented to minimize fugitive dust and exhaust emissions (see additional discussion in Item III.b). Impacts would be less than significant.

- d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less Than Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors near the project area include scattered single-family residences located approximately 360 feet to 1,300 feet from the southern property line. Construction activities would generate diesel emissions from construction equipment. Diesel exhaust particulate matter is known to be a carcinogenic compound, and because diesel exhaust particulate matter is considered to be carcinogenic, long-term exposure to diesel exhaust emissions has the potential to result in adverse health impacts. The risks associated with exposure to substances with carcinogenic effects are typically evaluated based on a lifetime of chronic exposure, which is defined in the California Air Pollution Control Officers' Association Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program Risk Assessment Guidelines as 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, for 70 years. Diesel exhaust particulate matter would be emitted from heavy construction equipment during the project's construction period, which is estimated to be approximately one month. Due to the relatively small scale and short-term nature of project construction, however, exposure to diesel exhaust emissions during construction would be less than significant.

- e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project is not the type of project that would typically generate substantial odors (i.e., agriculture, wastewater treatment plants, food processing and rendering facilities, chemical plants, landfills, etc.). Diesel exhaust from construction vehicles may create odors noticeable at nearby residences; however, the diesel exhaust odors would be temporary and minor, as described in Item III.d, above. Operation of the project would involve periodic inspections and maintenance by airport staff. The basin would be emptied within 48 hours of a rain event and would be kept clear of vegetation and debris; therefore, the basin would not generate objectionable odors associated with stagnant water. Accordingly, impacts associated with odors would be less than significant.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

A project-specific Biological Resources Letter Report (BLR) was prepared by HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX; 2018a) to evaluate biological resources within the project area. The results and conclusions of the BLR are summarized below, and the full report is included as Appendix A to this IS/MND.

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less than Significant with Mitigation. Federal and state endangered or threatened species lists are maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), respectively. Sensitive or special status species represent non-listed species designated

as entities such by USFWS, CDFW, local agencies, and special interest groups, such as the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), which publish watch-lists of declining species.

A total of 21 listed or sensitive plants were evaluated for potential to occur on the project site. The evaluation was based on a search of the CNPS and the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) databases using a 9-quadrangle search with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Apple Valley North quadrangle as the center for the search. One of the evaluated plants is listed, the federal endangered cushebury oxytheca (*Acanthoscyphus parishii* var. *goodmaniana*). This species is not expected to occur on the project site. Five of the sensitive (non-listed) species have low to moderate potential to occur on site. Ribbed Cryptantha (*Johnstonella costata*) has moderate potential to occur. White pygmy-poppy (*Canbya candida*), Mojave monkeyflower (*diplacus mohavensis*), Latimer's woodland-gilia (*Saltugilia latimeri*), and beaver dam breadroot (*Pediomelum castoreum*) each have low potential to occur on site.

In addition to CNPS, CDFW, and USFWS sensitive plants, there are additional plant species considered sensitive by the Town of Apple Valley and California Native Desert Plant Act (CNDPA). Protected species include: smoketree, Joshua tree, Mohave yucca, chaparral yucca, barrel cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*), mesquite, and creosote rings. Additional species protected under the CNDPA include all plants Agavaceae, Cactaceae, and Fouquieriaceae families, catclaw acacia (*Acacia greggii*), desert holly (*Atriplex hymenelytra*), and desert ironwood (*Olneya tesota*).

Sensitive plant surveys were conducted by HELIX biologists on April 18 and May 16, 2018. Four pencil cholla (*Cylindropuntia ramosissima*), which are protected under Town of Apple Valley ordinance and the CNDPA, were identified in the southern portion of the project site (refer to Figure 5 of the BLR). The project would result in disturbance to one or more of these individuals, and impacts would be potentially significant. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce impacts to pencil cholla to a less-than-significant level:

BIO-1 Pencil Cholla Avoidance and/or Transplanting. Four individual pencil cholla occur onsite. To avoid impacts to pencil cholla, fencing shall be installed at a minimum 10-foot radius from each individual cholla on the site. The fence will be installed as an above-ground fence in order to limit ground disturbance outside the project impact area. If impacts are not avoidable, then the pencil cholla to be impacted will be transplanted to an area on site not proposed for impacts. Prior to initiation of clearing or grading, a permit must be obtained from the Town of Apple Valley. Compliance with the California Native Desert Plant Act must be demonstrated prior to the Town of Apple Valley issuing a permit. Transplanting shall occur using hand tools only to minimize impacts to the project site. Plants of the cholla genus (*Cylindropuntia* spp.) are known to have a high success rate when transplanted. A biological monitor shall be consulted for the location of the transplanting of the pencil cholla. Once the pencil cholla are planted, a construction avoidance fence shall be installed.

A total of 33 wildlife species were evaluated for potential to occur on the project site. The species selected for evaluation were chosen using a 9-quadrangle search of the CNDDDB database centered on the Apple Valley North quadrangle. Nine of the species evaluated are listed at the federal and/or state level. They are the federal and state endangered Mohave tui chub (*Siphatelies bicolor mohavensis*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow fly catcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), federal endangered arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*), federal threatened and state endangered western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), federal and state threatened desert tortoise

(*Gopherus agassizii*), federal threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), state threatened Swainson hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), and Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*). Six of the listed species require various riparian habitats that are not present on or adjacent to the site. The following three listed species have low potential to occur on site: Swainson's hawk, desert tortoise, and Mohave ground squirrel. The project site is on the extreme edge of Mohave ground squirrel historic habitat, although previous trapping efforts and numerous surveys in the vicinity of Apple Valley have been negative for this species. The CNNDDB database shows that the most recent documented Mohave ground squirrel occurred 40 years ago approximately 5 miles from the project site; therefore, this species is not expected to occur on site. Swainson's hawk and desert tortoise both have been observed approximately 3 miles from project site and these species may utilize the site for foraging. There are no trees for nesting on the project site; therefore, no nests would be disturbed with implementation of the proposed project and impacts to Swainson's hawk would be less than significant. While the project site is located in an area with potential desert tortoise habitat, no tortoise sign was observed during the biological site survey. Nonetheless, there is low potential that the species could wander on to the site during construction, and impacts would be potentially significant. Direct impacts to desert tortoise would be less than significant with implementation of the following mitigation measures:

BIO-2 Desert Tortoise Protection. Desert tortoise are not expected to occur on site, but there is potential for tortoise to wander onto the site during construction should they occur nearby. To prevent desert tortoise from wandering on the project site, construction fencing should be installed around the work area. The entire project impact area shall be fenced with a tortoise-proof fence. The fence shall consist of a wire mesh with a maximum 1-inch mesh. The fence shall be buried a minimum of 12 inches in the ground and extend above ground at least 24 inches. This fence is in addition to the existing chain link fence that borders the north and east side of the project. A biological monitor shall be on site to monitor the installation of the fence. Fence installation should be monitored by an approved desert tortoise monitor. The desert tortoise monitor shall complete a desert tortoise clearance survey after fence install to insure no desert tortoise are within the fencing. A letter documenting the results of fence installation and monitoring will be submitted by the biologist to the CDFW.

A monitor shall inspect the tortoise fence weekly. Due to the lack of desert tortoise sign on and adjacent to the project site, full time monitoring of the construction activities is not recommended. If the fence is damaged, the project proponent shall make repairs immediately. During construction, if a tortoise is observed within the fencing the following measures shall occur:

- All construction activities shall cease;
- The biological monitor and the CDFW shall be contacted immediately;
- The fence shall be opened to allow the tortoise to leave the site;
- The qualified biologist shall monitor the tortoise until it is at least 100 meters from the site; and,

- Once the tortoise has left the site the fence shall be repaired, and the qualified biologist shall conduct a desert tortoise clearance survey to ensure no other tortoise(s) are on the site.

No handling of desert tortoise shall occur by the biologist or other personnel associated with the project.

In addition to the 9 listed species that were evaluated, 24 sensitive (non-listed) species were also evaluated for potential to occur on site. Eight of the 24 sensitive species have potential to occur on the project site. Sensitive species with low potential occur on site include Crotch bumblebee (*Bombus crotchii*), Victorville shoulderband (*Helminthoglypta mohaveana*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), and Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*). Sensitive species with moderate potential to occur on site include loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) has high potential to occur on the site.

