

Draft Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Application for
2,400 square foot Cannabis
Cultivation Facility in the Light
Industrial and Research
(M1) Zoning District

Prepared for:

City of California City
21000 Hacienda
Boulevard
California City, California 93505-
2293

Prepared by:



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**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR 2,400
SF CANNABIS CULTIVATION AND MANUFACTURING FACILITY,
LOCATED ALONG THE 6400 BLOCK OF SHEPARD PLACE, IN
CALIFORNIA CITY, CALIFORNIA (APN: 216-162-01)**

I. Purpose and Authority

Project Description:

This Initial Study has been prepared to construct a cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility in accordance with adopted City Ordinances pertaining to the location and regulation of cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility. On August 28, 2018, the City of California City adopted Ordinance No. 18-765 pertaining to the regulation of cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility, which is codified in Title 9, Chapter 2, Articles 21 and 29, and Title 5, Chapter 6, of the California City Municipal Code.

The facilities permitted under these ordinances include cannabis cultivation, delivery, dispensaries, distribution, manufacturing, testing, and ancillary uses necessary to the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution and sale of cannabis and cannabis-related products. These facilities are subject to all State Law and regulations including the California Code of Regulations, Title 21, Division 42, Bureau of Cannabis Control.

The City of California City allows Cannabis Dispensaries, both cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facilities, as conditionally permitted uses on property zoned M1 Community Commercial District or C4 Service Commercial District or C5 Regional Commercial District, with the issuance of a conditional use permit. Cannabis Businesses and Cannabis Dispensaries shall be permitted, in accordance with the criteria and procedures set forth Title 5, Chapter 6 of the California City Municipal Code and upon application and approval of a regulatory permit pertaining to the operation of the facility including the duty to obtain any required state licenses. The proposed project is located in a *M1 Community Commercial* Zoning District. All cannabis related activities are only permitted in the interior of enclosed structures, facilities, and buildings.

The project proposes to develop a 2,400 square foot cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility on a 0.40 gross acre site, adjacent to Shepard Place and north of Lindbergh Blvd., in California City and in accordance with California City Municipal Code Title 5, Chapter 6 and Title 9, Chapter 2, Articles 21 and 29. At buildout, the facility will have an approximate building ground floor area (GFA) of 2,400 square feet (sf). The project site will be secured by an 8-foot chain link fence. Primary access to the project site will be provided through a standard commercial driveway approach, located along the Right-of-Way (R/W) for Shepard Place. Street improvements, such as the implementation of curb and gutter, as well as paved roads are intended as part of the development of the project, providing eight (8) standard, off-street, parking stalls within the project's boundaries.

A. Type of Project: Site Specific ☒; Citywide ☐; Community ☐; Policy ☐.

B. Total Project Area: 0.40 acres (17,424 sf)

Residential Acres: N/A	Lots: N/A	Units: N/A	Projected No. of Residents: N/A
Commercial Acres: 0.40	Lots: 1	Sq. Ft. of Bldg. Area: 2,400	Est. No. of Employees: 7-8
Industrial Acres: N/A	Lots: N/A	Sq. Ft. of Bldg. Area: N/A	Est. No. of Employees: N/A
Other: N/A			

C. Assessor's Parcel No(s): 216-162-01

D. Street References: South, and adjacent to Shepard Place, and north of Lindbergh Blvd.

Brief description of the existing environmental setting of the Project site and its surroundings:

The Project is located on less than five (5) acres and is located within a quickly urbanizing area of the City. The physical development of the Project site and adjacent public right of ways will upgrade and will eliminate a majority of the land use considerations and concern; which include, but are not limited to unsafe or dangerous road conditions, sub-standard circulation patterns and traffic geometrics, frequent dust pollution; and many others through the implementation standard development-related Conditions of Approval (COAs) and compliance with the California City Municipal Code (CCMC). The Project will not have the potential to create adverse environmental impacts related to city code permitted noise levels, the existing air quality levels, and/or the quality of the City's water and sewer system.

The following reports and/or studies are applicable to development of the project site and hereby incorporated by reference:

- *City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028*, City of California City, originally approved October 6, 2009 (City of California City 2009)
- *City of California City Draft Environmental Impact Report on the Redevelopment Plan for the California City Redevelopment Plan* (1998)
- *City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028 Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration* (SCH#1992062069)
- *City of California City Final Environmental Impact Report on the Redevelopment Plan from the California City Redevelopment Plan* (SCH#87110918)

This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et. seq. The City of California City will serve as the lead agency pursuant to CEQA.

II. APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING REGULATIONS

A. General Plan Elements/Policies:

- 1. Land Use:** General Commercial: Light Industrial and Research (M1)
- 2. Circulation:** Shepard Place will provide the primary point of ingress and egress as this publicly dedicated roadway serves as both the northerly and westerly project boundaries. General project circulation will be through Yvette Road, to Lindbergh Blvd. (from the east) or directly from Lindbergh Blvd. (from the west). This Boulevard intersects with Shepard Place to the west and Lufbery Place to the east; which then connects to Shepard Place through existing paved roadways.
- 3. Multipurpose Open Space:** The Project is located within a quickly urbanizing and built-up area of California City. The project will not create a need for additional open space and/or active park recreational facilities. Furthermore, the Project does not preclude or remove any active parkland and/or passive open space, trails, bike paths, or other similar facilities.
- 4. Safety:** The Project is not located upon, or within, an area of hazardous materials as detailed within the applicable state and federal resource maps. In addition, the Project is located within the airport influence area of the California City Municipal Airport and is

consistent with the California City Municipal Airport Land Use Plan (CLUP); as such no hazards are created upon the airport operations. The Project will not create any dangerous or hazardous circulation geometrics which would cause a concern for the motoring public.

5. **Noise:** The Project is located within a highly urbanized and built-up area of the City where the majority of ambient noise generation is caused by the Average Daily Trips (ADT) associated with vehicle traffic trips occurring along Lindberg Blvd. The Project itself does not create an undue increase in the level of ambient noise.
6. **Housing:** The Project is located on vacant land, within an industrial land use district, and does not propose to remove or displace any housing, of any type on, or adjacent to the Project boundaries. The Project does not cause an undue impact or burden upon any existing or planned City, State, or Federal housing program or regulation.
7. **Air Quality:** The Project will not substantially increase the baseline air quality emissions resulting from either the construction or operations of the cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility. The Project is not anticipated to produce pollutants of concern in excess of SCAQMD thresholds for elements such as NO_x; SO_x; or, O₃.
8. **Healthy Communities:** The Project does not contribute and will not impede or impact aspects of the City's Healthy Community strategies. The City's Health Communities goals include, but are not limited to, decreasing the total Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT); which in turn reduces emissions (having a positive benefit upon public health); increases in transit ridership; and expansion of healthy grocery items, including Certified Farmer's Markets and other similar opportunities.

B. General Plan Area Plan(s): Light Industrial and Research (M1)

C. Land Use Designation(s): Vacant Lands

D. Overlay(s), if any: N/A

E. Policy Area(s), if any: N/A

F. Adjacent and Surrounding:

1. **Land Use Designation(s):** Commercial Zoning District to the southwest. Manufacturing zoning districts to the north, east, south, and west.
2. **Overlay(s), if any:** N/A
3. **Policy Area(s), if any:** N/A

G. Adopted Specific Plan Information

1. **Name and Number of Specific Plan, if any:** N/A
2. **Specific Plan Planning Area, and Policies, if any:** N/A

H. Existing Zoning: Light Industrial and Research (M1)

I. Proposed Zoning, if any: N/A

J. Adjacent and Surrounding Zoning: Light Industrial and Research (M1) to the east and south;
Light Industrial and Research (M1) to the north and west.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below (x) would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ Aesthetics | ☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials | ☐ Recreation |
| ☐ Agriculture & Forest Resources | ☐ Hydrology / Water Quality | ☐ Transportation / Traffic |
| ☐ Air Quality | ☐ Land Use / Planning | ☐ Utilities / Service Systems |
| ☒ Biological Resources | ☐ Mineral Resources | ☐ Other: |
| ☐ Cultural Resources | ☐ Noise | ☐ Other: |
| ☐ Geology / Soils | ☐ Population / Housing | ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions | ☐ Public Services | |

IV. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

A PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/NEGATIVE DECLARATION WAS NOT PREPARED

☐ I find that the proposed Project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project, described in this document, have been made or agreed to by the Project proponent. **A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed Project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.

A PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/NEGATIVE DECLARATION WAS PREPARED

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, **NO NEW ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED** because (a) all potentially significant effects of the proposed project have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable legal standards, (b) all potentially significant effects of the proposed project have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, (c) the proposed project will not result in any new significant environmental effects not identified in the earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, (d) the proposed project will not substantially increase the severity of the environmental effects identified in the earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, (e) no considerably different mitigation measures have been identified and (f) no mitigation measures found infeasible have become feasible.

☐ I find that although all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable legal standards, some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in California Code of Regulations, Section 15212 exist. An **ADDENDUM** to a previously certified EIR or Negative Declaration has been prepared and will be considered by the approving body or bodies.

effects identified in the earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, (e) no considerably different mitigation measures have been identified and (f) no mitigation measures found infeasible have become feasible.

☐ I find that although all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable legal standards, some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in California Code of Regulations, Section 15212 exist. An **ADDENDUM** to a previously certified EIR or Negative Declaration has been prepared and will be considered by the approving body or bodies.

☐ I find that at least one of the conditions described in California Code of Regulations, Section 15212 exist, but I further find that only minor additions or changes are necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the Project in the changed situation; therefore a **SUPPLEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required that need only contain the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the Project as revised.

☐ I find that at least one of the following conditions described in California Code of Regulations, Section 15212, exist and a **SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required: (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the Project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; (2) Substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the Project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative declaration was adopted, shows any the following:(A) The Project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;(B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR or negative declaration;(C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the Project, but the Project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measures or alternatives; or,(D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR or negative declaration would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the Project on the environment, but the Project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measures or alternatives.