The burrowing owl is a ground-nesting owl (a raptor/bird of prey) that, in California, typically uses burrows of fossorial mammals such as the California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beechyi*) or round-tailed ground squirrel (*Citellus tereticaudus*). Burrowing owls also are often commonly found using rock piles and human-made structures such as culverts, berms, and debris piles. The species prefers open grassland or shrub habitat with less than a 30 percent canopy cover (California Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993); however, it also is known to use desert shrub habitat, ruderal grassy fields, vacant lots, agricultural sites, and pastures. The CDFW considers a site occupied when at least one burrowing owl, or sign of burrowing owl occupation is observed within the last 3 years (CDFW 2012). Burrowing owl surveys were conducted in accordance with the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012). HELIX biologists conducted 4 complete surveys of the site, from January to June 2018, with a minimum of 3 weeks between each survey. A burrow with burrowing sign was observed in the northeast quarter of the project site during the habitat assessment (Burrow 1, refer to Figure 5 of the BLR). Sign observed around the burrow included white wash, feathers, and pellets. This sign was estimated to be less than 1 year old. During subsequent surveys, a pair of burrowing owls was observed utilizing Burrow 1. A second burrow (Burrow 2), in relative close proximity to the first, was also observed to have recent sign of burrowing owl use. A third, off-site burrow (Burrow 3) was also observed, which would be an estimated 75 to 200 feet from project construction activities. Based on the presence of burrowing owls and recent sign, implementation of the project would result in direct impacts to Burrow 1 and Burrow 2, and indirect impacts to Burrow 3.

Direct and indirect impacts to burrowing owl would be potentially significant. Impacts to burrowing owl would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with implementation of the following mitigation measures:

BIO-3 Burrowing Owl Protection. The following measures (Subject to CDFW approval) shall be required to mitigate impacts to burrowing owl:

- A pre-construction (Take Avoidance) survey shall occur within 14 days prior to initiating ground disturbance activities, and prior to initiation of onsite mitigation activities. As the site is known to be occupied by burrowing owl, this survey will serve to confirm that no new burrowing owl locations are present on site or within the 500-foot buffer of the

project site. The pre-construction survey will also be required prior to construction following the implementation of a burrowing owl exclusion/relocation plan.

- If occupied burrows can be avoided, the following measures, in accordance with the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation, shall be required:
 - Occupied burrows shall have a minimum 200-meter (656-foot) buffer from construction activities between April 1 and October 15.
 - Occupied burrows shall have a 50-meter (164-foot) buffer from construction activities between October 16 and March 31.
 - Construction fencing shall be installed at the appropriate buffer distance to avoid activities from encroaching on the burrow.
 - A biological monitor shall conduct periodic checks to ensure construction activities are not adversely affecting burrowing owls.
 - The buffer can be extended by the monitor to as much as 500 meters (1,640 feet), if required.
- If occupied burrows cannot be avoided, a Burrowing Owl Exclusion Plan shall be prepared and submitted to the CDFW for approval. Implementation of the Plan shall occur during the non-breeding season (October 15 through February 15), unless the burrow is deemed unoccupied or after the young have fledged. Detailed information on burrowing owl mitigation is included on pages 11-14 of the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (Appendix A) The Burrowing Owl Exclusion Plan shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - One-way doors shall be used and left in place for 48 hours prior to excavating the burrow.
 - The burrow shall be excavated by hand by a qualified biologist.
 - The burrowing owl(s) shall be allowed to passively relocate into adjacent habitat that will be monitored by a qualified biologist.
 - The adjacent habitat shall be no more than 100 meters (328 feet) from the original burrow.
 - The habitat provided for the burrowing owls shall be preserved in accordance with CDFW guidelines.
 - Develop and implement a mitigation land management plan.
 - Fund the long-term maintenance and management of the mitigation land.
 - The Plan and funding shall be in place and approved by CDFW prior to burrowing owl exclusion or habitat disturbance.

- Two artificial burrows shall be created for each active burrow excavated.
- Relocated owls shall be closely monitored (checked weekly) during construction.
- Relocated burrowing owls shall be monitored for one year following construction. The monitoring shall include monthly visits from April 1 until the young have fledged. Monitoring shall occur every 2 months once the young have fledged until March 31. A report shall be prepared and submitted to the CDFW documenting the status of the relocated owls and breeding success.

The project would require the removal of shrubs that may be used by bird species for nesting. Additionally, increased noise and human presence, as a result of construction activities, may cause birds to abandon nests, which would result in a potentially significant impact. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to nesting birds and/or raptors to less-than-significant levels:

BIO-4 Nesting Bird Survey. Clearing of on-site vegetation should occur outside the breeding season (March 1 to August 31) if feasible to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds. If clearing must occur during the breeding season, a nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to clearing activities. If birds covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are observed nesting or displaying breeding/nesting behaviors within the area, an appropriate buffer shall be established by a qualified biologist and construction shall be delayed until the nesting cycle is completed.

BIO-5 Raptor Survey. As raptors are known to begin nesting earlier than other birds and will rebuild and use the same nesting sites year after year, a nesting raptor survey shall occur prior to ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities. In particular, the Joshua trees within 500 feet of the project site shall be surveyed prior to disturbance. If raptors are observed nesting or displaying breeding/nesting behaviors within the area, an appropriate buffer shall be established by a qualified biologist and construction delayed in that area until the nesting cycle is completed.

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

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. The project site consists primarily of white bursage scrub with areas of disturbed habitat (refer to Figure 4 of the BLR). White bursage scrub is a shrub community that is dominated by white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*). Other species typically associated with this habitat include California croton (*Croton californicus*), cholla (*Cylindropuntia* spp.), Mojave yucca (*Hesperoyucca schidegera*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), and saltbush (*Atriplex* spp.), as well as many other desert species. The project would result in permanent impacts to approximately 9 acres of white bursage scrub, comprised of approximately 7.5 acres associated with the storm water detention basin and up to 1.5 acres of impact associated with the inlet and outlet channels. CDFW considers white bursage a sensitive plant community, and impacts would be potentially significant. White bursage scrub habitat is prevalent in the project area and the identified project impact would not adversely affect the survival of the habitat within the area. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce impacts to white bursage scrub.

BIO-6 White Bursage Scrub Avoidance and Revegetation. The impacts to white bursage scrub will be minimized by restricting construction activities to within the proposed project footprint, staging areas, and access routes. The project will replant all temporary impact acres with a native plant mix similar to what occurs on the project site. Pursuant to County requirements topsoil will be salvaged from the impact areas and securely stored on site, or in close proximity to the site. The stored topsoil will be covered by visqueen or similar material for protection. Following the completion of the project the soil will be spread on the areas to be planted under the direction of the restoration specialist. The plant/seed palette will include a plant mix that is comprised of at least 50 percent white bursage, along with a mix of other native species that occur on site. Creosote bush (*Larrea 20xisting20e*) shall not be included in the plant/seed palette as it's not present within the 20 existing white bursage scrub plants. The plant/seed palette shall be approved by a qualified biologist. A brief restoration plan shall be developed and include at minimum 3 years of monitoring following installation, complete removal of all non-native plants within the temporary impact area and a 10-foot buffer prior to plant/install seed. Monitoring reports will be submitted to the Town of Apple Valley annually.

A jurisdictional delineation was conducted by HELIX biologists which revealed the presence of ephemeral drainages on the site (refer to Figure 5 of the BLR). An incised ephemeral drainage occurs along the western border of the site. The drainage flows from the culvert under the Apple Valley Airport runway and travels south toward Papago Road. The drainage converges with a dirt road along the southern third of the property where it becomes disturbed and then dissipates at the intersection of Papago Road and Ramona Road. As this drainage dissipates and has no downstream connection to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional waterbody, it was determined to not be a federally protected wetland, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and therefore is not a USACE jurisdictional water. This drainage is, however, considered to be jurisdictional to the RWQCB (via the Porter Cologne Act) and as a CDFW streambed. The project would result in a minimal impact to this drainage at the locations of the proposed connections of the inlet and outflow channels to/from the proposed storm water detention basin. These impacts are anticipated to be approximately 0.01 acre of RWQCB/CDFW jurisdictional waters, and impacts would be potentially significant. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level:

BIO-7 Jurisdictional Waters. The project proposes minor impacts to the drainage along the western side of the project site. Impacts to the majority of the drainage will be avoided by utilizing a 25-foot setback from the drainage. Fencing or similar demarcation shall be installed to mark the 25-foot buffer and to mark the limits of disturbance around the inlet and outlet channels. The drainage is jurisdictional to the RWQCB and to the CDFW. In the absence of impacts to USACE jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the RWQCB regulates nonpoint discharges under the Porter Cologne Act and implements Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). The CDFW regulates impacts to waters under Section 1600 of the state code and requires a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) agreement. The project will be required to obtain a WDR for the project from the RWQCB and an LSA from the CDFW prior to initiating impacts to the jurisdictional waters. The specific amount of impacts is to be determined in the application process. The WDR and LSA from the aforementioned resource agencies will include appropriate mitigation measures, such as on- or off-site creation of waters, in lieu fees, or purchase of credits within an approved mitigation bank. Specific mitigation measures will be determined during the permitting process

- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal wetlands, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impact. As described in Item IV.b, there are no federally protected wetlands on the project site and no related impacts would occur.

- 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 bordered by open land to the west, east, and south, and by the Apple Valley airport to the north. The project would not block or restrict wildlife movement. The project site does not contain migratory waterways, wildlife corridors, or wildlife nursery sites, and no related impacts would occur.

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

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. As described in Item IV.a, a total of four individual pencil cholla occur on the project site, which is a species protected under the CNDPA and the Town of Apple Valley. The project could result in significant impacts to one or more these individuals; however, implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1 would eliminate or reduce impacts to the pencil cholla to a less-than-significant level.

- 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?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. The Town of Apple Valley is in the process of developing a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). Projects are to be processed on a case by case basis per the accepted CEQA process until the MSHCP is finalized and approved. As described in Item IV.a, a total of four individual pencil cholla occur on the project site, which is a species protected under the CNDPA and by the Town of Apple Valley. The project could result in significant impacts to one or more of these individuals; however, implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1 would eliminate or reduce impacts to the pencil cholla to a less-than-significant level.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §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 §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) 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"/>

CULTURAL RESOURCES:				
Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact. A cultural resources study (included as Appendix B of this IS/MND) which included a records search, Sacred Lands File search, Native American outreach, a review of historic aerial photographs and maps, and a pedestrian survey was conducted for the project’s Area of Potential Effects (APE; HELIX 2018b). The APE is the geographic area within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly alter the character or use of historic properties. The APE for the project consists of the proposed storm water detention basin, proposed staging area, and construction site access, totaling approximately 20.42 acres (refer to Figure 3).

The records search conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) on December 7, 2017 indicated that 10 previous cultural resources studies have been conducted within one mile of the project APE, including two that covered the APE. The records search results also indicated that a total of 10 cultural resources have been previously recorded within one mile of the project APE; one of which, P-36-024897 (CA-SBR-15935H; a historic refuse scatter), is located within the APE. P-36-024897 has been previously recommended as ineligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) or the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the current survey, while expanding the site boundaries, did not determine that the resource exhibits further research potential beyond its recorded cultural material. Based on the results of the cultural resources study, any potential impacts to historical resources or historic properties would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant With Mitigation. The field investigations included intensive pedestrian survey of the approximately 20.42-acre APE by a HELIX archaeologist and a Native American monitor on January 5, 2018. The survey resulted in the identification of the previously recorded site (P-36-024897), as discussed above in Item V.a, and a newly recorded prehistoric isolate, P-36-031810, a tertiary flake of chalcedony material. Since the newly recorded cultural resource is an isolated artifact and does not meet the criteria of Section 15064.5 with respect to historical significance, it is not eligible for listing on the CRHR or NRHP. Nevertheless, because project construction would involve ground-disturbing activities, the potential to encounter and disturb unknown resources exists and impacts to archaeological resources would be potentially significant. The following mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level:

CUL-1 – Archaeological Monitoring. A tribal monitor from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and an archaeological monitor with at least 3 years of regional experience in archaeology shall be present for all ground-disturbing activities that occur within the proposed project area (which includes, but is not limited to, tree/shrub removal and planting, clearing/grubbing, grading, excavation, trenching, compaction, fence/gate removal and installation, drainage and irrigation

removal and installation, hardscape installation [benches, signage, boulders, walls, seat walls, fountains, etc.], and archaeological work). A sufficient number of archaeological monitors shall be present each work day to ensure that simultaneously occurring ground disturbing activities receive thorough levels of monitoring coverage. A monitoring and treatment plan that is reflective of the project mitigation (“Cultural Resources” and “Tribal Cultural Resources”) shall be completed by the archaeologist and submitted to the Lead Agency for dissemination to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI) and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI). Once all parties review and agree to the plan, it shall be adopted by the Lead Agency – the plan must be adopted prior to permitting for the project. Any and all findings will be subject to the protocol detailed within the monitoring and treatment plan.

CUL-2 – Treatment of Discoveries. If a pre-contact cultural resource is discovered during project implementation, ground disturbing activities shall be suspended 60 feet around the resource(s) and an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) physical demarcation/barrier constructed. Representatives from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI), the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI), the Archaeological Monitor/applicant, and the Lead Agency shall confer regarding treatment of the discovered resource, as detailed within the monitoring and treatment plan. A research design shall be developed and will include a plan to evaluate the resource for significance under CEQA criteria. The research design shall also acknowledge that, regardless of significance under CEQA, all pre-contact discoveries shall be subject, if feasible, to avoidance and preservation in place as treatment.

Should the resource not be a candidate for avoidance or preservation in place, and full data recovery is necessary, the research design shall include a comprehensive discussion of resource processing, analysis, curation, and reporting protocols and obligations. All analysis shall be conducted in conference with the SMBMI and the MBMI. All removed material shall be temporarily curated on-site and a fully executed reburial agreement shall be developed with the SMBMI and the MBMI. This agreement shall include measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts (vis a vis project plans, conservation/preservation easements, deed riders, etc.). Reburial shall not occur until all ground-disturbing activities associated with the Project have been completed, all monitoring has ceased, all cataloguing and basic recordation of cultural resources have been completed, and a final monitoring report has been issued to Lead Agency, CHRIS, SMBMI, and MBMI.

Should it occur that avoidance, preservation in place, or on-site reburial are not an option for treatment, the landowner shall relinquish all ownership and rights to this material and confer with SMBMI and MBMI to identify an American Association of Museums (AAM)-accredited facility within San Bernardino County that can accession the materials into their permanent collections and provide for the proper care of these objects in accordance with the 1993 CA Curation Guidelines. A curation agreement with an appropriate qualified repository shall be developed between the landowner and museum that legally and physically transfers the collections and associated records to the facility. This agreement shall stipulate the payment of fees necessary for permanent curation of the collections and associated records and the obligation of the Project developer/applicant to pay for those fees.

All draft reports containing the significance and treatment findings and data recovery results shall be prepared by the archaeologist and submitted to the Lead Agency, SMBMI, and MBMI

for their review and comment. After approval from all parties, the final reports are to be submitted to the local CHRIS Information Center, the Lead Agency, and Consulting Tribes.

- c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. Unique geologic features generally are defined to include geologic structures, formations, or other features that exhibit unusual or important characteristics in the context of scientific information (e.g., rare geologic/mineral assemblages or structural features), economic considerations (e.g., economically valuable mineral deposits), or cultural perception (e.g., prominent, unusual, and/or aesthetically pleasing rock outcrops or exposures). Because the project site is relatively flat and does not encompass any distinct or unique geologic characteristics, information, or features as described, associated impacts would be less than significant.

Underlying materials within the project area consist of old (late Pleistocene) alluvial deposits (Qoa; California Geological Survey [CGS] 2007). This deposit type exhibits minor potential for the occurrence of paleontological resources in the uppermost layers, and vertebrate fossil remains may occur in deeper, finer-grained sediments (ArchaeoPaleo Resource Management, Inc. 2016). A paleontological resources records search was performed in 2016 for a project site adjacent to the northwest corner of the Apple Valley Airport, and fossil localities were identified in sedimentary deposits at locations near the project site (ArchaeoPaleo Resource Management, Inc. 2016). The project site is mapped as high sensitivity for paleontological resources (Exhibit III-20 in Apple Valley/Terra Nova 2009). If fossils are encountered during excavation of the proposed detention basin, impacts would be potentially significant.

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level:

CUL-3 Paleontological Monitor. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, a qualified paleontologist will evaluate the project site and propose plans to determine, in consultation with the Department of Airports and the San Bernardino County Museum staff, the level of monitoring to be required during project construction (e.g., continuous monitoring vs. monitoring during excavation into specific formations). If paleontological resources are encountered during project construction, the paleontological monitor will have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect work while the paleontological resources are documented and assessed. If significant deposits are found, additional data recovery will be conducted, as necessary, in order to adequately mitigate project impacts. The fossil collection and all associated documentation will be legally transferred to a qualified repository within San Bernardino County.