Signature

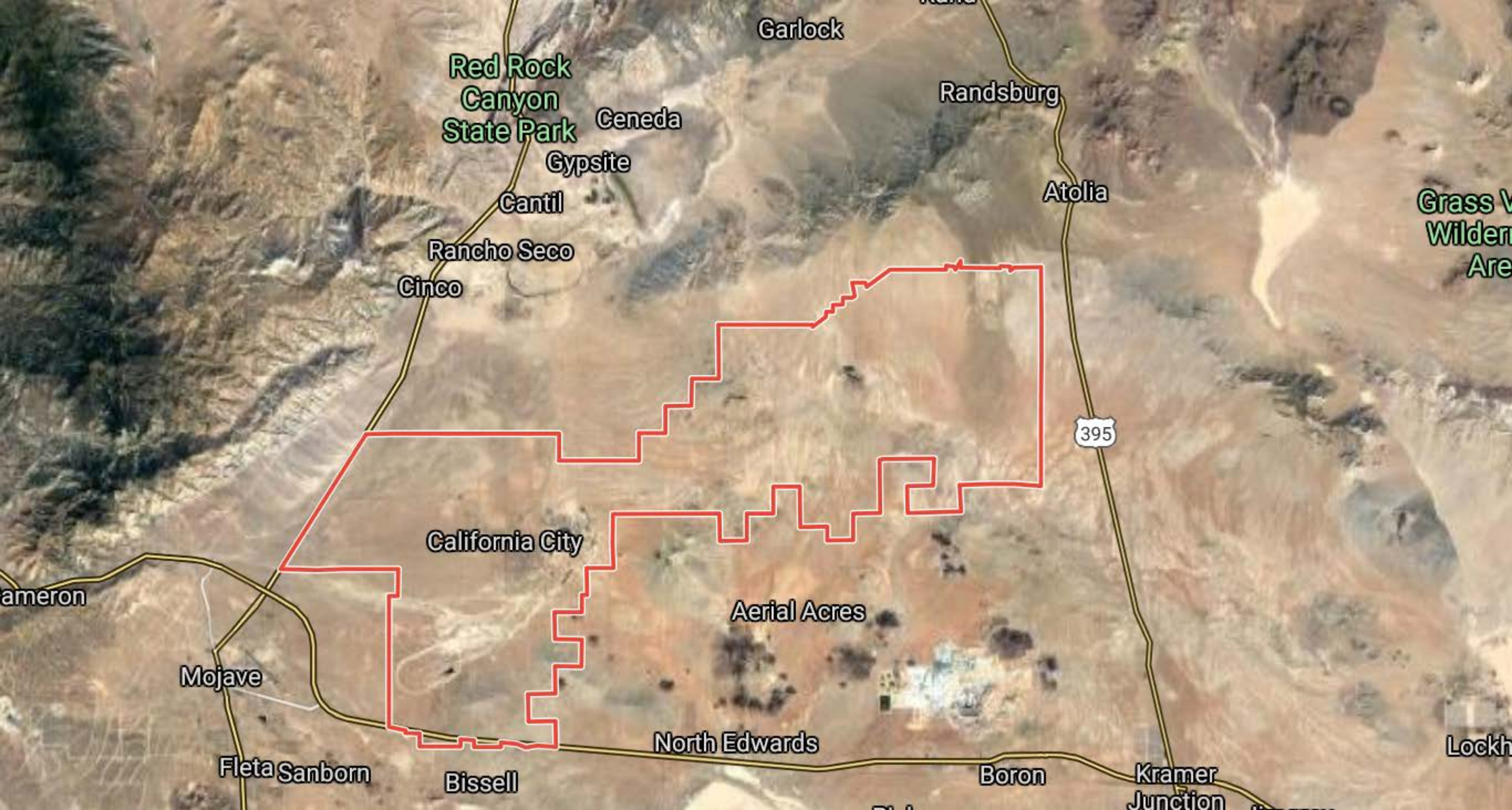


April 27, 2020

Date

Shawn Monk
Printed Name

For Shawn Monk, City Planner



Red Rock
Canyon
State Park

Garlock

Randsburg

Ceneda

Gypsite

Atolia

Cantil

Rancho Seco

Cinco

Grass V
Wildern
Are

395

California City

Aerial Acres

ameron

Mojave

North Edwards

Fleta Sanborn

Bissell

Boron

Kramer
Junction

Lockh

Figure 1

Regional Exhibit

Legend

 Project Area

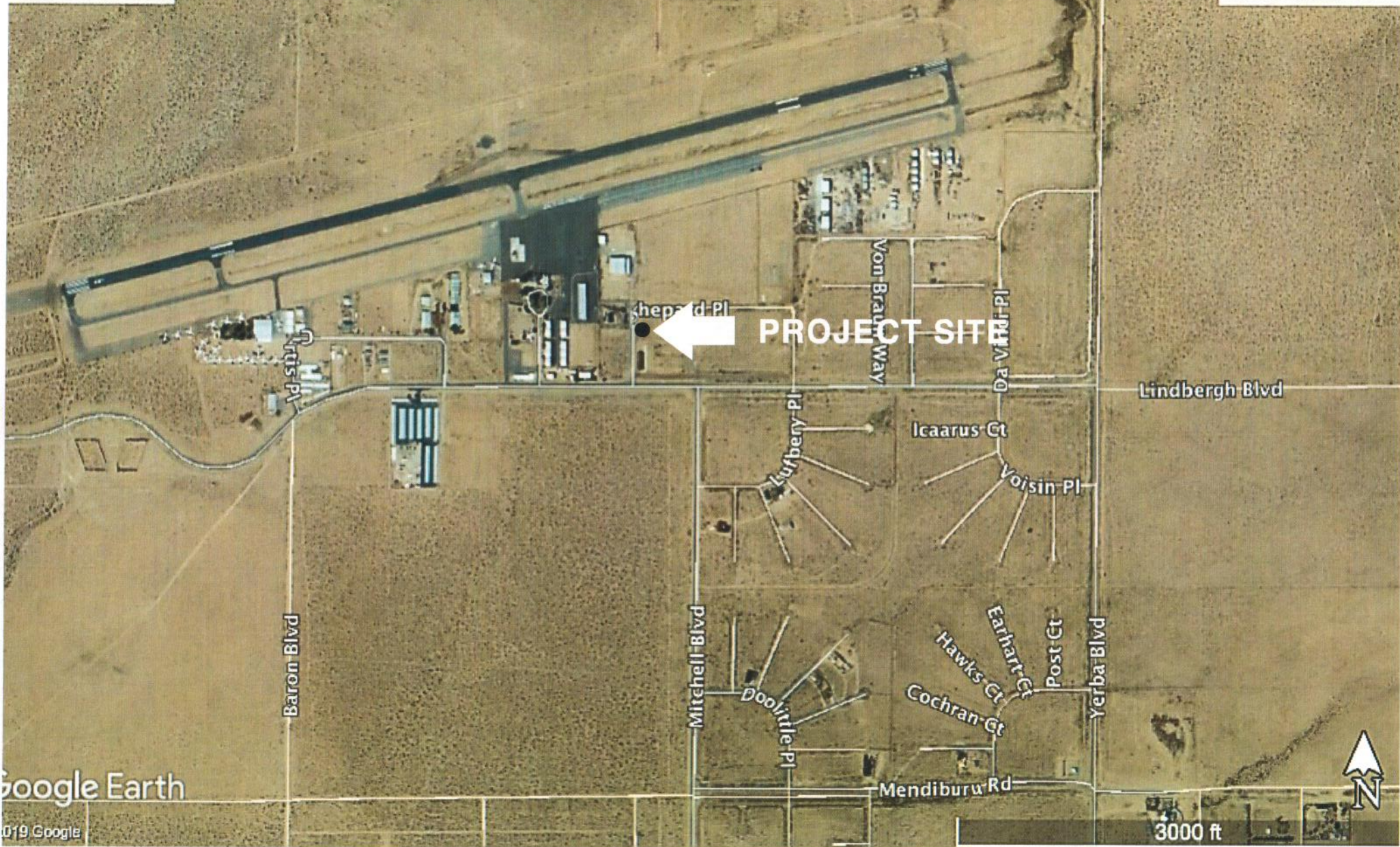


Figure 2

Vicinity Exhibit



V. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000-21178.1), this Initial Study has been prepared to analyze the proposed Project to determine any potential significant impacts upon the environment that would result from construction and implementation of the Project. In accordance with California Code of Regulations, Section 15063, this Initial Study is a preliminary analysis prepared by the Lead Agency, City of Inglewood, in consultation with other jurisdictional agencies, to determine whether a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or an Environmental Impact Report is required for the proposed Project. The purpose of this Initial Study is to inform the decision-makers, affected agencies, and the public of potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed Project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
AESTHETICS Would the Project				
1. Scenic Resources				
a) Have a substantial effect upon a scenic highway corridor within which it is located?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings and unique or landmark features; obstruct any prominent scenic vista or view open to the public; or result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: According to the California City General Plan, the City is located within the Mojave Desert, which is characterized by gentle rolling ground surfaces, with low to moderate topographical relief across the desert floor. The immediate vicinity surrounding the Project consists of moderately sloping alluvial plains with a series of steep rock buttes and several arroyos, including Cache Creek, which lies approximately 3 miles south of the project site; The City is encompassed by the San Gabriel Mountains to the south, Tehachapi Mountains to the west, and the Rand Mountains to the north which create various scenic vistas throughout California City (California City General Plan, 2009).

The adjacent parcels south, east and west of the project, area currently vacant and undisturbed with scattered vegetation. From the project site, views of the Tehachapi Mountains to the west are the most prominent.

The Project proposes to develop a 2,400 SF cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility. The building construction type, architectural style and massing, as well as the proposed building elevations, materials, roof pitch will conform and be consistent with the theme and style of surrounding parcels and the general environment of the immediately surrounding Project area.

According to the California Scenic Highway Mapping System there are no officially designated State Scenic Highways within Kern County Highways 14 and 58. However, these same highways are listed as Eligible State Scenic Highways, yet not official designated as such and are located several miles from the Project site to be substantially impacted in any manner.

The project shall comply with the standards outlined within the California City General Plan and Municipal Code regarding M1 (Community Commercial) Zoning District and the regulations set forth in City ordinance for cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility. The project is required to go through a Concept Plan Review and a Conceptual Review administered by the City, as part of the California City development process, in which the proposed site design elements will be reviewed by the City. The project's compliance with these standards ensures that impacts effecting the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings are less than significant.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

2. Nighttime Lighting Interference

a) Interfere with the nighttime use of the Los Angeles Observatory, as protected through City Ordinance?

☐
☐
☐
☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The project is proposed in the Light Industrial and Research (M1) Zoning District where the current sources of light are attributed to the existing industrial facilities to the west and northwest. These current sources of light include illumination from vehicular and aeronautical traffic in the area, as well as existing lighting fixtures above building entrances, in parking lots, and around existing signage. Within the M1 zone, in which the project resides, there are no traffic signals, however there are streetlights on the northern side of Lindbergh Boulevard. In addition to vehicular traffic and existing outdoor lighting, additional existing lighting may be attributed to the California City Municipal Airport, located north of the project site, as well as the California City Municipal Airport which is located within a half-mile to the runway.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

3. Other Lighting Issues

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

☐
☐
☐
☒

b) Expose residential property to unacceptable light levels?

☐
☐
☐
☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The California City Municipal Code requires that signage shall not be directly illuminated, internally or externally, except the name and address of the business may be illuminated at night (Municipal Code Section 5-6.906). These standards will ensure the amount of lighting that is created from the project site does not substantially affect the surrounding area.

Pertaining to daytime glare, the project will not involve building materials with highly reflective properties that would disrupt day-time views. The proposed structure will utilize beige, brown and off-white colored and glint-and-glare resistant windows located within the building's façade.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Due to the project site's current vacant usage, the proposed project is expected to have a minimal increase in the amount of lighting and glare in the area. However, the project shall comply with City standards regarding lighting and glare in industrial facilities and M1 zones. Therefore, less than significant impacts are anticipated to result from the proposed project.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

AGRICULTURE & FOREST RESOURCES Would the Project

4. Agriculture

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?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

b) Conflict with existing agricultural zoning, agricultural use or with land subject to a Williamson Act contract or land within a County or City designated Agricultural Preserve?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

c) Cause development of non-agricultural uses within 300 feet of agriculturally zoned property (Ordinance No. 625 "Right-to-Farm")?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

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

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The proposed Project will not disturb or convert any designated farmland or other form of agricultural resource. According to the 2021 California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program the property is designated as "light industrial and research". The subject site and surrounding land to the north, east, south and west is not categorized as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of local statewide importance, as such no impacts are expected. The Project site is not located in an existing zone for agricultural use or classified as farmland. According to the Williamson Act records, no portion of land within a one-mile radius is recognized as being under a Williamson Act Contract. The proposed Project will not impact or remove land from the City or County's agricultural zoning or agricultural reserve. No impacts are expected.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
5. Forest	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) 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 Govt. Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The proposed Project will occur in an existing urban desert setting zoned for industrial uses. No forest land, timberland or Timberland Production zoning occurs on the Project site or in the surrounding area because forest vegetation is not characteristic of the Eastern Kern County desert environment. No impacts are anticipated. The proposed Project will occur in an existing urban desert setting zoned for industrial uses. No forest land, timberland or Timberland Production zoning occurs on the Project site or in the surrounding area because forest vegetation is not characteristic of the Eastern Kern County desert environment. No impacts are anticipated. As previously described, the Project site and vicinity are designated by the California City General Plan and Zoning map as Light Industrial and Research. The proposed indoor cultivation and processing facilities will not result in conversion of any farmland or forest land because no farmland or forest land is situated within or adjacent to the Project. No impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

AIR QUALITY Would the Project				
6. Air Quality Impacts	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or Projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose sensitive receptors which are located within 1 mile of the Project site to Project substantial point source emissions?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve the construction of a sensitive receptor located within one mile of an existing substantial point source emitter?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; Project Materials; Kern County Air Pollution Control District (EKAPCD).

Findings of Fact: California City is located within the Mojave Desert Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of the Kern County Air Pollution Control District (EKAPCD). There are over 3,700-square miles in the eastern portion that Kern County APCD controls, located on the western edge of the Mojave Desert. The high summer temperatures and radiation from the sun can encourage photochemical ozone formation when local sources or transported volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) precursors are present. Kern County is within the jurisdiction of both the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) and the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (EKAPCD) in the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MOAB).

Projects are evaluated for consistency with the local air quality management plans, which link local planning and individual Projects to the regional plans developed to meet the ambient air quality standards. The assessment takes into consideration whether the Project forms part of the expected conditions identified in local plans (General Plan Land Use and Zoning) and whether the Project adheres to the City's air quality goals, policies, and local development assumptions factored into the regional California Air Resources Board (CARB). As previously discussed, the undeveloped Project property has a Community Commercial General Plan and Zoning designation, which has been established to permit the development of a wide spectrum of industrial and manufacturing uses. In its current condition, the undeveloped Project site is surrounded by mostly vacant land and is not located within proximity of existing residential uses or other densely populated areas of the City or County. The Project will not require a General Plan Amendment or other revision that would provide directly or indirectly for increased population growth above the level projected in the adopted California Air Resources Board. The Project will not interfere with the ability of the region to comply with federal and state ambient air quality standards. Projects that are consistent with local General Plans are considered consistent with the air quality related regional plans including the current CARB, the PM10 and other applicable regional plans. The proposed Project is a permitted use in the existing zone and shall comply with the corresponding development standards. Development is consistent with the growth projections in the City of California City General Plan and is to be consistent with CARB.