- d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation. No human remains are known to be present in the project vicinity. In accordance with Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA 15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code 5097.98, in the event that unknown human remains are discovered, all work would be halted in the vicinity of the discovery and the County Coroner would be contacted. The County Coroner would follow all appropriate procedures. Impacts to human remains would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level with the following mitigation measure:

CUL-4 – Inadvertent Discoveries of Human Remains/Funerary Objects. The Lead Agency and the applicant/developer shall immediately contact the County Coroner, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI), and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) in the event that any human remains are discovered during implementation of the Project. If the Coroner

recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American, or has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, the Coroner shall ensure that notification is provided to the NAHC within twenty-four (24) hours of the determination, as required by California Health and Safety Code § 7050.5 (c). The NAHC-identified Most Likely Descendant (MLD), shall be allowed, under California Public Resources Code § 5097.98 (a), to (1) inspect the site of the discovery and (2) make determinations as to how the human remains and funerary objects shall be treated and disposed of with appropriate dignity. The MLD, Lead Agency, and landowner agree to discuss in good faith what constitutes "appropriate dignity" as that term is used in the applicable statutes. The MLD shall complete its inspection and make recommendations within forty-eight (48) hours of being granted access to the site, as required by California Public Resources Code § 5097.98.

Reburial of human remains and/or funerary objects (those artifacts associated with any human remains or funerary rites) shall be accomplished in compliance with the California Public Resources Code § 5097.98 (a) and (b). The MLD in consultation with the landowner, shall make the final discretionary determination regarding the appropriate disposition and treatment of human remains and funerary objects. All parties are aware that the MLD may wish to rebury the human remains and associated funerary objects on or near the site of their discovery, in an area that shall not be subject to future subsurface disturbances. The applicant/developer/landowner should accommodate on-site reburial in a location mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

It is understood by all Parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of Native American human remains or cultural artifacts shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act. The Coroner, parties, and Lead Agencies, will be asked to withhold public disclosure information related to such reburial, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code § 6254 (r).

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

GEOLOGY AND SOILS:				
Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GEOLOGY AND SOILS:				
Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
- i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?

Less Than Significant Impact. Seismically induced ground rupture is the physical displacement of faults during an earthquake event. Ground rupture and related effects such as lurching (i.e., the rolling motion of surface materials associated with passing seismic waves) can adversely affect surface and subsurface structures. The project area is located within a broad seismically active region characterized by a series of northwest-trending fault zones associated with the San Andreas Fault System. The project area is not traversed by any known faults. The nearest Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone to the project site is the Helendale Fault Zone, approximately 4 miles to the northeast within the Fairview Valley (CGS 2016). While the potential for on-site rupture cannot be completely discounted (e.g., unmapped faults could conceivably underlie the site), the likelihood for such an occurrence is considered low due to the absence of known faulting within or adjacent to the project area. Additionally, the project does not propose facilities meant for human occupancy; therefore, impacts related to fault rupture from implementation of the proposed project would be less than significant.

- ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project area is located in seismically active southern California and is likely to be subjected to moderate to strong seismic ground shaking. Seismic shaking at the site could be generated by events on any number of known active and potentially active faults in the region. Faulting in the region generally comprises a number of northwest-trending faults at the boundary between the Pacific and North American tectonic plates. An earthquake along any of the known active fault zones in the region could result in severe ground shaking and consequently cause injury and/or property damage in the project vicinity. The proposed storm water detention basin and associated improvements would not increase risks associated with potential seismic events in the area and related impacts would be less than significant.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No Impact. Liquefaction is the phenomenon whereby soils lose shear strength and exhibit fluid-like flow behavior. Severe or extended liquefaction can result in significant effects to surface and subsurface facilities through the loss of support and/or foundation integrity. Loose, granular soils are most susceptible to these effects, with liquefaction generally restricted to saturated or near-saturated soils within 50 feet below ground surface. The project site is not within an area considered to be at risk for liquefaction (see Exhibit III-11 in Apple Valley/Terra Nova 2009b), and no associated impacts would occur.

iv. Landslides?

No Impact. The project site is not located near hillsides or mountainous areas where rockfalls and/or landslides are expected to occur, nor is it in an area where local topographic and geological conditions indicate a potential for landslides to occur (see Exhibit III-11 in Apple Valley/Terra Nova 2009b). Given the absence of active faults, the relatively level topography in the project site and surrounding area, and the nature of surface and underlying alluvial materials and geologic characteristics, the potential for seismically induced landslides is very low to nonexistent. No impacts related to landslides would occur.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Erosion and sedimentation are not considered to be significant long-term concerns for the proposed project, as the intent of the detention basin is to control storm water flows and minimize the existing potential for erosion and sedimentation. The potential for short-term project-related erosion and sedimentation is considered high, however, due to the fact that grading/excavation would be required for construction of the detention basin and related facilities. Earthwork and construction activities associated with the proposed project would result in an increased potential for soil erosion at the project site and transport of eroded material (sedimentation) both within and downstream of the project area. Project activities would involve: 1) removal of surface stabilizing features (e.g., vegetation); 2) excavation of existing alluvial materials at the detention basin site; 3) movement of excavated material to form berms around the basin; and, 4) excavation and trenching associated with the proposed drainage channel/swale and emergency spillway/outlet. The influx of sediment into downstream receiving waters could result in direct effects, such as increased turbidity, and could also provide a transport mechanism for other contaminants, such as hydrocarbons, that tend to adhere to sediment particles.

While the potential for increased erosion and sedimentation during project construction would be a potentially significant impact, the contractor would be required to implement control measures in conformance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which is administered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Specifically, this would entail implementing appropriate measures to comply with requirements identified in the NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit; NPDES No. CAS000002, SWRCB Order 2009-0009-DWQ [As amended by 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ]). Conformance with the noted NPDES standards is required prior to development of applicable sites exceeding one acre, and typically includes measures such as implementing an approved SWPPP, an associated Construction Site Monitoring Program (CSMP), employee training, and minimum BMPs, as well as a Rain Event Action Plan (REAP) for applicable projects (i.e., those in Risk Categories 2 or 3, outlined below). Under the Construction General Permit,

project sites are designated as Risk Level 1 through 3 based on site-specific criteria (e.g., erosion potential and receiving water risk), with Risk Level 3 sites requiring the most stringent controls. Based on the site-specific risk level designation, the SWPPP and related plans/efforts identify detailed measures to prevent and control the off-site discharge of pollutants in storm water runoff. Depending on the risk level, these may include mandatory technology-based action levels, effluent limitations, and advanced treatment systems (ATS). Specific pollution control measures require the use of best available technology (BAT) economically achievable and/or best conventional pollutant control technology (BCT) levels of treatment, with these requirements implemented through applicable BMPs. While site-specific measures vary with conditions such as risk level, proposed grading, and slope/soil characteristics, detailed guidance for construction-related BMPs is provided in the Construction General Permit, as well as additional sources such as the California Storm Water Quality Association (CASQA) Best Management Practices Handbooks. Specific requirements for the proposed project under this permit would be determined by the project contractor and engineer during SWPPP development, after completion of project plans and application submittal to the SWRCB, and would include measures such as the following:

- Preservation of existing vegetation within staging/parking areas where feasible.
- Covering stockpiled, excavated, and/or fill materials to reduce potential off-site sediment transport.
- Use of erosion control devices such as straw wattles, mulch, mats, and/or geotextiles.
- Use of sediment controls to protect the site perimeter and prevent off-site sediment transport, including measures such as silt fencing, fiber rolls, gravel bags, temporary sediment basins, street sweeping, stabilized construction access points and sediment stockpiles, and use of properly fitted covers for sediment transport vehicles.
- Compliance with local dust control measures.
- Regular inspection and maintenance of all erosion control and sediment catchment facilities to ensure proper function and effectiveness.

Based on the required conformance with the NPDES Construction General Permit, potential short-term erosion and sedimentation impacts from the proposed project would be less than significant.

- 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?

No Impact. As discussed above in Items VI.a.iii and VI.a.iv, the project area is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project. No impacts related to unstable geologic units or soils would occur.

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

No Impact. Expansive (or shrink-swell) behavior in soils is attributable to the water-holding capacity of clay minerals and can adversely affect the integrity of facilities such as pavement, foundations, or

underground utilities. Mapped native topsoils within the project area consist of Helendale-Bryman loamy sands, which are very deep, well drained soils with low expansive potential (USDA 2018 & 1986). Additionally, the project does not propose facilities that would be compromised by expansive soils. Based on the low water-holding capacity of the soils on the project site and the nature of the proposed project, no impacts related to expansive soils would occur.

- e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. The project does not propose septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems, and no related impacts would occur.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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"/>

- a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. Global climate change refers to changes in average climatic conditions on Earth as a whole, including temperature, wind patterns, precipitation, and storms. Global temperatures are moderated by naturally occurring atmospheric gases, including water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), ozone, and certain hydro fluorocarbons. These gases, known as GHGs, allow solar radiation (i.e., sunlight) into the Earth’s atmosphere, but prevent radiative heat from escaping, thus warming the Earth’s atmosphere. Greenhouse gases are emitted by both natural processes and human activities. The accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere regulates the Earth’s temperature. Emissions of GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are thought to be responsible for the enhancement of the greenhouse effect and contributing to what is termed “global warming,” the trend of warming of the Earth’s climate from anthropogenic activities. Global climate change impacts are by nature cumulative; direct impacts cannot be evaluated because the impacts themselves are global rather than localized impacts.

On September 27, 2006, Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, was enacted by the State of California. The legislature stated that “global warming poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of California.” AB 32 capped California’s GHG emissions at 1990 levels by 2020; however, the legislature then passed Senate Bill (SB) 32 in 2016 that codified a 2030 GHG emissions reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels.

GHG emissions are measured in units of pounds or tons of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e).¹ While the County has not adopted GHG emissions significance thresholds, MDAQMD has established a significance threshold of 100,000 tons of CO₂e emissions per year, and a daily significance threshold of 548,000 pounds for a project (MDAQMD 2016). Accordingly, the 548,000-pounds per day CO₂e emissions level is established as the significance threshold for the project’s GHG emissions. For construction emissions, the interim guidance recommends that the emissions be amortized over 30 years and added to operational emissions, as appropriate. Construction GHG emissions associated with the project would last approximately one month and are estimated to total well below the 548,000-pounds per day significance threshold recommended by the MDAQMD. In addition, if emissions are amortized over a 30-year period, construction GHG emissions would be negligible, and less than significant construction GHG emissions would occur.

The only potential source of GHG emissions during operation of the proposed project would be associated with periodic maintenance of the storm water detention pond and related facilities. Accordingly, operational GHG emissions would be well below the 548,000-pounds per day significance threshold, and impacts would be less than significant.

- b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed above in Item VII.a, the proposed project would result in negligible amounts of GHG emissions. The proposed project would not result in emissions that would adversely affect state-wide attainment of GHG emission reduction goals as described in AB 32 and SB 32. Construction emissions would therefore have a less than cumulatively considerable contribution to global climate change impacts. Accordingly, impacts would be less than significant.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

¹ The effect each GHG has on climate change is measured as a combination of the volume of its emissions, and its global warming potential. The global warming potential is the potential of a gas or aerosol to trap heat in the atmosphere, and is expressed as a function of how much warming would be caused by the same mass of CO₂. For instance, CH₄ has a global warming potential of 21, meaning that 1 gram of CH₄ traps the same amount of heat as 21 grams of CO₂.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 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. The proposed project entails the development of a storm water detention basin and associated improvements. Long-term operation of the detention basin would not involve the transport, use, release, or disposal of hazardous materials, and no related impacts would occur. Construction activities would, however, require the transport, use, and/or generation of potentially hazardous materials, such as vehicle/equipment fuels and lubricants. Hazardous materials would be managed in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Specifically, the on-site use and storage of construction-related hazardous materials would be regulated under applicable requirements of the NPDES, as described in Sections IX below. Based on the required conformance with associated regulatory standards, impacts related to the transportation, use, and generation of hazardous materials during construction activities would be less than significant.

- 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. As described above in Item VIII.a., long-term operation of the proposed project would not require the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; therefore, related impacts would not occur. Construction activities would, however, involve the use of hazardous materials, such as fuels and lubricants, for the operation of construction vehicles and equipment. The use and management of hazardous materials would be in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Compliance with regulatory requirements would minimize the potential for accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment and provide for effective response

and cleanup procedures if a spill did occur. Related impacts during construction activities would therefore be less than significant.

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

No Impact. The nearest school to the project site is Sycamore Rocks Elementary School, located at 23450 S Road, approximately 2.25 miles to the southeast. Access to the project site would most likely utilize routes from the west, and no project-related activities are anticipated to occur within 0.25 mile of a school; therefore, no related impacts would occur.

- d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact. According to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List), there are no hazardous waste sites within the Town of Apple Valley (DTSC 2018). The SWRCB Geotracker website does not map any hazardous materials sites within the project site; however, there are two mapped sites within a one-mile radius of the project site (SWRCB 2018). A leaking underground storage tank (LUST) cleanup site is mapped at 21600 Corwin Road (T0607188383), approximately 1,200 feet north of the project site. The leak was reported in 2006, and the potential contaminant of concern was aviation fuel. Cleanup activities have been completed and the case was closed as of October 15, 2010. An active Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) site is mapped approximately 1.0 mile to the southwest of the project site at 20843 Waalew Road. This WDR site has been active as of April 12, 1985, and no cleanup actions exist.

- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

Less Than Significant Impact. Section 9.65.040 of the Town of Apple Valley Municipal Code outlines land uses which are prohibited in designated airport overlay zones of the Apple Valley Airport. The proposed project involves the construction and operation of a water detention basin within the A-1 Overlay District; however, the project does not include components which would interfere with aircraft or airport operations (e.g., flashing lights, tall above-ground structures).

Construction and maintenance of the proposed project would be coordinated by airport staff, and workers would implement appropriate safety measures (e.g., ear protection, reflective vests, etc.) as required by the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Based on the nature of the proposed project, the short-term nature of the construction activities, and the required safety precautions for workers on the project site, impacts related to the safety of people working in the project area would be less than significant.

- f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The proposed project is not in the vicinity of a private airstrip, and no related impacts would occur.

- g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. While implementation of the proposed project would result in a temporary increase in truck traffic on project vicinity roads, emergency response or evacuation routes would not be blocked, and related impacts would be less than significant.

- h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is located in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) and is not designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CalFire 2008). The proposed project involves an earthen storm water detention basin and associated improvements does not propose structures or facilities that would be occupied by people. Based on the nature of the project and the location outside a designated fire hazard zone, impacts associated with wildland fires would be less than significant.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY:				
Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY:					
Would the project:		Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Less Than Significant Impact. Based on the nature of the proposed project (i.e., storm water detention basin), no potential long-term impacts to water quality would result. Potential water quality impacts associated with the proposed project would be limited to short-term construction-related erosion/sedimentation. As required under the NPDES, which is described above in Section VI, a SWPPP would be prepared and implemented for the proposed project. The SWPPP would address erosion control measures that would be implemented to avoid erosion impacts to exposed soil associated with construction activities. More specifically, the SWPPP would include temporary erosion control measures (such as silt fences, staked straw bales/wattles, silt/sediment basins and traps, check dams, geofabric, sandbag dikes, and temporary revegetation or other ground cover) to be employed to control erosion from disturbed areas. Typical measures for the control of pollutants during construction may include:

- Use of existing access points to minimize dust and tracking materials onto public streets.
- Designated and clearly delineated (e.g., with temporary fencing) parking, storage, and staging areas located outside of drainages, protected by silt fence and oil absorbents and sloped to control drainage.
- Minimization of diesel storage.
- Readily available spill cleanup materials.
- Implementation of good housekeeping measures, such as appropriate trash storage and disposal, and regular removal.

Because the project is required to comply with the above described state and regional regulations, including implementation of pollution control similar to the examples provided above, short-term impacts to water quality would be less than significant.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table

level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not use groundwater resources, nor would grading and/or excavation activities be expected to reach the water table (which is typically over 160 feet below ground surface [USGS 2018]). Operation of the project would involve storm water capture in the proposed detention basin and slow release to an existing natural drainage, which could facilitate ground water recharge at a localized level. Accordingly, impacts associated with groundwater supplies would be less than significant.

- c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Less Than Significant Impact. The purpose of the proposed project is to redirect storm flows into the detention basin where they would be detained and released slowly to natural drainage channels to the south; therefore, while operation of the proposed project would alter the drainage pattern of the site, the proposed improvements would reduce the potential for substantial erosion or siltation and impacts would be less than significant.

As discussed above in Item XI.a, construction construction-related erosion and/or sedimentation would be minimized through implementation of required BMPs outlined in the project SWPPP and related impacts would be less than significant.

- d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed storm water detention basin and associated improvements would not substantially alter the drainage pattern nor increase the rate or amount of surface water runoff, because the intent of the project is to detain stormwater flows. The proposed facility would be sized to accommodate a 100-year flood event, as well as potential back-to-back events; therefore, implementation of the proposed project would decrease the potential for on- and off-site flooding and impacts would be less than significant.

- e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

No Impact. The purpose of the proposed project is to detain stormwater runoff through the utilization of existing channels and the installation of a new earthen channel that will direct flows to the proposed basin. As such, the proposed project would be a component of the storm water drainage system for the Apple Valley Airport and is intended to accommodate runoff water. No impervious surfaces are proposed, and the proposed project would not create or contribute additional runoff; therefore, no related impacts would occur.