The Project would not result in or cause violations to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards or California Ambient Air Quality Standards. The Project's proposed land use designation for the subject site does not materially affect the uses allowed or their development intensities as reflected in the adopted City General Plan. The Project is therefore considered to be consistent with the AQMP and impacts related to air quality plans are expected to be less than significant following implementation of standard conditions within the plan and including but not limited to:

- Development of the proposed Project will comply with the provisions of Eastern Kern County Air Pollution District.
- A Fugitive Dust Control Plan will be prepared for the Project outlining required control measures throughout all stages of construction.

Consequently, the Project would not contribute substantially to a significant individual or cumulative impact on existing or projected exceedances of the state or federal ambient air quality standards or

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in the emissions of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is designated nonattainment. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: Article 11, Section 5-6.1101 of the City Municipal Code requires the reduction and elimination of odors resulting from the processing, cultivation, and sale of cannabis and cannabis related products. The Project is required to implement, maintain in good repair, and comply with City monitoring and enforcement as necessary.

Monitoring: The City Code Enforcement Department will monitor and enforce odor complaints.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the Project

7. Wildlife & Vegetation

a) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any endangered, or threatened species, as listed in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (Sections 670.2 or 670.5) or in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (Sections 17.11 or 17.12)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) 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. Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Biological Resources Assessment & Endangered Species Report (dated April 2, 2020); Project Materials.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Findings of Fact:

(a) *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plan?*

The California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) began planning for the establishment of, and acquisition of private lands for the conservation of the Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS). In 2007, CDFW determined that an essential component of any conservation strategy, for the state-listed MGS. The service has identified four “core areas” that have historically supported relatively abundant and widespread MGS populations. There is evidence that these populations will continue to persist given adequate conservation efforts and mitigation strategies. The four core areas currently recognized are detailed as follows:

- (i) Coso Range NW to Olancho. Most of the area is within the China Lake NAWS military reservation, with a mixture of BLM, LADWP, and private lands to the west (Inyo County).
- (ii) Little Dixie Wash (from Inyokern SW to Red Rock Canyon State Park). Most of the area is publicly managed by BLM, with some private and state ownerships as well (Kern County).
- (iii) Edwards Air Force Base, east of Rogers Dry Lake. This core area is entirely on the United States Air Force (USAF) military reservation; the surrounding lands are in private and BLM ownership (Kern and San Bernardino County).
- (iv) Coolgardie Mesa to Superior Valley. Land ownership was primarily BLM and in private ownership; however, much of the northern portion of this core area is not included within the Fort Irwin Western Expansion Area (WEA) (San Bernardino County).

The Project is located approximate 18-miles from the Little Dixie Wash conservation area; which is sufficient distance removed from the conservation area. CDFW provides additional analysis to support this potential incremental impact upon MGS habitat, through their Mohave Ground Squirrel Technical Advisory Group (MSG TAG); which is a long-standing committee of MGS technical experts, land management, and regulatory agencies. That being said, CDFW remains concerned that the urbanizing effects of the Project will contribute to the diminishment; albeit incremental, upon the MGS habitat. The TAG published a list of conservation priorities in December of 2010 and sets forth five primary conservation priorities intended to support the ongoing conservation of the MGS. These priorities are detailed as follows¹:

- 1) Maintain Functional Habitat Connections between Known Populations
- 2) Protect Known Core Areas
- 3) Identify Development Zones with Minimal Impact on MGS Habitat
- 4) Conduct Research to Clarify the Distribution and Status of the MGS
- 5) Conduct Research to Improve Mohave Ground Squirrel Detection Capabilities

¹ <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=83973&inline>

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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b) – g) A general biological survey was conducted on April 1, 2020 for the Project. Following completion of a comprehensive data review, surveys were performed on the site during which the biological resource on the property, and in the surrounding areas, were documented by a qualified biologist. As part of the survey, the Project site, and adjoining lands, were evaluated for the presence of native habitats which could potentially support populations of special status wildlife species. In addition to the general biological surveys, focused/protocol surveys were also performed for the desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, burrowing owl, American badger, desert kit fox, and Le Conte's thrasher on the site and in the surrounding vacant areas (i.e., Zone of Influence [ZOI]) out to a distance of 600-feet. The property was also evaluated for the presence of sensitive habitats including stream channels, wetlands, vernal pools, riparian habitats, and jurisdictional areas. Based upon the biologist's observation, the parcel appears to have been cleared of vegetation several years ago; although, some revegetation has occurred over the last few years. As such, the property supports minimal vegetation due to past clearing activities and likely supports only a few wildlife species with jackrabbits and desert cottontails; which was the only mammalian wildlife observed during the filed investigations. Furthermore, the on-site investigation and observation did not record any sensitive habitats such as blue-line channels, vernal pools, or critical habitats for sensitive species were observed during the field investigations.

The survey also incorporated protocol surveys for federal and state listed wildlife species; which have been documented in the surrounding region within approximately five miles of the site include the desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, and tricolored blackbird. Neither of these species were observed on the site or within the Zone of Influence (ZOI) during the protocol survey period. In addition, it is the professional opinion of the qualified biologist that a low probability these species will inhabit the Project site, or the ZOI in the near future. A tricolored blackbird is associated with aquatic areas which are absent from the site and the ZOI. Given the report conclusions a less than significant impact to habitat or riparian features is anticipated.

Potential impacts to biological resources in the region and on the site are expected to be negligible due to past clearing activities, minimal vegetation on the site, and the small size of the parcel (0.4-acres). The site does not support extensive areas of native vegetation, and only a few plant species were scattered throughout the site. No special status plant or animal species were observed on the site or in the ZOI; nor were any sign (i.e., burrows, scats, castings, tracks, etc.) identified which would indicate the presence of any special status wildlife species on the site or in the immediate area (ZOI). Likewise, no special status plants were observed during the field investigations.

Based upon the Biological Resources report, dated April of 2020, the potential for impact upon a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) or any state, or federally, listed species is low. However, the presence of the Mojave Conservation/Mitigation Lands established in combination with the MGS TAG, the potential for impacts are possible and the prudent action to establish mitigation measures to ensure the Project does not conflict with an established, or proposed, HCP. A less than significant impact, with mitigation incorporated, is anticipated.

Mitigation:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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BIO 1: The Project proponent will file for, and process to completion, an *Incidental Take Permit*, in compliance with CDFW's discretionary authority as defined by Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (Section 15357 of the CEQA Guidelines). Under this *Incidental Take Permit*, CDFE will review and determine the necessary minimization and mitigation measures; including, but not limited to, the purchase of credits from a CDFW approved conservation or mitigation bank.²

BIO 2: Within thirty days of the posting of the Notice of Determination, and expiration of the CEQA litigation statute of limitations (but in no case more than 60-days from project entitlement, the Project proponent shall purchase credits from a CDFW approved conservation or mitigation bank, which can be a privately or publicly owned land managed for its natural resource values. Credits are established for the specific CESA-listed species that occur on the site.

Monitoring: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will monitor and establish the mitigation/conservation credit agreement and the City of California City shall monitor the grading permit process and implement the mitigation measures set forth through the *Incidental Take Permit*, in conjunction with CDFW.

CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the Project

8. Historic Resources

a) Alter or destroy an historic site?

☐
☐
☐
☒

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in California Code of Regulations, Section 15064.5?

☐
☐
☐
☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The project is located on approximately 0.40 acres of undeveloped land within the Light Industrial and Research (M1) Zoning District, within California City. The M1 land use designation provides a broad spectrum of industrial and manufacturing uses that do not have the potential for detrimental impacts on surrounding properties. Existing manufacturing establishments in the vicinity are located north and west of the project site, including the California City Municipal Airport and a storage company. A majority of the City's commercial and residential uses are located approximately 2-miles southeast of the project site.

According to the California City General Plan, *historic resources are items that are at least 45 years of age or older that also represents a significant time, place, origin, event, or work of a master*. Historic resources may be identified as structures and as archaeological sites. Five historic archaeological sites are recorded within the City. Recorded historic sites included trash scatter, glass and ceramics and potential WWII desert training or military disposal items. As referenced within the Historic and Cultural resources of the General Plan none of these findings were eligible for inclusion under the California State Office of Historic Preservation (SOHP). The site is vacant, and no historic structures or features have been identified on or adjacent to the project site.

In addition, there are no recognizable potential historic resources, as defined in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines that would be adversely affected by the proposed project. This includes any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

² <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Banking/Approved-Banks>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

9. Archaeological Resources	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Alter or destroy an archaeological site.	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The approximately 0.40-acre project site is characterized by relatively flat, undisturbed desert land, with scattered vegetation. The project is located in the Light Industrial and Research (M1) Zoning District within the City of California City. The site is not recognized as a unique archeological features; a site where former human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, have been identified or located; or a site that contains any existing religious or sacred uses. However, per the California City General Plan, if a unique archeological resource or site or human remains are found during excavation, all work will be suspended until the area has been thoroughly examined.

Pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, and the CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, in the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site, or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlay adjacent remains, until the County Coroner has examined the remains. If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American or has reason to believe that they are Native American, the coroner shall contact by telephone within 24-hours of the Native American Heritage Commission. Pursuant to the mentioned California Health and Safety Code, proper actions shall take place in the event of a discovery or recognition of any human remains during project construction activities.

Less than significant impacts are expected following the standard conditions which do not address any unique circumstances regarding the proposed site.

Findings of Fact: As previously discussed in the Cultural Resources section, there are five recorded historic archaeological sites within the City, according to the California City General Plan. These archaeological sites are not found within the project area. The cultural resource survey was concluded that no cultural resources were found on the project site or with close proximity to the site (discussed in Section V Cultural Resources). The historical, cultural and archaeological resources surveys outlined within the California City General Plan indicate that the project site is not listed or

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or in any local register. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated with project implementation. As previously discussed in the Cultural Resources discussion of this document, there are five recorded historic archaeological sites within the City, according to the California City General Plan. The archaeological sites are not found within the project area.

Therefore, no impacts are anticipated with project implementation. As previously discussed, the land surveys prepared for the California City General Plan did not indicate the presence of historic resources, cultural resources, and archaeological resources on or near the project site. The California City General Plan states that the City had no Native American Sacred Sites within the City's boundary. Therefore, project implementation is not expected to have a substantial adverse change in a significant Tribal cultural resource. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the Project

10. Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or City/County Fault Hazard Zones	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death?				
b) Be subject to 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Department of Conservation; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: According to the Safety Element in the California City General Plan, a fault is defined as a fracture in the earth's crust forming a boundary between rock masses that have shifted. Fault rupture is a break in the ground's surface and associated deformation resulting from the movement of a fault. Rupture would be a potential problem within California City if a strong earthquake occurs along a known or unknown fault within or near the City. According to the California City General Plan, the City is not located in an Alquist- Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. The closest Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone lies approximately 5.75 miles northwest of the project site, at the Garlock Fault.

According to the Safety Element, of the City's General Plan, the project property shows no mapped faults on-site per maps prepared by the California Geologic Survey and published by the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO). The project area is not located within an earthquake fault zone, and no evidence of surface faulting was observed on the property during the site reconnaissance. Per the findings within the California City General Plan and the project-specific Geotechnical Investigation, surface fault rupture is considered unlikely at the project site. Less than significant impacts are expected.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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California City, and the project site, is located in the Mojave Block, also referred to as the Eastern California Shear Zone (ECSZ). The ECSZ is an area of increased seismic activity which stretches from the San Andreas Fault in the Coachella Valley, north-northeast across the Mojave Desert, and northward to the Owens Valley. The numerous faults in the region may accommodate as much as 10 to 20 percent of the relative motion between the North American and Pacific Plates, and according to the California City General Plan, the closest fault to the City is the Garlock Fault, which lies approximately 10 miles west of the City's core, and 5.75 miles northwest of the project property. The nearest significant active fault is the San Andreas Fault Zone, which is located approximately 37.8 miles from the proposed site. As a result, California City has the potential to experience seismic shaking and seismic-related hazards.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

11. Liquefaction Potential Zone

a) Be subject to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

☐
☐
☐
☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Department of Conservation; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The Safety Element in the California City General Plan states that liquefaction is the phenomenon in which loose, saturated, granular soils temporarily behave similarly to a fluid when subjected to high intensity ground shaking. Liquefaction occurs when three general conditions are present: shallow groundwater, low-density, silty or fine sandy soils, and high intensity ground motion. Areas of shallow groundwater have a higher susceptibility to liquefaction; however, the groundwater in the City ranges from approximately 600 to 800 feet below ground level, which results in a negligible impact from the effects of liquefaction.

Per the findings within the California City General Plan, the potential for liquefaction occurring at the project site is considered low. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

12. Ground-shaking Zone

a) Be subject to strong seismic ground shaking?

☐
☐
☐
☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Department of Conservation; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: As the Project is in southern California, it is likely that the project site will experience at least one moderate to severe earthquake and associated seismic shaking during the Project useable life, as well as periodic slight to moderate earthquakes. In order to ensure the safety of the project site, the proposed cultivation facility shall be constructed in a manner that reduces the risk of seismic hazards (Title 24, California Code of Regulations). Standard Conditions of Approval require compliance with the most current seismic design coefficients and ground motion parameters and all applicable provisions of the 2019 California Building Code (CBC).

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

13. Landslide Risk

a) 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, collapse, or rockfall hazards?

☐	☐	☐	☒
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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Department of Conservation; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The California City Slope of Terrain Map in the General Plan (Figure 6-4) classifies the project site's location as having a 0 to 15 percent slope. The City lists two notable slopes within the City being Galilee Hill and Twin Buttes, approximately 14.75 miles northeast and 5.75 miles southeast of the project site, respectively. Moreover, there are no significant slopes proposed as part of the proposed development; either on-site or being affected through any off-site grading activities. Based upon the Project's associated earthmoving activities, it is concluded that risks associated with slope instability at the project property are considered low to negligible. In that vein, potential hazards associated with landslide risks are unlikely at the project site and less than significant impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

14. Ground Subsidence

a) 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 ground subsidence?

☐	☐	☐	☒
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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Department of Conservation; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The Safety Element in the California City General Plan states that land subsidence is the gradual, local settling or sinking of the earth's surface with little or no horizontal motion. Although a seismic event can trigger subsidence, it can also occur as a result of gas, oil, or water extraction, hydrocompaction, or peat oxidation. The southern portion of the Planning Area has been undergoing gradual land subsidence, with up to four feet of subsidence over a 40-year period. Although subsidence is not a significant hazard damage to wells, foundations, and underground utilities may occur. The Project site is in the central to western portion of the City and is not as greatly affected by ground subsidence as those properties located in the southern portions of the City.

Per the findings within the California City General Plan and the project-specific Geotechnical Investigation, the potential for ground subsidence occurring at the project site is considered low. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

15. Other Geologic Hazards

a) Be subject to geologic hazards, such as seiche, mudflow, or volcanic hazard?

☐	☐	☐	☒
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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Department of Conservation; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The property is not subject to any additional geological hazard such as seiche, mudflow, or volcanic hazard. As stated herein, the property is not located near, or within the general vicinity of a lake or partially enclosed body of water which would be affected by oscillation in the water level (e.g., seiche). As stated in the section on landslide risks, for which mudflow would be a concern. Lastly, the Project is not located near or within a volcano.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

16. Slopes

a) Change topography or ground surface relief features?

☐	☐	☐	☒
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b) Create cut or fill slopes greater than 2:1 or higher than 10 feet?

☐	☐	☐	☒
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c) Result in grading that affects or negates subsurface sewage disposal systems?

☐	☐	☐	☒
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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Department of Conservation; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: As stated in section 14a), previously, the California City Slope of Terrain Map in the General Plan (Figure 6-4) classifies the project site's location as having a 0 to 15 percent slope. The Project does not propose to change the topography or ground surface feature. The Project also does not propose to create cut or fill slopes greater than 2:1 or higher than 10-feet; therefore, risks associated with irregular or excessive slopes are considered negligible.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

17. Soils

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

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Section 1802.3.2 of the California Building Code (2007), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Department of Conservation; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: As expansive soils dry, the soil shrinks; when moisture is reintroduced into the soil, the soil swells. In order to reduce post-construction soil movement and provide uniform support for the buildings to be constructed at the subject site, over excavation and recompaction within the proposed building footprint areas should be performed to a minimum depth of five (5) feet below existing grades or three (3) feet below bottom of the proposed footing, whichever is deeper. Any undocumented fill encountered during grading should be removed and replaced with engineered fill.

Per the Geotechnical Investigation, underground utility construction will be required to provide water and sanitary sewer to the project site. According to the Existing Sewer System Map (Figure 6) in the 2018 California City Local Agency Management Program for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), a 12-inch sewer line currently exists along Lindbergh Boulevard, which the project intends to connect.

The construction site plan will utilize a portable toilet service in compliance with industry regulations until the construction of the permanent facilities and connection to the existing infrastructure. Design for all disposal systems shall comply with industry regulations, as well as the standards outlined in Title 7, Chapter 2 within California City Municipal Code. No septic systems are proposed. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

18. Erosion	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Change deposition, siltation, or erosion that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of a lake?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in any increase in water erosion either on or off site?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Department of Conservation; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The project is located within the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MOAB), under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (EKAPCD). Air quality within this region is influenced by the regional climate as well as the temperature, wind, humidity, precipitation, and amount of sunshine. California City is in the high desert with an elevation range of 2,300 to 4,000 feet

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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above sea level. Its climate is semi-arid, rainfall for the area is less than 6 inches annually, which provides for warm, dry weather in the summer and mild cooler weather in the winter.

The California City Erosion Hazards Map (Figure 6-3) within the General Plan displays most of the City, including the project site, is in an area with none to slight erosion hazards. As previously stated, the project site resides within the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District, therefore must comply with the District's Regulation IV, Rule 402. The purpose of this Rule is to prevent, reduce and mitigate ambient concentrations of anthropogenic fugitive dust emissions to an amount sufficient to attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). According to Regulation IV, Rule 402, the project shall implement one or more fugitive dust emission control strategies, in order to limit visible dust emissions (VDE) to no more than 20-percent opacity or meet the conditions for a stabilized surface. Some control strategies include applying dust suppressants, controlling vehicular speed, using water trucks, and implementing track-out avoidance measures. The implementation of the fugitive dust emission control strategies will ensure the reduction of ambient concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM10) by reducing or mitigating anthropogenic fugitive dust emissions.

In addition to the Dust Control Plan, the project site is also required to implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) during the construction of the project, in order to comply with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The purpose of the SWPPP is to develop a strategy for construction projects to minimize sediment and other pollutants that may be expected to affect the quality of storm water discharges associated with project development. The development and implementation of the SWPPP during project construction will ensure that potential sources of pollution are identified and mitigated through the application of best management practices (BMPs), such as concrete washouts or secondary containment areas, further discussed in the Hydrology Section of this document.

Impacts of windborne and waterborne soil erosion at the project site will be controlled during project operation after adequate paving, landscaping, and other means of stabilization is incorporated. The proposed plan indicates that offsite run-on to the site is collected and conveyed through to retention basins in-between buildings, and underground retention facilities under the eastern parking lots, in order to avoid onsite flooding. Upon completion of the project, the site intends to have both hardscape and softscape surfaces including the main industrial building and Project site landscaping surrounding the buildings and project perimeter. Following the implementation of the fugitive dust emission control strategies and the SWPPP, as well as the compliance with the adopted procedures for grading, erosion at the project site is anticipated to be less than significant.

According to the Existing Sewer System Map (Figure 6) in the 2018 California City Local Agency Management Program for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), a 12-inch sewer line currently exists along Lindbergh Boulevard, which the project intends to connect. The construction site plan will utilize a portable toilet service in compliance with industry regulations until the construction of the permanent facilities and connection to the existing infrastructure. Design for all disposal systems shall comply with industry regulations, as well as the standards outlined in Title 7, Chapter 2 within California City Municipal Code. No septic systems are proposed. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

19. Wind Erosion and Blowsand from Project either on or off site.

☐	☐	☐	☒
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a) Be impacted by or result in an increase in wind erosion and blowsand, either on or off site?

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Department of Conservation; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: Impacts of windborne and waterborne soil erosion at the project site will be controlled during project operation after adequate paving, landscaping, and other means of stabilization is incorporated. Upon completion of the project, the site intends to have both hardscape and softscape surfaces including the industrial and manufacturing uses building, and landscaping surrounding the buildings and project perimeter. Following the implementation of the fugitive dust emission control strategies and the SWPPP, as well as the compliance with the adopted procedures for grading, erosion at the project site is anticipated to be less than significant.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

20. Paleontological Resources

☐	☐	☐	☒
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a) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, or site, or unique geologic feature?

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The approximately 0.40-acre project site is characterized by relatively flat, undisturbed desert land, with scattered vegetation. The project is located in the Light Industrial and Research (M1) Zoning District within the City of California City. The site is not recognized as a unique paleontological or a unique geologic feature. However, per the California City General Plan, if a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature are found during excavation, all work will be suspended until the area has been thoroughly examined.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS Would the Project

21. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

☐	☐	☐	☒
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?				
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) is a gaseous compound in the earth's atmosphere that is capable of absorbing infrared radiation, thereby trapping and holding heat in the atmosphere. Common greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), ozone, and to a lesser extent chlorofluorocarbons. Carbon dioxide is the main GHG thought to contribute to climate change.

In response to growing concern for long-term adverse impacts associated with global climate change, California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) requires California Air Resource Board (CARB) to reduce statewide emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020. In 2021, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 32 (SB32) that requires California to reduce GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. In general, the Project will generate GHG emissions through Project-related area sources, energy usage, mobile sources, solid waste disposal, water usage, and wastewater treatment.

The proposed industrial and manufacturing facility will add a new land use, and as a result, an expected increase in greenhouse gas emissions is expected. The square-footage of the proposed industrial and manufacturing uses is anticipated to generate less than the 3,000 MMTCO_{2e} which is identified in the CARB Scoping Plan. The project will operate under the mandatory regulations found in the most recent Cal Green Building Standards Code for non-residential uses.

California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB32) requires California to reduce its GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. California Air Resource Board (CARB) has identified measures to achieve this goal as set forth in the CARB Scoping Plan. The EKAPCD adopted the interim GHG significance threshold for stationary/industrial sources on December 5, 2008 which applies to Projects where the EKAPCD is the lead agency. SB 32 adopted in 2021 requires the state to reduce statewide GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, a reduction target that was first introduced in Executive Order B-30-15. The project will reduce its GHG emissions to the maximum extent feasible through energy conservation measures and implementation of the current California Green Building Standards Code in addition to the use of natural light for plant growth and water efficient irrigation for plans and landscape design. The project will not interfere with the state's implementation of AB 32 or SB 32. As previously indicated, the project would not exceed the air basin threshold, therefore the project's GHG emissions would not conflict with plans and policies adopted for reducing GHGs emissions. Less than significant impacts are expected.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the Project				
22. Hazards and Hazardous Materials	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The project site is approximately 0.40 gross-acres of vacant desert land and proposes to construct a 2,400 SF industrial and manufacturing uses. The project will not involve the use or storage of hazardous materials other than organic certified fertilizers and California approved natural pesticides and fungicides. These materials will be stored and applied according to manufacturer's instructions to mitigate the potential for incidental release of hazardous materials or explosive reactions.

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR Title 40, Part 261) defines hazardous materials based on ignitability, reactivity, corrosivity, and/or toxicity properties. The State of California defines hazardous materials as substances that are toxic, ignitable or flammable, reactive and/or corrosive, which have the capacity of causing harm or a health hazard during normal exposure or an accidental release. As a result, the use and management of hazardous or potentially hazardous substances is regulated under existing federal, state and local laws. Hazardous wastes require special handling and disposal methods to reduce their potential to damage public health and the environment. Manufacturer's specifications also dictate the proper use, handling, and disposal methods for the specific substances. Construction of the project is expected to involve the temporary management and use of potentially hazardous substances and petroleum products. The nature and quantities of these products would be limited to what is necessary to carry out construction of the project. Some of these materials would be transported to the site periodically by vehicle and would be stored in designated controlled areas on a short-term basis. When handled properly by trained individuals and consistent with the manufacturer's instructions and industry standards, the risk involved with handling these materials is considerably reduced.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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To prevent a threat to the environment during construction, the management of potentially hazardous materials and other potential pollutant sources will be regulated through the implementation of control measures required in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the project. The SWPPP requires a list of potential pollutant sources and the identification of construction areas where additional control measures are necessary to prevent pollutants from being discharged. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are necessary for *Material Delivery and Storage*; *Material Use*; and *Spill Prevention and Control*. These measures outline the required physical improvements and procedures to prevent impacts of pollutants and hazardous materials to workers and the environment during construction. For example, all construction materials, including paints, solvents, and petroleum products, must be stored in controlled areas and according to the manufacturer's specifications. In addition, perimeter controls (fencing with wind screen), linear sediment barriers (gravel bags, fiber rolls, or silt fencing), and access restrictions (gates) would help prevent temporary impacts to the public and environment. With such standard measures in place, less than significant impacts are anticipated during construction.

Implementation Measure S-7, within the California City's General Plan states that the City shall require commercial and industrial businesses to meet the procedures for the proper transport, use, storage and disposal of hazardous waste as required by the Kern County Waste Management Department, the California City Fire Department, and Kern County Department of Environmental Health Services. Additionally, the California City Fire Department shall require a detailed chemical inventory in accordance with the fire code to determine the hazards and classifications of the materials used in the proposed dispensary. Less than significant impacts related to the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials are expected.

The project site is located within a Light Industrial and Research (M1) land use sector of the City that is separated from residential or other densely populated land uses. As previously discussed, the project is not expected to handle any significant quantities of hazardous materials. Any other use of potentially hazardous substances, is expected to occur in small quantities and managed on-site with the proper containment and facilities, as required by the fire department and other applicable industry standards.