- f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed detention basin is designed to include layers of filtration media, which would protect downstream water quality by filtering the water before it is released

through the outlet. No potential water quality impacts other than those described above in this section are anticipated (see Item XI.a), and related impacts would be less than significant.

- g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

No Impact. The project area’s flood risk is designated as Zone D by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA; 2018). The Zone D designation is used for areas where there are possible but undetermined flood hazards, as no analysis of flood hazards has been conducted (FEMA 2011). As described in Item XI.d, the purpose of the proposed project is to accommodate storm flows, including the 100-year storm. No housing is proposed as part of the proposed project. Therefore, no related impacts would occur.

- h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. The proposed project would be limited to the construction and operation of a storm water detention basin and associated improvements, and no structures are proposed. No related impacts would occur.

- i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

No Impact. The project area is not located near a levee or dam. No structures are proposed that would allow people to be placed within the project area, thus not exposing them to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding. No related impacts would occur.

- j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

No Impact. Tsunamis are large ocean waves generated by fault displacement or major ground movement. Given the project area’s distance from the Pacific coast (over 80 miles), no impacts associated with tsunamis would occur.

A seiche is a large wave generated in an enclosed body of water, often caused by ground-shaking associated with seismic activity. The nearest body of water to the project area is Spring Valley Lake, approximately six miles to the southwest. Since the project site is not within a close enough proximity to a water body to be at risk of inundation by a seiche, no related impacts would occur.

The project area and nearby vicinity is relatively level with no steep slopes (refer to Figure 2); therefore, the potential for mudflows is very low and no related impacts would occur.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING

LAND USE AND PLANNING:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with 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"/>

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

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The project proposes the construction and operation of a storm water detention basin and associated improvements on a single parcel located along the southern border of the existing Apple Valley Airport, which is owned by the County of San Bernardino. Undeveloped land is located to the east and west of the project. Land to the north and east is owned by the County of San Bernardino and is related to airport operations as part of Apple Valley Airport. Due to the adjoining government land and the intent to utilize the property in a manner related to the existing airport use, implementation of the proposed project would not physically divide an established community, and no related impacts would occur.

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. The proposed project site is within the North Apple Valley Industrial Specific Plan that is intended for industrial uses. The Specific Plan designates the subject property as Specific Plan Industrial and Proposed High Desert Corridor. The Specific Plan designates the existing airport area as Airport Industrial. The Specific Plan text explains that the High Desert Corridor is the future location of State Highway 220. It is the intent of the Airports Department to subdivide the property to separate the area for the proposed basin and associated improvements from the balance of the existing parcel. The proposed basin and associated improvements would be located north of the identified High Desert Corridor alignment and the proposed use facilitates current activities occurring within the Specific Plan area. The proposed subdivision of the property would not affect the development potential for the balance of the land. As such, the proposed project is consistent with the land use designation and zoning for the subject property and would not conflict with land use regulations, design standards, or guidelines contained in the North Apple Valley Industrial Specific Plan. No related impacts would occur.

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

No Impact. The Town of Apple Valley is currently preparing a MSHCP and NCCP, but these have not yet been adopted and no related impacts would occur. Note, however, that the project would mitigate impacts to sensitive species to a less-than-significant level (see Section IV).

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

- a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

Less than Significant Impact. There are no active fossil fuel production facilities in the project vicinity. The nearest mapped oil and gas wells to the project site are approximately six miles to the east and seven miles to the south, and both are listed as plugged and abandoned (CDC 2018). The proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of fossil fuel resources.

The project site is located in an area mapped as Mineral Resource Zone 3a (MRZ-3a) and may contain significant aggregate deposits (CDC 1993a). The project proposes the construction and operation of an earthen storm water detention basin in an area that is not currently used for mineral extraction, and implementation of the proposed project would not preclude possible future mining; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- 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. The project site is located within the North Apple Valley Industrial Specific Plan and is designated as Specific Plan Industrial (SP-I) land use (Apple Valley 2012). The project site is in close proximity to Apple Valley Airport within an area intended for industrial related uses, including airport industrial uses. The proposed basin and associated improvements would further the operation of the airport and intended uses in the Specific Plan. It is unlikely the project site would be utilized for mineral resource recovery due to the area's existing subdivision pattern and residences located nearby, including an existing residential subdivision with over 90 residential lots each on approximately 1/3 of an acre within one-half mile of the subject property. The project site is not delineated as a mineral resource recovery site and no related impacts would occur.

XII. NOISE

NOISE: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels 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) Result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. Section 9.73.050 of the Town of Apple Valley Municipal Code limits noise from mobile equipment to 75 dBA at single family residential properties between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on all days except Sundays and legal holidays. Construction of the proposed project would be limited to these timeframes; therefore, the significance criterion used in the construction noise impact analysis is 75 dBA. While there would be no significant noise impacts associated with operation of the proposed storm water detention basin, construction activities would produce elevated short-term noise levels that could potentially impact the residence located on Papago Road, 325 feet from the southeast corner of the site. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential noise impacts to a less-than-significant level:

NOI-1 Compliance with the Municipal Code. While the Division of Airports is not required to comply with Town of Apple Valley ordinances, during construction activities, the contractor shall comply with Section 9.73.050 of the Town of Apple Valley Municipal Code related to construction noise. Specifically, the contractor shall conduct construction activities in such a manner that the maximum noise levels at single-family residential properties shall not exceed 75 dBA. This condition could be achieved by limiting the types of equipment used near residences, erecting temporary noise barriers, and/or by other methods chosen by AVEK and/or the contractor.

Soil export material would be transported off-site via trucks during construction. The haul trucks would temporarily elevate noise levels along the transport route during construction which could potentially affect adjacent noise-sensitive land uses (i.e., residences); however, the following mitigation measure would reduce noise impacts to a less-than-significant level:

NOI-2 Transport Route Selection. Prior to construction, the project proponent shall determine the transport route for haul trucks which minimizes impacts to residential neighborhoods to the extent possible, based upon the distance/proximity to sensitive receptors, the number of sensitive receptors potentially affected, and the effect upon roadway capacity and service levels. This shall be approved by the Department of Airports.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

No Impact. The proposed project does not include any components that would result in groundborne vibration that would be discernible at neighboring noise-sensitive receptors. Equipment in use during construction (e.g., dozer, excavator) may result in small levels groundborne vibration. A dozer and excavator could create vibration impacts at a distance of 50 and 25 feet, respectively; however, neither of these pieces of equipment would operate within such distances of the adjacent property lines; therefore, no impacts associated with groundborne vibration would occur.

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

No Impact. Ambient noise levels in the project area are associated with airport operations at the Apple Valley Airport and existing traffic. Operation of the proposed storm water detention basin would not involve any generation of noise, and thereby not have levels in excess of the existing noise levels in the project vicinity. As such, no related impacts would occur.

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. As stated above under Item XII.a, construction of the proposed project would create elevated short-term construction noise impacts, including potentially significant noise impacts associated with haul truck transport routes near residences. Such impacts, however, would be reduced to below a level of significance through implementation of mitigation measures **NOI-1** and **NOI-2**.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not contain habitable structures that would result in people being exposed to noise from the Apple Valley Airport. While construction and maintenance workers associated with the proposed detention basin would be in proximity to Runway 8-26, construction and maintenance activities would be coordinated by airport staff, and workers would implement appropriate safety measures as required by the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration and California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, including ear protection. Accordingly, impacts would be less than significant.

- f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The project site is not in the vicinity of a private airstrip, and no associated impacts would occur.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial 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 housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) Induce substantial 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. No new housing or businesses are proposed; therefore, implementation of the project would not induce population growth. The project would not extend services to new areas or allow for the development of land that previously could not be developed due to service constraints. For these reasons, no impacts associated with population growth would occur.

- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The proposed project would not displace any homes, nor would it require the construction of replacement housing. No related impacts would occur.

- c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The proposed project would not require the displacement of, and no related impacts would occur.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

PUBLIC SERVICES: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Fire protection?

Less Than Significant Impact. The operation of the proposed storm water detention basin would generate virtually no demand for increased public services. During construction, there would be a minor increase in the potential need for fire protection, but such conditions would be short term and would not require increases in the level of public service offered. Because of the low probability and short-term nature of potential fire protection needs during construction, and a negligible potential for increased fire protection demand over the long-term, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts.

b) Police protection?

Less Than Significant Impact. The operation of the proposed storm water detention basin would generate virtually no demand for increased public services. During construction, there would be a minor increase in the potential need for police protection, but such conditions would be short term and would not require increases in the level of public service offered. Because of the low probability and short-term nature of potential fire protection needs during construction, and a negligible potential for increased police protection demand over the long-term, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts.

c) Schools?