The Safety Element, within the California City General Plan, addresses safety within the City through goals, policies, and implementation measures that seek to reduce the potential for the loss of life, injuries and property damage associated with natural and human-induced hazards.

California City has one Fire Department and one Police Department within their City boundaries. The California City Fire Department is located at 20890 Hacienda Boulevard, approximately five driving miles southeast of the project site. The California City Fire Station is staffed by three full-time fire fighters on a 24-hour basis, including a captain, engineer and fire fighter; however, the Fire Department is designed to be staffed by nine fire fighters. The California City Fire Station has two part-time, seven reserves, and five Fire Department Volunteer positions that City Council has authorized. The fire department is equipped with one wildland patrol unit, one wildland/interface engine, one water tender, and two full-sized fire engines. In addition to fire suppression, additional services the department provides includes Paramedic Advanced Life Support, fire prevention, public education, fire hydrant maintenance, hazardous materials response, nuisance abatement, flood response and aircraft crash and arson investigation. According to the National Fire Protection

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Association (NFPA}, the recommended dispatch-to-arrival time is five minutes, on 90 percent of calls. The California City Fire Department has mutual aid agreements with the Kern County Fire Department, the East Kern Airport District Fire Department, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Police protection services within the City are provided by the City's Police Department, located at 21130 Hacienda Boulevard, approximately four miles southeast of the project site. Coroner's services are provided through the County by the Sheriff's Department and the court system and jails are operated and maintained by Kern County.

The project site proposes improvements to Shepard Place, accessing from Lindbergh Boulevard, including a newly proposed curb-and-gutter, as well as paved access to the facility. Primary access intends to be located on the north end of the property from Lindbergh Boulevard. The site plan configuration of the proposed development includes fire truck accessible drive aisles and a two-way driveway to ensure adequate emergency response access on-site. The proposed design would be subject to a standard review process by the Fire Department to ensure that the site-specific emergency access, water pressure, and other pertinent criteria are met by the project. Less than significant impacts are expected.

Toxic cleaning compounds, sanitizing agents, solvents, and potentially flammable materials may also be involved within the proposed facilities. The use of these products would also be subject to the manufacturer's specifications, as well as local, state, and federal regulations that would help protect against accidental release, explosive reactions, injury and contamination.

The project operator would be required to provide the proper storage facilities and containers designed to protect and isolate these substances, therefore minimizing the threat to the public or the environment. Facility employees shall be trained on safety rules to prevent personal or public risk. Solid waste produced by the project will be stored in a designated staging area with enclosures and less than significant impacts are expected.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

23. Airports	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Result in an inconsistency with an Airport Master Plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require review by the Airport Land Use Commission?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) For a Project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, or heliport, would the Project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Caltrans Aeronautics Handbook, Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The California City Municipal Airport, located north of the project property, spans over 200-acres within the City. The Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan maps five zones; related to noise and safety levels, for each airport under their jurisdiction. According to this Plan, the project site is located within California City's Airport Compatibility Zone B-1. Compatibility Zone B-1 is identified as the approach and departure zone that is adjacent to the runway. Limited risks and frequent noise intrusions vary within Compatibility Zone B-1. The Airport Land Use Commission shall restrict the height of buildings, structures, appurtenances, plants and trees to not more than 35 feet above ground level (unless approved by the Federal Aviation Administration) to prevent a hazard to the safe landing or take-off of aircrafts. In addition, the Project is located outside of the 65 CNEL noise contour zone. According to the 2011 Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan two-story office buildings are allowed within Compatibility Zone B-1 and C, therefore the project will comply.

Additionally, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) may....

The project proponent shall comply with the standards set by the Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan for Zones B-1 and the FAA standards to ensure the safety of the aircraft, pedestrians and property. Less than significant impacts are anticipated. The project is not located in the vicinity of a private airstrip. No impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

24. Hazardous Fire Area

a) 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?

☐
☐
☐
☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Chapter 8 – State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The California City General Plan indicates that major wildland fires are uncommon within the City area due to the vegetation type, the sparseness of the vegetation and the lack of available ground fuel. According to Chapter 8, of the SHMP, the Project, and its surroundings, are located outside of the Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) for Local Responsibility Area and outside of the Very High/High/Moderate FHSZ for State and Federal Responsibility Areas.

As mentioned previously, the California City Fire Department is located at 20890 Hacienda Boulevard, approximately five driving miles southeast of the project site. Additionally, the City has a mutual aid agreement with Kern County Fire Department, the East Kern Airport District Fire Department, and the Bureau of Land Management. Less than significant impacts related to wildland fire are expected.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the Project

25. Water Quality Impacts

a) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) 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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Include new or retrofitted stormwater Treatment Control Best Management Practices (BMPs) (e.g. water quality treatment basins, constructed treatment wetlands), the operation of which could result in significant environmental effects (e.g. increased vectors or odors)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Chapter 8 – State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The proposed project is located within the Fremont Hydrologic Unit of the South Lahontan Basin in the Lahontan Region 6V (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.html). Within Region 6V, the approved Water Quality Control Plan, prepared by SWRCB, provides guidelines for protecting the beneficial uses of state waters within the Region by preserving and protecting their water quality. The project site is located within the Fremont Hydrologic Unit. The receiving water is the Kohen Dry Lake. Beneficial uses of Kohen Lake includes municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply, industrial process supply, industrial service supply, groundwater recharge, water contact recreation, noncontact water supply, warm freshwater habitat, Inland saline water habitat and wildlife habitat.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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According to the California City 2009 Final Environmental Impact Report (SCH # 1992062069), the only named blue line stream is identified as Cache Creek, which runs through California City from the west towards the northeast, and eventually terminates just south of the Koehn Lakebed outside of the City boundary. Cache Creek lies approximately 3.25 miles south of the project property, and Koehn Lakebed is approximately 11-miles northeast of the project site. The nature and size of the proposed development prompts compliance requirements with the existing regulations pertaining to water quality standards and waste discharge requirements.

The proposed project will result in temporary and permanent disturbance in an area that nearly encompasses one acre in gross area. As a precautionary measure, the developer will comply with the State's most current Construction General Permit (CGP). Compliance with the CGP involves the development and implementation of a project-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) designed to reduce potential adverse impacts to surface water quality during the period of construction. The required plan will identify the locations and types of construction activities requiring Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other necessary compliance measures to prevent soil erosion and stormwater runoff pollution. The plan will also identify the limits of allowable construction-related disturbance to prevent any off-site exceedances or violations.

During construction, the project will also be required to comply with the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (EKAPCD) Rule 402, which requires the project property to implement fugitive dust emission control strategies. Implementation of the control strategies primarily pertains to air quality, but also supports water quality protection through the requirement of soil stabilization measures to prevent sediment erosion and track-out. The concurrent implementation of the required SWPPP and fugitive dust emission control strategies will prevent the potential construction-related impacts to water quality at the site and its surroundings, therefore resulting in less than significant impacts.

The project will be designed with on-site stormwater detention facilities that, during the life of the project, will comply with the City's drainage requirements by preventing site discharge and transport of untreated runoff. The project will be required to comply with the most current State standards, as well as the standards outlined in the City of California City Urban Water Management Plan and the Water Quality Control Plan for Lahontan Region (Region 6V). Per the project-specific Final Hydrology Report, current drainage requirements for this project fall under the jurisdiction of the City of California City, which requires the entirety of the storm water from the 10-year, 5-day storm to be retained onsite. The site plan, grading design, storm drain design, and retention facilities of the project must be factored in the project-specific WQMP development and documentation. Runoff from throughout the impervious surfaces (buildings, hardscape and pavement) of each drainage management area will be conveyed via surface and piped flows to either corresponding underground retention chambers or retention basins. Each of the retention basins and underground facilities will be sized to retain the incremental increase between the pre-development and post-development volume per City requirements.

As proposed, the stormwater retention and management strategy are expected to comply with local and regional requirements for protecting surface water quality and preventing waste discharge violations. Less than significant impacts are expected. According to the California City Water Master Plan, California City obtains its water from five groundwater wells and an imported surface water supply from the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water District (AVEK). As previously mentioned, the

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Project is located within the Fremont Valley Groundwater Basin (FVGB). Historic water levels of groundwater wells between 1955 and 1958 indicates that the FVGB is a closed groundwater basin (without subsurface outflow). Long term groundwater level data obtained from the USGS Ground Water Data water levels indicated the groundwater levels in the FVGB have declined significantly since 1955, probably due to the prolonged drought period from 1945 to 1964 and excessive groundwater extraction in the FVGB in the late 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. The most important storage system is the groundwater aquifer, which holds water at a depth of approximately 320 to 380-feet below ground surface and has slightly risen since 1983.

According to the California City General Plan, the City primarily relies on underground water supplies. Groundwater wells in California City produced over 93 percent of the water supply in 2000 to 2001. Per the Urban Water Management Plan, potable well number 14 is the closest facility within the vicinity of the project site and is located at 22000 Mendiburu Boulevard less than one mile to southeasterly of the Project site. According to the General Plan, future water demands will be met by the construction of five new water wells and through additional groundwater purchases within the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water (AVEK) District.

The California City Municipal Code also outlines the importance of water conservation (California City Municipal Code Chapter 1, Article 4, Section 7-1.431). Within this code, the City states that water conservation is a goal of high importance in order to be consistent with State of California and City legal responsibilities to the utilization of water resources. All irrigation within the City comply with the State Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) and City Municipal Code that implement water efficiency standards. Additional conservation efforts include the use of drought tolerant landscaping, and new, low-flowing plumbing fixtures. Water conserving fixture installations shall be subject to compliance inspection, prior to issuance of final occupancy permits, for the industrial facility. Given the use, and projected low water and wastewater demands, the Project not expected to interfere with groundwater recharge conditions. The project includes both underground retention facilities and retention basins, designed to collect and provide sufficient storage for the 10-year and 5-day storm event. This method of stormwater management will therefore facilitate groundwater recharge through infiltration. Infiltration opportunities are also provided in the form of BMPs and pervious cover areas in the landscaping design. Less than significant impacts are expected.

The proposed project is located in the Light Industrial and Research (M1) zoning district; which by designation under the California City General Plan, is allocated to support general and specialty industrial and manufacturing uses facilities, including cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility. The general vicinity surrounding the Project area also includes undeveloped properties with relatively flat topography and scattered vegetation, similar to that found on the Project site. The local hydromorphology is influenced by the presence of intermittent surface drainages originating from the mountains to the west and carrying flows predominantly in a northeasterly direction toward the valley floor. In particular, the project setting, and a majority of the City's light industrial zone occur between the Cache Creek and Koehn Lakebed. Cache Creek is located approximately four miles upstream of the project, and Koehn Lakebed is approximately 11 miles northeast of the project site.

In this context, the project has a Zone X FEMA designation, defined as areas determined to be outside the 0.2 percent annual chance floodplain. The current Zone X designation encompasses a majority of the City's undeveloped and developed properties within the vicinity of the Municipal Airport. Project

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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implementation would involve permanent site improvements introducing impervious surfaces in the form of buildings, paving, and hardscape to the previously undeveloped (pervious) land. The size and scope of the Project dictates a low impact development site plan; which does not utilize the entire property to accommodate the proposed facilities and operations through the construction of buildings, parking lot, drive aisles, etc. As a result, opportunities to minimize imperviousness through the use of landscaping, natural areas or other pervious surfaces are ample and are subsequently integrated into Project site plan. To prevent changes to local drainage conditions (patterns, quantities, or velocities) and adverse erosion and sedimentation impacts, the Project will implement a storm drain design with flood control facilities sized to handle the project-specific conditions.

The proposed grading and hydrology improvement plans will be subject to review and approval by the City and Kern County Floodplain Management Division to ensure that the proposed grading and drainage conditions are acceptable to the City standards. As a result, following implementation of an approved grading plan, the project is not anticipated to alter any local drainage course, stream or wash in a manner that would result in erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Following the standard regulations and project design features, less than significant impacts are expected related to the existing drainage patterns and erosion or siltation conditions. The National Wetlands Inventory, from the USFWS, indicates that there is evidence of an intermittent riverine/riparian feature that is located south of Lindbergh Blvd., but is well off-site of the proposed Project. A riverine, as defined by the National Wetlands Inventory, includes all wetlands and deepwater habitats contained within a channel, with the exception of: wetlands dominated by trees and shrubs, and habitats with water containing ocean derived salts of 0.5 ppt or greater. However, the intermittent riverine is not considered waters of the United State because it does not connect to another source of water and furthermore is not connected with the Project site.

The proposed project would introduce impervious surfaces (hardscape, asphalt, rooftops, etc.) to a presently undeveloped (pervious) ground condition. In particular, the Project anticipates developing over 50 percent of the project site with impervious materials and coverage. This conversion would typically result in a site-specific increase in the rate and quantity of surface runoff. To manage this on-site condition, the project includes a proposed storm drain design (subject to approval by the City Engineer) with surface and piped conveyances draining into retention basins and underground retention structures. The retention basins and facilities will be required to incorporate a capacity to accept and infiltrate the worst-case increase in runoff volume for the 10-year and 5-day storm event.

Furthermore, the project involves street improvements including curb and gutter at the Shepard Place and Lindbergh Boulevard frontages. This aspect of the Project will introduce engineered surface stability to the previously unimproved road shoulders by intercepting and properly conveying off-site flows toward the existing and future street improvements. Less than significant impacts are expected.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
26. Floodplains				
Degree of Suitability in 100-Year Floodplains. As indicated below, the appropriate Degree of Suitability has been checked.				
NA - Not Applicable ☒	U - Generally Unsuitable ☐		R - Restricted ☐	
a) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Changes in absorption rates or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) 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 (Dam Inundation Area)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Safety Element; Chapter 8 – State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), Chapter 7 – Hydrologic Soil Groups: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: The Project includes stormwater capture, detention, and on-site treatment that will prevent any substantial increase in the rate, velocity, or quantity of runoff generated from the Project as compared to the existing undeveloped, and pervious, site condition. Runoff, from the Project, that exceeds the 10-year, 5-day storm runoff volume for post-development conditions will discharge from the site in a way that perpetuates the existing drainage condition; which flows off-site to the northeast. The project, as a whole, includes approximately less than half-acre of proposed structures, driveways, parking and hardscape (impervious areas) and approximately a quarter-acre of proposed landscape or open space (pervious areas). Runoff will be conveyed primarily via surface flows through biofiltration BMPs and eventually to storm drain inlets with inlet filters. The runoff will subsequently be directed to the detention basins or carried via proposed piped flow to the corresponding underground infiltration structures located under the drive aisles.

Through this required compliance, the project will prevent impacts to the local receiving waters and avoid violations to the established water quality standards and waste discharge requirements. Less than significant impacts relative to the substantial degradation of water quality are expected.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluates potential flood hazards for the City. The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) serve as the basis for identifying those potential hazards and determining the need for and availability of federal flood insurance. According to FIRM panel 06029M1920E, effective September 26, 2008, the entire project and its immediate surroundings are located within Zone X, identified as areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain. As such, less than significant impacts are expected.

The project is not located near an existing levee or dam; therefore, no impacts are expected pertaining to this topic. The project is not located within a 100-year flood zone based on FEMA

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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FIRM panel 06029M1920E, effective September 26, 2008. Less than significant impacts are expected. The project site is not located near a body of water that would pose potential seiche or tsunami impacts. The project site is underlain by Hydrologic Soil Type "C", which is characterized for having a slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. Type "C" soils consist chiefly of moderately deep or deep, moderately well drained or well drained soils that have moderately fine texture to moderately coarse texture. These soils have a moderate rate of water transmission. With the relatively shallow gradients that characterize the vicinity, the erosive nature and mudflow potential is reduced. As stated previously, the proposed site plan includes retention facilities sized to contain the 10-year, 5-day storm runoff volume for post-development conditions. Only flows in excess of the project's retention requirements would be allowed to exit the project area, therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.

The project is not located near an existing levee or dam; therefore, no impacts are expected pertaining to this topic. The project is not located within a 100-year flood zone based on FEMA FIRM panel 06029M1920E, effective September 26, 2008. Less than significant impacts are expected.

The project site is not located near a body of water that would pose potential seiche or tsunami impacts. The project site is underlain by Hydrologic Soil Type "C", which is characterized for having a slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. Type "C" soils consist chiefly of moderately deep or deep, moderately well drained or well drained soils that have moderately fine texture to moderately coarse texture. These soils have a moderate rate of water transmission. With the relatively shallow gradients that characterize the vicinity, the erosive nature and mudflow potential is reduced.

As stated previously, the proposed site plan includes retention facilities sized to contain the 10-year, 5-day storm runoff volume for post-development conditions. Only flows in excess of the project's retention requirements would be allowed to exit the project area, therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

LAND USE/PLANNING Would the Project

27. Land Use	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Affect land use within a city sphere of influence and/or within adjacent city or county boundaries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028

Findings of Fact: The proposed project site sits on 0.40 gross acres of vacant desert land, located at the southeasterly corner of Shepard Place as it transitions from an east-west right-of-way to a north-south. The Project is further located northerly of Lindbergh Boulevard, and less than 1,000 feet southeast of the taxiway of the California City Municipal Airport. The project proposes to 2,400 square-foot industrial and manufacturing uses facility in the City's Community Commercial land use district.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The Project proposal is consistent and authorized by Title 5: Chapter 6 and Title 9: Chapter 29, and the Light Industrial and Research (M1) zoning district. The Project provides for an industrial and manufacturing uses; pursuant to the authorized uses set forth in the M1 zone. As such, the Project is consistent with the planned land use zoning and land use patterns of the property and its surrounding property conditions.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

28. Planning				
a) Be consistent with the site's existing or proposed zoning?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Be compatible with existing surrounding zoning?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be compatible with existing and planned surrounding land uses?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be consistent with the land use designations and policies of the General Plan (including those of any applicable Specific Plan)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028

Findings of Fact: The Project proposes a industrial and manufacturing uses; which is consistent with the underlying community commercial zoning district (M1). The surrounding zones are a combination of commercial and manufacturing and no existing or proposed residential zones or properties exist within the immediate vicinity of the Project site. As such, impacts to the surrounding zoning patterns remain enacted. Furthermore, the Project is consistent with the existing and surrounding land uses as it implements the designated land use of commercial. The Project site is located less than 1,000-feet from the California City Municipal Airport where light to heavy manufacturing land uses are generally more acceptable than residential or high intensity commercial shopping centers such as apartments and shopping center. The surrounding land use patterns are compatible with the proposed Project. There are no established community patterns in the project vicinity that would be divided by the proposed project. Therefore, no impacts relative to the division of an established community is expected. As discussed previously, the Light Industrial and Research (M1) zone, in which the project resides, is designated for service industrial and manufacturing uses and neighborhood commercial facilities and land uses; which do not have potential for detrimental impacts on surrounding properties. The 0.40 gross-acre project one (2,400 square foot) cannabis industrial and manufacturing uses which is permitted within M1 zone, according to California City Municipal Code Title 5 and 9 and is not located within a uniquely establishment community or area of interest. No impacts are anticipated to land use or planning zoning or land use standards.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
MINERAL RESOURCES Would the Project				
29. Mineral Resources	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the residents of the State?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be an incompatible land use located adjacent to a State classified or designated area or existing surface mine?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose people or property to hazards from proposed, existing or abandoned quarries or mines?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element; Chapter 5; Figure 5-3: Mojave Desert Designated Areas Map; Project Materials.

Findings of Fact: According to Chapter 5, of the California City General Plan, there are no mineral resources within the City's General Planning Area. In the eastern portion of the Mojave Specific Plan, it contains areas with mineral resources consisting of several gravel pits. In the western portion of the North Edwards Specific Plan is a mineral extraction owned by Rio Tinto (Borax) Mine that is the world's largest sodium borate deposit. This includes the world's largest open pit borax mining operation (more than 600 feet deep) near the community of Boron.

According to the California Geological Study (CGS) Mineral Land Classifications, no areas or sites of mineral resource and/or SMARA study areas exist on, or within the vicinity, of the Project site. The property is not listed as an active or historical mineral resources mine. In addition, the Project site is not located within an active or potential area of aggregate extraction pursuant to Map Sheet 52; which was updated in 2018 providing guidance on aggregate sustainability areas within the state.

The nature of the project does not involve the extraction of mineral deposits. Construction of the proposed cultivation and processing facility would rely on existing local and regional aggregate resources from permitted facilities within the region. The project is not expected to result in a considerable extraction and/or loss of known mineral resources that are considered important to the region or residents of California. Additionally, there are no specific known mineral resource deposits or facilities on or near the project. No impacts are expected related to the loss of availability of known mineral resources.

As previously discussed, there are no mineral resources within the City of California City. The closest mineral resource to California City is located in the City of Mojave, approximately 10 miles southwest of the project site. As determined in the previous discussion, the project site is located within an area that is not designated, has not been evaluated or studied, and is not historically known to contain mineral and/or aggregate deposits of value. This zone designation applies to areas of no known mineral occurrences where geologic information does not rule out either the presence or absence of significant mineral resources. Overall, the project site is not recognized as a mineral resource recovery site delineated in the City of California City General Plan or the resource maps prepared pursuant to SMARA. No impacts are expected.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

NOISE Would the Project result in

Definitions for Noise Acceptability Ratings

Where indicated below, the appropriate Noise Acceptability Rating(s) has been checked.

NA - Not Applicable

A - Generally Acceptable

B - Conditionally Acceptable

C - Generally Unacceptable

D - Land Use Discouraged

30. Airport Noise

a) 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?

NA ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐

b) 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?

NA ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City Airport Master Plan and Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.

Findings of Fact: The project site shall comply with the property development standards outlined in the California City Municipal Code for facilities located within the Light Industrial and Research (M1) zoning district (Municipal Code Title 21), and cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility within the City (Municipal Code Article 29). In addition, the site is within close proximity to the California City Municipal Airport and is located within the Airport Land Use Commission's (ALUC) Compatibility Zones B-1. Compatibility Zone B-1 is the approach and departure zones adjacent to the runway. Light Industrial and Research (M1) uses are allowed within this zone; however, the Commission shall restrict the height of buildings, structures, appurtenances, plants and trees to not more than 35-feet above ground level to prevent a hazard to the safe landing or taking off of aircraft. The proposed project height is less than 35-feet in height, as such, no impact is anticipated to the airport operations. The project's location is compatible with the surrounding land uses, the City's General Plan and Zoning designation and is not an incompatible use with the ALUC Compatibility Zones B-1. Therefore, less than significant impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

31. Railroad Noise

NA ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Noise Element.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Findings of Fact: The Project is not located near (or within the vicinity) of any railroad or rail spur. As such, no impact is anticipated to occur.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

32. Highway Noise

NA ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Noise Element.

Findings of Fact: The property, is not located near, or within the vicinity, of a major highway. The City's Planning Area is particularly bounded by the State Highway 58, along its southern boundary and State Highway 14 as well along its western boundary. These highways are not located close enough to impact future patrons or employees of the Project.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

33. Other Noise

NA ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Noise Element.

Findings of Fact: The property, is not located near (or within the vicinity) of another major source of noise. The City's Planning Area is particularly bounded by the State Highway 58, along its southern boundary and State Highway 14 as well along its western boundary. These highways are not located close enough to impact future patrons or employees of the Project.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

34. Noise Effects on or by the Project

a) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Noise Element.

Findings of Fact: Noise is defined as unwanted sound that disrupts normal activities or that diminishes the quality of the environment. It is usually caused by human activity that adds to the existing acoustic setting of a locale. Noise is measured on a logarithmic scale of sound pressure level known as a decibel (dB). The human ear does not respond uniformly to sounds at all frequencies, being less sensitive to low and high frequencies than to medium frequencies that correspond with human speech. In response to this, the A-weighted noise level or scale has been developed to correspond better with peoples' subjective judgment of sound levels. This A-weighted sound level is called the "noise level" referenced in units of dB(A).

Land uses determined to be "sensitive" to noise as defined by the Kern County General Plan (KCGP) include residential areas, schools, hospitals, parks, and recreational areas, senior centers, and churches. The KCGP Noise Element sets a sixty (60)-decibel limit on exterior noise levels from stationary sources (i.e., non-transportation sources) at sensitive receptors. The Noise Control Ordinance in the Kern County Code of Ordinances (Section 8.36.020 et seq.) prohibits a variety of nuisance noises between the hours of 9 PM and 6 AM on weekdays and 9 PM and 8 AM on weekends. The future marijuana-related facilities would adhere to the provisions of the Kern County Noise Ordinance under both proposed project alternatives. In evaluating human response to noise, acoustical analysis compensates for the response of people to varying frequency or pitch components of sound. The human ear is most sensitive to sounds in the middle frequency range used for human speech and is less sensitive to lower and higher-pitched sounds. The "A" weighted scale, abbreviated dB(A). The noise exposure information developed during the preparation of the Noise Element does not include all conceivable sources of industrial, commercial or agricultural noise within the City, but rather focuses on the existing sources of noise which have been identified by the City as being significant.

Section 19.04.252 in Kern County Zoning Ordinance defines exterior noise levels as "the noise level near the exterior of a structure usually within 50 feet of the structure. Kern County has implemented standards for sensitive areas for new projects, where in those sensitive areas outdoor noise levels are to be mitigated to below or 65 dB Lin and similarly 45 dB(A) or below in interior residential or inside other sensitive interior spaces.