No Impact. The proposed project would place no demand on school services because it would not involve the construction of facilities that require such services (e.g., residences) and would not involve the introduction of a temporary or permanent population into this area.

d) Parks?

No Impact. The proposed project would place no demand on parks because it would not involve the construction of facilities that require such services (e.g., residences) and would not involve the introduction of a temporary or permanent population into this area.

e) Other public facilities?

No Impact. The proposed project would not involve the introduction of a temporary or permanent human population into this area. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in any impacts to other public facilities.

XV. RECREATION

RECREATION: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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?

No Impact. No new residents would be introduced to the project site. As such, implementation of the proposed project would not result in an increase in demand on existing public or private parks or other recreational facilities that would either result in or accelerate physical deterioration of these facilities. No impact would occur.

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. The proposed project does not include recreational facilities, nor would it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, since no new residences are proposed; therefore, no related impacts would occur.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC: Would the project:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would result in a short-term increase in traffic during construction. Project-related construction traffic would include: 1) deliveries of equipment and materials; 2) export of soil; and 3) construction personnel travel to and from the work site. Vehicle trips associated with the delivery of construction material and equipment would be negligible because such trips would occur only a few times throughout the duration of the one-month construction period and would not be considered substantial in relation to the existing traffic load in the project vicinity. It is estimated that up to 30 worker vehicles would access the project site during both the morning peak period (7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.) and the afternoon/evening peak period (4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.), with negligible vehicle traffic during the rest of the day. The exception would be during excavation of the detention basin when the project would require the export of approximately 16,000 cubic yards of soil. An estimated 800 cy per day would be removed, with a total of approximately 54 round trips or 108 one-way truck trips per day (at 15 cy of capacity per truck) over a 20-day period (4 weeks). These trips

would be distributed throughout the day and would add an estimated maximum of 20 trips to the morning peak hour and 10 trips to the evening peak hours. Thus, the maximum number of peak hour trips during project construction is estimated to be 50 trips during the morning peak hour for 20 days, and 30 trips for the rest of the construction phase. This short-term, minor increase in local traffic would be less than significant.

Over the long-term, only occasional trips to the project site are anticipated, for maintenance purposes, with no noticeable increases to local street traffic volumes.

- b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

Less Than Significant Impact. State Route (SR) 18 is a principal arterial roadway which is considered part of the County Congestion Management Program network and is located within three miles of the project site. The segments of SR 18 nearest the project site (Apple Valley Inn Road to Bear Valley Road) operate at a level of service (LOS) B, which is within the range of stable traffic flow (SANBAG 2016). The roadway capacity of SR-18 is 69,300 trips and forecasted future traffic volumes are expected to range from 11,700 to 49,400 trips, which would remain within the acceptable threshold (see Table II-8 in Apple Valley/Terra Nova 2009a). The temporary addition of approximately 104 daily haul truck trips and approximately 60 daily construction employee trips to the surrounding roadways would not exceed LOS standards or travel demand measures. Trips associated with operation of the proposed project would be negligible because only periodic inspections and maintenance by airport staff would be required.

SR 18 is planned to be relocated to the “High Desert Corridor,” which bisects the southern portion of the project site (see Exhibit IV-1 of Apple Valley 2012). The proposed project would install the detention basin and associated improvements in the northern portion of the site (refer to Figure 3) and would not conflict with the High Desert Corridor.

Due to the relatively small number of project-related trips and the compatible site selection of the detention basin with respect to the planned relocation of SR 18, the proposed project would be consistent with the County’s Congestion Management Plan and impacts would be less than significant.

- c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

No Impact. The project would not include any aviation components or structures where height would be an aviation concern and therefore would not affect air traffic patterns. No associated impact would occur.

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

No Impact. The proposed project would not include site modifications that would result in hazards due to design features such as driveways, intersection improvements, etc., nor would it cause incompatible uses (such as tractors) on local roads. No impacts associated with hazardous design features or incompatible uses would occur.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in lane closures or restricted access to adjacent land uses (e.g, airport entrances or residential driveways). No impacts related to inadequate emergency access would occur.

f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

No Impact. Public transit in the project area is provided by the Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA). The nearest bus route to the project site is Route 42 on Dale Evans Parkway, located approximately 0.75 mile to the west (VVTA 2018). Two mass transit routes are planned to begin at the Apple Valley Airport which will extend westward on Falchion Road and in a southwesterly direction on Corwin Road (Apple Valley 2.

Waalew Road and Dale Evans Parkway contain Class I Bikeways in the vicinity of the project site. The North Apple Valley Industrial Specific Plan states that since the area is being designed as an industrial park, bike paths have lower priority than they would have in a residential or open space area (Apple Valley 2012). Additionally, there are no sidewalks or designated walkways in the project vicinity.

The proposed project would not conflict with bus stops, existing/planned mass transit routes, bike routes, or pedestrian facilities, and no related impacts would occur.

XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
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), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, or cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

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

Less than Significant With Mitigation. HELIX contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on February 9, 2018 for a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and list of Native American contacts for the project area. The NAHC indicated in a response dated February 12, 2018 that no known sacred lands or Native American cultural resources are within the project area. Letters were sent on February 14, 2018 to Native American representatives and interested parties identified by the NAHC. One response has been received to date. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians responded on February 20, 2018 that the proposed project area exists within Serrano ancestral territory and, therefore, is of interest to the Tribe. They note that there are lithic scatters across the landscape and that their records show minimal previous survey coverage in the surrounding area, and so postulate that there may be data missing from the archaeological record. Given the sensitivity of the landscape within Serrano territory, impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources would be potentially significant. Please refer to Section V, Cultural Resources, for additional discussion of this topic. The following mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level:

TCR-1 – Inadvertent Discovery and Treatment of Cultural Resources. Per CUL-1, a monitor from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and an archaeologist will be present for any and all ground-disturbing activity. If a pre-contact cultural resource is discovered during project implementation, ground disturbing activities shall be suspended 60 feet around the resource(s) and an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) physical demarcation/barrier constructed. Representatives from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI), the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI), the Archaeological Monitor/applicant, and the Lead Agency shall confer regarding treatment of the discovered resource, as detailed within the monitoring and treatment plan. A research design shall be developed and will include a plan to evaluate the resource for significance under CEQA criteria. The research design shall also acknowledge that, regardless of significance under CEQA, all pre-contact discoveries shall be subject, if feasible, to avoidance and preservation in place as treatment.

Should the resource not be a candidate for avoidance or preservation in place, and full data recovery is necessary, the research design shall include a comprehensive discussion of resource processing, analysis, curation, and reporting protocols and obligations. All analysis shall be conducted in conference with the SMBMI and the MBMI. All removed material shall be temporarily curated on-site and a fully executed reburial agreement shall be developed with the SMBMI and the MBMI. This agreement shall include measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts (vis a vis project plans, conservation/preservation easements, deed riders, etc.). Reburial shall not occur until all ground-disturbing activities

associated with the Project have been completed, all monitoring has ceased, all cataloguing and basic recordation of cultural resources have been completed, and a final monitoring report has been issued to Lead Agency, CHRIS, SMBMI, and MBMI.

Should it occur that avoidance, preservation in place, or on-site reburial are not an option for treatment, the landowner shall relinquish all ownership and rights to this material and confer with SMBMI and MBMI to identify an American Association of Museums (AAM)-accredited facility within San Bernardino County that can accession the materials into their permanent collections and provide for the proper care of these objects in accordance with the 1993 CA Curation Guidelines. A curation agreement with an appropriate qualified repository shall be developed between the landowner and museum that legally and physically transfers the collections and associated records to the facility. This agreement shall stipulate the payment of fees necessary for permanent curation of the collections and associated records and the obligation of the Project developer/applicant to pay for those fees.

All draft reports containing the significance and treatment findings and data recovery results shall be prepared by the archaeologist and submitted to the Lead Agency, SMBMI, and MBMI for their review and comment. After approval from all parties, the final reports are to be submitted to the local CHRIS Information Center, the Lead Agency, and Consulting Tribes.

TCR-2 – Inadvertent Discoveries of Human Remains/Funerary Objects. The Lead Agency and the applicant/developer shall immediately contact the County Coroner, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI), and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) in the event that any human remains are discovered during implementation of the Project. If the Coroner recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American, or has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, the Coroner shall ensure that notification is provided to the NAHC within twenty-four (24) hours of the determination, as required by California Health and Safety Code § 7050.5 (c). The NAHC-identified Most Likely Descendant (MLD), shall be allowed, under California Public Resources Code § 5097.98 (a), to (1) inspect the site of the discovery and (2) make determinations as to how the human remains and funerary objects shall be treated and disposed of with appropriate dignity. The MLD, Lead Agency, and landowner agree to discuss in good faith what constitutes "appropriate dignity" as that term is used in the applicable statutes. The MLD shall complete its inspection and make recommendations within forty-eight (48) hours of being granted access to the site, as required by California Public Resources Code § 5097.98.