The City of California City has the authority to establish land use noise standards and corresponding restrictions under the City's Noise Ordinance. A range of noise standards apply to different receiving land uses based on sensitivity and compatibility. In general, land uses with a

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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higher sensitivity to noise (residential, schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, nursing homes and recreation) are assigned lower ambient noise thresholds than land uses deemed less sensitive (industrial and commercial). According to the Government Code, noise exposure contours should be developed in terms of the Day-Night Average Level (Ldn) or Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) for transportation-related noise sources. These descriptors represent the weighted energy noise level for a 24-hour day after inclusion of a 10dB penalty for noise levels occurring at night between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00a.m. The CNEL descriptor includes a penalty of about 4.8 dB for noise levels occurring during the evening hours 7:00p.m. and 10:00 p.m. The CNEL explanation was developed for the quantification of aircraft noise, and its use is required when preparing noise exposure maps for airports within the State of California.

The Noise Element of the City's General Plan identifies vehicular traffic as the principal source of noise in the community. The General Plan Area is particularly bounded by the State Highway 58, along its southern boundary and State highway 14 as well along its western boundary. The front of the project area is located adjacent to Shepard Place and approximately 1,000-feet from the California City Municipal Airport to the North. The project property is currently vacant and is located near the airport, vacant commercial lands, industrial and manufacturing uses to the west and northwest. The Project proposes to construct a 2,400 square-foot industrial and manufacturing facility. The anticipated noise impacts, from such an industrial and manufacturing use, will not exceed the evaluated noise generation factors established within the commercial land use.

Section 19.80.030. S (1) within Kern County Zoning Ordinances restricts noise generated by commercial or industrial uses within 500- feet of a residential use or residential zone district. The Project will not generate noise that exceeds an average 65 dB Ldn between the hours of 7 AM and 10 PM and shall not generate noise that exceeds 65 dB, or which would result in an increase of 5 dB or more from ambient sound levels, both are superior, between the hours of 10 PM and 7 AM. Commercial or industrial facilities that are located within the heavy industrial (M-3) zones are exempt from these noise generation limitations.

As discussed previously, the Project property forms part of an undeveloped portion of the industrial land use district in the City of California City. This section of the City has been designated in the City's General Plan to support industrial land uses. The Project property is considerably separated from any existing or planned residential use.

The construction activities of the Project are expected to generate short-term noise increases compared to the existing levels. A temporary incremental increase in noise levels along local roadways is expected to occur during the transport of workers and equipment to and from the site. Noise increases will also be generated by the actual on-site construction activities, which based on location and context, will not take place within proximity to any sensitive receptor.

Any new construction required for a future cannabis facility would generally occur during daytime hours, typically from 6 AM to 6 PM; however, the Kern County Noise Control Ordinance (Title 8 of the Kern County Code of Ordinances) limits all construction activities to take place between 6 AM and 9 PM, Monday through Friday, and between 8 AM and 9 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. If construction work is performed between dusk and 9 PM or dawn and sunrise (approximately 6 AM), construction crews would use minimal illumination to perform the work safely. California City Noise

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Ordinance Section 5-1.406 interior noise standards for Residential zones states that between the times of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., the allowable interior noise level at 45 dB(A) and 55 dB(A) between 7:00a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

During construction, the Project is also expected to follow common industry standards that will help limit noise level increases. For example, all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, should be equipped with properly operating and maintained mufflers and the engines should be equipped with shrouds. Approved haul routes shall be used to minimize exposure of sensitive receptors to potential adverse levels from hauling operations. All construction equipment shall be in proper working order and maintained to reduce backfires.

During the life of the Project, all industrial and manufacturing operations will be conducted in the interior of enclosed structures, facilities, and buildings, as mandated by the local zoning ordinance. All cultivation and processing operations, including materials management, will occur indoors and within the fenced limits. Outdoor activities will be limited. These include vehicular access and circulation in the Project's parking lot and drive aisles; access to the trash enclosures for waste management (disposal and pick-up); access to the outdoor utilities for maintenance purposes (e.g. chillers, septic or sewer systems, storm drain system components). While the Project would result in an increase in noise levels compared to the existing undeveloped condition, the nature and intensity of operations that would occur in the proposed structures are not expected to result in the generation of noise levels that would surpass the community noise and land use compatibility standards. The Project is expected to result in an incremental increase in traffic-related noise levels on the local roadways and less than significant impacts are expected.

Vibration is defined as the mechanical motion of earth or ground, building, or other type of structure, induced by the operation of any mechanical device or equipment located upon or attached to. Vibration generally results in an oscillatory motion in terms of the displacement, velocity, or acceleration of the ground-or structure(s) that causes a normal person to be aware of the vibration by means such as, but not limited to, sensation by touch or visual observation moving objects. ground- or structure(s) that causes a normal person to be aware of the vibration by means such as, but not limited to, sensation by touch or visual observation of moving objects.

Groundborne vibration, also referred to as earth borne vibration, can be described as perceptible rumbling, movement, shaking or rattling of structures and items within a structure. Groundborne vibration can generate a heightened disturbance in residential areas. These vibrations can disturb residential structures and household items while creating difficulty for residential activities such as reading or other tasks. Although, groundborne vibration is sometimes perceptible in an outdoor environment, it is not a problem as it is when this form of disturbance is experienced inside a building. Groundborne vibration can be measured in terms of amplitude and frequency or vibration decibels (VdB). Trains, buses, large trucks and construction activities that include pile driving, blasting, earth moving, and heavy vehicle operation commonly cause these vibrations. Other factors that influence the disturbance of groundborne vibration include distance to source, foundation materials, soil and surface types.

The construction activities of the Project are expected to generate a short-term noise increases compared to the existing levels. Two types of noise impacts are anticipated during future

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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construction activities. First, the transport of workers and equipment to the site would incrementally increase noise levels along the local roadways leading to and from the site.

The Project is surrounded by vacant land and is separated from the nearest existing residential uses by a minimum distance of approximately 4,000-feet directly to the east. Due to this location context, the presence of residential uses and any other sensitive receptors in relation to the project is not a significant impact. The existing source of groundborne vibration is attributed to the anticipated circulation of large vehicles and trucks along Lindbergh Blvd. Construction of the Project is expected to involve the temporary use of vehicles and equipment that would result in short-term groundborne vibration increases within the permitted construction hours established by the City. During the life of the Project, all routine Project operations will occur within the proposed structure and during the permitted hours of operation, as mandated by the county ordinance and conditioned by the City. The routine operation of vehicles accessing the Project would cause an incremental increase in groundborne vibration, but not in levels that would be deemed inconsistent with the existing industrial setting or excessive in nature, such that would impact residential uses. Less than significant impacts related to excessive groundborne vibration noise levels are expected. The primary permanent noise sources will be vehicles traveling to and from the site, HVAC units, and grounds maintenance equipment. The vehicle mix will be comparable with existing vehicles on surrounding roads. The proposed project is not expected to result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. Noise generated by vendors, visitors and employees is expected to be consistent with noise levels at any light industrial development and will not exceed county standards. Project-related vehicles will be consistent with vehicles already using area roadways.

The Project property and most of its surroundings are undeveloped. Therefore, this setting does not represent an existing source of ambient noise. The Project site is not located adjacent to or within proximity to any residential land uses or other sensitive receptors. However, the project is located near an existing airport deemed to be a primary noise generator. Noise resulting from the Project operations is anticipated to be largely contained in the proposed structures, while noise resulting from traffic noise caused by the Project is not expected to substantially increase the current ambient levels in a way that would impact sensitive receptors. Less than significant impacts related to permanent increase in ambient noise levels are expected.

Two types of noise impacts should be considered during the construction phase. First, the transport of workers, equipment, and building materials to and from the construction site will incrementally increase noise levels along the roadways leading to and from the site. Second, the noise generated by the actual on-site construction activities should be considered. The increase, although temporary in nature, could be audible to noise receptors located along the roadways utilized for this purpose. High noise levels would also result from all construction activities, whether associated with specific facilities on specific sites, or with the extension pipelines to and from these sites.

Most of development in the City has occurred within the central core. An area comprising approximately twelve sections of land (7,680 acres) in the southwest portion of the land area within the City's corporate limits. The remaining development in the City has occurred in the northeastern portion; an area located about twelve miles northeast of the central core along Twenty Mule Team Parkway and Randsburg-Mojave Road. The project is located approximately 20-miles west of Twenty Mule Team Parkway and approximately 14-miles from Randsburg-Mojave Road. The land use element includes a summary

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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of the standards of population density and building intensity recommended for the various districts and other territory covered by the plan.

The proposed cultivation and processing site will produce a temporary and intermittent increase in ambient noise levels during construction. During Project site preparation, grading and construction, the contractors will be expected to utilize properly maintained construction equipment consistent with the manufacturer's standards. Construction activities are required to take place within the designated hours established by standards of California City. Less than significant impacts related to temporary or periodic ambient noise levels are expected.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the Project				
35. Housing	☐	☐	☒	☐
a) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a demand for additional housing, particularly housing affordable to households earning 80% or less of the County's median income?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Affect a City Redevelopment Project Area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population Projections?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) 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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Housing Element.

Findings of Fact: The California City planning area is comprised of 130,200 acres (203.44 square miles). This represents an increase of 11,200 acres resulting from the 1991 Municipal Reorganization #91-1 that comprised a 21,000-acre annexation and 4,800-acre detachment. The total 203.44 square miles planning area also represents the official City limits of California City. California City completed the 2002 Annexation, Detachment, Sphere of Influence Amendment (the City has Jurisdictional Boundaries and Coterminous Sphere of Influence), Redevelopment Area Expansion General Plan Update (Including the Housing Element), and Automotive Test Course Project. This action did not impact the availability of parcels for housing. It detached some environmentally sensitive areas and annexed some land suitable for economic development.

Based upon the 2009-2028 General Plan, the total of all single and multiple-family residential land designations represent 25 percent (33,500 acres) of the California City planning area. The residential

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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land use designations of the General Plan and related zoning classifications show approximately 21,474 available (vacant) residential lots in the Central Core. The current population of California City is 13,972 as of July 1, 2017.

The proposed facility consists of a 2,400 square feet (sf) industrial and manufacturing facility. The Project is compatible with operations and uses permitted in the Light Industrial and Research (M1) zone with the approval of the CUP. The facility is estimated to staff approximately 7-8 employees with multiple shifts. The proposed Project may encourage relocation for employment. However, the number of employees is expected to come from existing residents primarily.

The Project does not have a residential component. Improvements to roads and other infrastructure associated with the Project would not induce substantial growth to the area. Less than significant impacts are expected.

The entire property is currently vacant land designated by the City General Plan and zoning for commercial activity and would not displace any existing housing or require replacement housing. No impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

PUBLIC SERVICES Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

36. Fire Services

☐	☐	☒	☐
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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Safety Element.

Findings of Fact:

Fire services are provided to the project area by the California City Fire Department (CCFD). The fire department operates out of a single location, located at 20890 Hacienda Blvd, California City, CA 93505, approximately 5-miles from the project site. The station has four paid fire fighters on duty per day. The CCFD maintains a fleet of two structure engines (one front-line and one reserve), one brush engine, one brush patrol, one squad/off- road rescue, and two staff SUV's. The CCFD maintains mutual aid and automatic aid agreement with Kern County Fire and Edwards Air Force Base Fire, resulting in the ability of three engines being dispatched; a standard duty response that ensures a minimum number of firefighters arrive at scene per National standards. Mutual aid is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictions provided resources are available and is not to the detriment of their own service area.

The project proposes the development of the 0.40 gross acre site. The facility will contain space for office use, retail lobby, manufacturing, and cultivation areas. At buildout, the facility will have an approximate building ground floor area (GFA) of approximately a 2,400 square foot facility; under a Class B Occupancy; which does not create a substantial increase in the need for additional fire suppression and planning services.

Development of the project increases demand on fire services, however based on the site proximity to the City's existing fire station, the proposed project could be adequately served without the expansion of a new fire facility and adequate response times would be met. Additionally, the project would be required to implement all applicable and current California Fire Code Standards. This would include installation of fire hydrants as well as sprinkler systems inside the buildings. Furthermore, the project will be reviewed by City and Fire officials to ensure adequate fire service and safety as a result of project implementation. The project will also be required to comply with the City's Development Impact Fees (DIF) to assist with the funding of public facilities and services, including fire, therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

37. Police Services

☐	☐	☐	☒
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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Safety Element.

Police services are provided to the project area by the California City Police Department (CCPD). The police department operates out of a single location and is located at 21130 Hacienda Blvd, approximately 5-miles from the project site. Per the Police Department website, the CCPD has 13 sworn officers and 6 support staff, totaling 19 positions. Based on the 2021 Census, California City has a population of 13,707 persons, resulting in an officer to resident ratio of 0.95 per 1,000 population.

At buildout, the facility will have an approximate building ground floor area (GFA) of approximately a 2,400 square foot facility; under a Class B Occupancy.

A suite of safety and security measures will be incorporated into the project. A more detailed, comprehensive security plan is required by the City during the regulatory permit phase. This will include specific locations and areas of coverage by security cameras; location of audible interior and exterior alarms; location of exterior lighting; name and contact information of Security Company monitoring the site and any additional information required by the City.