Reburial of human remains and/or funerary objects (those artifacts associated with any human remains or funerary rites) shall be accomplished in compliance with the California Public Resources Code § 5097.98 (a) and (b). The MLD in consultation with the landowner, shall make the final discretionary determination regarding the appropriate disposition and treatment of human remains and funerary objects. All parties are aware that the MLD may wish to rebury the human remains and associated funerary objects on or near the site of their discovery, in an area that shall not be subject to future subsurface disturbances. The applicant/developer/landowner should accommodate on-site reburial in a location mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

It is understood by all Parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of Native American human remains or cultural artifacts shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act. The Coroner,

parties, and Lead Agencies, will be asked to withhold public disclosure information related to such reburial, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code § 6254 (r).

XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

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

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

No Impact. The project does not propose facilities that would generate sewage; therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not result in the exceedance of RWQCB wastewater treatment requirements, and no related impacts would occur.

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No Impact. The proposed project does not include components that would increase demand on water or wastewater treatment facilities. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities, and no related impacts would occur.

- c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No Impact. The project proposes the construction and operation of a storm water detention basin and associated improvements, the environmental effects of which are analyzed in this document. No additional storm water drainage facilities would be required as a result of the proposed project, and no related impacts would occur.

- d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

No Impact. The proposed project involves storm water control and does not involve components that would create additional water demand. No new or expanded entitlements would be required, and no related impacts would occur.

- e) 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?

No Impact. The project does not propose facilities that would generate sewage and would therefore not require additional wastewater treatment capacity. No related impacts would occur.

- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

No Impact. Solid waste generation during construction of the proposed project would be short-term and minimal. Operation of the storm water detention basin would not generate solid waste or affect landfill capacities; therefore, no associated impact would occur.

- g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. The proposed project would comply with all applicable federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No impact would occur.

XIX. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:	Potential Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
<p>The lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant effect on the environment and thereby require an EIR to be prepared for the project where there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record, that any of the following conditions may occur. Where prior to commencement of the environmental analysis a project proponent agrees to MMs or project modifications that would avoid any significant effect on the environment or would mitigate the significant environmental effect, a lead agency need not prepare an EIR solely because without mitigation the environmental effects would have been significant (per Section 15065 of the State CEQA Guidelines):</p>				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of past, present and 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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 Impact. Implementation of the proposed project could potentially result in impacts to sensitive species and habitat. The project also may potentially result in impacts to paleontological resources. Any degradation of the quality of the environment would be reduced to below a level of significance through implementation of the mitigation measures identified in Section IV, *Biological Resources*, and Section V, *Cultural Resources*.

- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of past, present and probable future projects)?

Less Than Significant Impact. Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual (and potentially less than significant) project effects that, when considered together or in concert with other projects, combine to result in a significant impact within an identified geographic area. In order for a project to contribute to cumulative impacts, it must result in some level of impact on a project-specific level. As described above, several of the project effects are identified as “No Impact,” including most or all of the topic areas under agriculture and forestry resources, land use and planning, population and housing, recreation, and utilities and service systems. The following discussion looks only at those effects for which some level of potential impact was identified. This includes topics for which “Less than Significant Impacts” were identified, as well as those for which the threshold question assumed some level of impact (i.e., those for which consideration of a potential “substantial” or “significant” effect was considered, per CEQA Guidelines Section 15382).

Potential regional cumulative effects were considered for the topics of aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, and hydrology and water quality for which the project was found to result in less than significant impacts. While vegetation removal and the introduction of noise and human presence to the area may result in project-related impacts to sensitive species, the project would implement mitigation to reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. Impacts to state-protected drainages would be minimized through avoidance. Additionally, any removal of sensitive habitat also would be mitigated to a level less than significant. Potential impacts to these biological resources occurring as a result of any anticipated future cumulative development also would require mitigation; thus, project-related impacts to biological resources would be less than cumulatively considerable. With regard to cultural resources, the project has the potential to encounter significant paleontological resources during ground-disturbing activities; however, mitigation would preclude loss of such resources and no cumulative impacts are anticipated. Potential water quality impacts associated with the proposed project would be limited to short-term construction-related erosion/sedimentation, with no potential long-term impacts to water quality anticipated. Implementation of the project SWPPP and related BMPs, as part of project conformance with NPDES permit conditions, would effectively eliminate the potential for drainage- and water quality-related impacts; therefore, no cumulative impacts are anticipated. In addition, while the project would result in modifications to on-site drainage patterns, the purpose of such alterations would be to retain and control runoff, and cumulatively considerable impacts related to flooding would not occur.

With regard to hazards and hazardous materials, no regional problem is identified. In the event that the project would result in accidental discharge associated with transport, use, storage, and/or disposal of hazardous materials during construction or operation of the facility, there are prescribed activities to be conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including the NPDES Construction General Permit, as well as the associated project SWPPP, that would reduce impacts associated with the discharge of contaminants to less than a level of significance. As such, any contribution would be less than cumulatively considerable.

Geology and soils impacts are inherently restricted to the project area and would not contribute to cumulative impacts associated with other planned or proposed development; thus, it is not necessary to address this issue on a cumulative scale. Short-term construction noise impacts would be less than

significant, with compliance with the local noise ordinance. No other construction is anticipated in the immediate vicinity that would compound these impacts. Should such construction occur, it would likely be subject to the local noise ordinance as well.

The last category of cumulative impacts is related to project-specific impacts that are not localized to the immediate project area. This includes topics such as air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, which disperse from their original source and affect entire air basins (or with global warming, potentially the entire world). For these issues, the baseline analysis often addresses the cumulative condition—it is the contribution to the larger picture that is assessed in analyses of consistency with regional air quality strategies and pollutant dispersal. As noted in Sections III and VII, the project's contribution would be negligible and/or short-term and not cumulatively considerable. As discussed in Section XVI, the project would result in a short-term increase in traffic during construction and a negligible long-term increase in traffic generation resulting from project operations. No other simultaneous construction operations are anticipated in the immediate project vicinity; therefore, the project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable increase in traffic in the project area. The project would not induce population growth and thereby, directly or indirectly, contribute to cumulative impacts to public services.

For these reasons, impacts associated with cumulative effects would be less than significant.

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

No Impact. With the exception of noise impacts to adjacent residences, the project would not consist of any use or activities with the potential to negatively affect any persons in the vicinity. Mitigation measures identified in Section XII, *Noise*, would reduce potential temporary, construction-related noise impacts to residents of one home located 325 feet from the project site, to less than significant levels. In addition, all resource topics associated with the project have been analyzed in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines and found to pose no impact, less than significant impact, or less than significant impact with mitigation. Consequently, the project would not result in any environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings directly or indirectly; therefore, no impact would occur.

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4.0 DETERMINATION AND PREPARERS

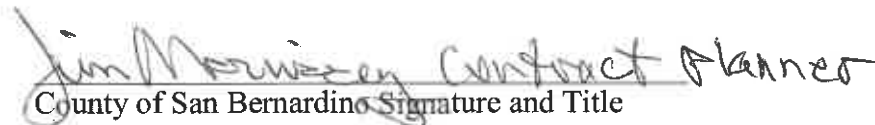
4.1 Determination. Based on this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described herein have been included in this project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

4.2 De Minimis Fee Determination. (Chapter 1706, Statutes of 1990-AB 3158)

- It is hereby found that this project involves no potential for any adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on wildlife resources and that a "Certificate of Fee Exemption" shall be prepared for this project.
- It is hereby found that this project could potentially impact wildlife, individually or cumulatively, and therefore fees shall be paid to the County Clerk in accordance with Section 711.4(d) of the Fish and Game Code.

4.3 Environmental Determination. The initial study for this project has been reviewed and the environmental determination, contained in Section 4.1. preceding, is hereby approved:


County of San Bernardino Signature and Title

4.4 Report Preparers

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc

Tammy Ching, Principal, Project Manager
Lara Barrett, Environmental Planner
Robert Hogenauer, Senior Biologist
Amy Lee, Biologist
Zeke Cooley, Biologist
Beth Martinez, Principal Biologist
Rebecca Kress, Senior GIS Specialist
Stacie Wilson, Senior Archaeologist
Kristina Davison, Archaeologist