Although the project may require additional demand for police services, the demand is not expected to hinder the City's ability to provide police protection services and adequate response times would be met. Furthermore, the project will be reviewed by City and Police officials to ensure adequate fire service and safety as a result of project implementation. The project will also be required to comply with the City's Development Impact Fees (DIF) to assist with the funding of public facilities and services, including police, therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

38. Schools

☐	☐	☐	☒
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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Safety Element.

Findings of Fact: The proposed project falls under the Mojave Unified School District (MUSD). Development of the project would not create a direct demand for school service. At buildout, the facility will have an approximate building ground floor area (GFA) of approximately a 2,400 square foot facility; under a Class B Occupancy. Employment generated by the project would not be expected to draw a substantial number of new residents that would generate school age children requiring public education or substantially alter school facilities or the demand for public education and no new facilities would need to be constructed. Additionally, any future development will be required to pay the Mojave Unified School District, developer impact fees to assist in offsetting impacts to school facilities. At the time of writing, current development fees are \$3.79 a square foot for residential and \$0.61 per square foot for commercial/industrial projects (Level I Developer Fee Study for Mojave Unified School District, 2018). Less than significant impacts to school services are expected. As discussed below in Section XV(a) and XV(b), the proposed project would not create substantial additional demand for public park facilities, nor result in the need to modify existing or construct new park facilities. No impacts are expected to city parks.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

39. Libraries

☐	☐	☐	☒
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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Safety Element.

Findings of Fact: Library services are provided by the Kern County Library system with the nearest branch located in the City at 9507 California City Boulevard. The Kern County Library provides a full range of services and resources to over 850,000 people in every city and unincorporated area of Kern County through a network operated at Kern County Library Headquarters. The Kern County Library system includes 24 branches and 2 bookmobiles available to serve the County population. Development of the project would not create a direct demand for school service. At buildout, the facility will have an approximate building ground floor area (GFA) of approximately a 2,400 square foot facility; under a Class B Occupancy. Employment generated by the project would not be expected to draw a substantial number of new residents that would generate school age children requiring library services or substantially alter existing library branch facilities or the demand for new facilities would need to be constructed.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

40. Health Services	☐	☐	☐	☒
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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Safety Element.

Findings of Fact: According to the City Fire Chief, there are multiple choices for hospital care to serve City residents. These choices depend upon the severity and type of medical treatment required. In addition, hospital related care also depends on bed availability and the patients' preference, if not emergent. Since California City spans approximately 201 square miles, there are a number of hospitals that a patient could be transferred to for minor issues such as less critical conditions, stabilizing patience, and minor surgeries. These minor incidences are typically served by Adventist Health-Tehachapi Valley in Tehachapi; which is located approximately 20-miles from the City's western edge. Furthermore, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital is located approximately 30-miles from the east edge of the city and even Barstow Community Hospital; which is located approximately 50-miles from the south west edge of town also provides non-trauma related care. If trauma level care is necessary, patients are transported to the Antelope Valley Hospital in Lancaster; which is located approximately 30-miles from the south edge of the city. While the City does not have any Mutual Aid Agreements in terms of Hospitals in the area; City fire does have Mutual aid for Fire with Kern County and Edwards AFB as you are aware.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

RECREATION

41. Parks and Recreation	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Would the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Would the Project include the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Is the Project located within a Community Service Area (CSA) or recreation and park district with a Community Parks and Recreation Plan (Quimby fees)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Open Space Element.

Findings of Fact: As discussed herein, the proposed project would not create substantial additional demand for public park facilities, nor result in the need to modify existing or construct new park facilities. No impacts are expected to park. As previously discussed, the Project proposes to construct

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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a 2,400 square foot industrial and manufacturing uses. Properties immediately to the north, east, south and west of the project are in a vacant state, with the California Municipal Airport further to the northwest, with similar conditions to those found on-site. No residential land uses are proposed, and the small amount of employees generated by the Project would not cause a substantial increase to the current existing neighborhood community, regional or pocket parks. Therefore, no impacts are expected relative to use or deterioration of existing parks. The construction of the proposed cultivation and processing facility within a light industrial zoned area will not involve a recreational facility. No construction or expansion of other recreational facilities is required for Project implementation and no impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

42. Recreational Trails

☐	☐	☐	☒
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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Open Space Element.

Findings of Fact: The City's Municipal Code has adopted the Farm Animal Overlay and the Equestrian Overlay Zones (EOZ). California City Municipal Code Section 9-2.2408 Equestrian Overlay Zone permits the riding of equines along equestrian trails and roadways, if they do not cause any traffic impediment. Development of the project will not create a need or impede an existing or planned trail system. The Project will not negatively affect the General Plan goals of providing safe and convenient access to equestrian trails and roadway use.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC Would the Project

43. Circulation

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

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b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

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

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d) Alter waterborne, rail or air traffic?

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e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Open Space Element.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Transportation and Traffic Discussion:

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

Each county in California is required to develop a Congestion Management Program (CMP) that analyzes at the links between land use, transportation and air quality. The Kern County Council of Governments (KERNCOG) is the County's Congestion Management Agency. The KERNCOG prepares and periodically updates the County's CMP to meet federal Congestion Management System guidelines and state CMP legislation. The most recent CMP is included within KERNCOG's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which was completed in April 2012. According to Appendix A of the LRTP, in the 2011 Riverside County Congestion Management Program, Highway 14 and Highway 58 are the only roads in proximity to the Project site listed as part of the CMP System of Highways and Roadways. These roads are not directly adjacent to the Project site. Thus, the Project will not conflict with a CMP due to the distance between the Project site and these covered roadways and the trips have been accounted for in the GP. The GP identifies that sidewalks, bike lanes, off-street trails and golf cart routes are especially important along major roadways in the community. Within Kern County, existing public transportation services include public transit, Amtrak, and other private carriers such as Greyhound. Local and regional public transit is available within and between sixteen Kern County communities. In 2009–2010, public transit services carried over 7.84 million passengers in Kern County. Transit services include intercity, demand-responsive, and fixed-route operations.; the Project does will not produce a need for increases in transit services or require the substantial alteration of existing facilities and/or services. The Project will not conflict with any program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Therefore, the Project has no impact.

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

Senate Bill 743 (SB 743) was passed by the California State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Brown in 2013. SB 743 required the Office of Planning and Research and the California Natural Resources Agency to develop alternative methods of measuring transportation impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In December 2018, the California Natural Resources Agency finalized updates to the CEQA Guidelines, which included SB 743. Section 15064.3 of the 2019 State *CEQA Guidelines* provide that transportation impacts of projects are, in general, best measured by evaluating the project's vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Automobile delay (often called Level of Service) will no longer be considered to be an environmental impact under CEQA. Automobile delay can, however, still be used by agencies to determine local operational impacts. The provisions of this section are not mandatory until July 1, 2020; however, local agencies may choose to opt in before that date. At the time of preparation of this report, the City has not updated their procedures to analyze VMT; thus, this Project is not currently subject to section 15064.3 of the 2019 CEQA Guidelines. The Project has no impact.

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

The proposed Project does not propose any design features that would increase traffic hazards, as the Project is consistent with the City's General Plan Circulation Element. Additional surrounding land uses

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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include vacant land to the north, south, east and west. Thus, the Project is not introducing a substantially different land use to the area and will be compatible with adjacent uses. In addition, the Project does not include an implementing project, and thus involves no construction or operation or physical impact to the Project site. As such, the Project will not increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible use. Therefore, the Project has no impact.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

The proposed Project will provide adequate access to emergency response vehicles, as required by the City of California City and in accordance with the Fire and Police Department review and requirements. Site plan review would include in-depth analysis of emergency access to the site to ensure proper access to facilities. As mentioned previously, the proposed site plan provides vehicular access on Shepard Place. The design details of vehicular driveways will be reviewed and approved by the Fire Department and the City. The Project is anticipated to provide proper premises identification with legible site name, address numbers, and clear signage indicating the site access points. Measures that protect life and safety include operational fire hydrants and extinguishers to be placed in conspicuous areas consistent with the NPFA. Off-site Project improvements will involve paving on Shepard Place within the required rights-of-way and according to the City's designated street standards.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

44. Tribal Cultural Resources

a) 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:

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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 for the purpose of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance to a California Native tribe.

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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Open Space Element.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Findings of Fact: As previously discussed in the Cultural Resources discussion of this document, there are five recorded historic archaeological sites within the City, according to the California City General Plan. The archaeological sites are not found within the project area. Additionally, a cultural resource survey was completed by the California Archaeological Inventory Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center for California City's General Plan. The cultural resource survey was concluded that no cultural resources were found on the project site or with close proximity to the site (discussed in Section V Cultural Resources). The historical, cultural and archaeological resources surveys outlined within the California City General Plan indicate that the project site is not listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated with project implementation. As previously discussed, the land surveys prepared for the California City General Plan did not indicate the presence of historic resources, cultural resources, and archaeological resources on or near the project site. Additionally, the California City General Plan states that the City had no Native American Sacred Sites within the City's boundary. Therefore, project implementation is not expected to have a substantial adverse change in a significant Tribal cultural resource. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

45. Bike Trails

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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Open Space Element.

Findings of Fact: The property, in addition to the surrounding property, were previously analyzed in both the City's General Plan EIR and as part of the SCAG 2040 Programmatic EIR and the Project will not increase the need for bike trails and other ancillary recreational facilities and services. The Project will be required to pay fees which will address the incremental need that results from this Project upon recreational trails, bikeways, or service paths.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

UTILITY AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the Project

46. Water

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

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

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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Safety Element.

Findings of Fact: The California City Water Department provides sewer services to the city and the project site. The City's wastewater system consists of numerous gravity lines and lift stations. The Wastewater Operations Division provides maintenance of all wastewater collection and transportation and oversees the treatment for the City in addition to monitoring and implementation of wastewater regulations. Sanitary sewers are cleaned regularly, and their condition is monitored on a regular basis. According to the California City Urban Water Management Plan Update 2017, California City owns and operates 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD) extended aeration activated sludge tertiary treatment facility (WWTP) and all domestic sewer collection systems within the City limits. The existing California City Wastewater Treatment Facility, located at 10835 Nelson Drive, is designed to treat an average flow of 1.5 MGD and peak flow of 3.0 MGD, where in 2015, the influent flow was 0.8 MGD. A city maintained sewer line currently lies within Shepard Place, the project proposes to connect to the existing infrastructure which will provide service to the project site.

The project is proposing 2,400 square foot retain cannabis dispensary. Wastewater is expected to be minimal as the project would only require up to 7-8 employees in only a few shifts. The project is not expected to exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the State Regional Water Quality Control Board (SRWQCB) (Fremont Valley Sub-basin). In addition, City and other local and governmental agency review will ensure compliance with all current and applicable wastewater treatment requirements. Less than significant impacts are expected.

California City Water Department provides domestic water and wastewater service in the project vicinity. The City provides approximately 4,430 active service water connections to its incorporated area (203 square miles). The City maintains approximately 313 miles of water main lines ranging in size from 4 to 21 inches in diameter, and a 20-inch transmission line connects the City wells to the reservoirs located in the foothills. As stated in the prior discussion, the California City Wastewater Treatment Facility, which is designed to treat an average flow of 1.5 million gallons per day, and peak flow of 3.0 MD.

The approximately 0.40-acre project site is currently vacant and undeveloped, with scattered vegetation. Existing facilities such as water, sewer and electricity currently run along Lindbergh Boulevard. The proposed Project will connect to existing water and sewer services available in Shepard Place and served by the City.

The wastewater from the proposed project is expected to be minimal and accommodated given the size and nature of the project. The proposed project is designed to connect to an existing city sewer system along the project's northern boundary. The connection to the City's sewer and water system will comply with the requirements of the State Regional Water Control Board and the City. Connections into sewer infrastructure will undergo review by City Staff, and the Fremont Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Group (IRWMG), consisting of California City, Mojave Public Utility District (MPUD), and the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK). The review by these groups will ensure wastewater capacity and compliance. Additionally, sewer installation and connection fees in place at the time of development or connection would be collected by California City. Therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.

Groundwater is the primary source of domestic water supply in California City. According to the Urban Water Management Plan, California City currently uses six groundwater wells and surface water

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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purchased from the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) for its groundwater supply. The project property lies within the Fremont Valley Groundwater Sub-basin, within the Lahontan Region (Region 6). The project site is managed by the Fremont Valley Groundwater Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Group (IRWMG), which consists of California City, Mojave Public Utility District (MPUD), and the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK).

As stated in prior discussions, the groundwater wells in California City produced over 93 percent of the water supply in 2000 to 2001. Per the Water Master Plan, Well No. 14 is the closest well to the project site, located at 22000 Mendiburu Boulevard, approximately 0.75 miles southeast of the project. According to the California City General Plan, future water demands for the City will be met by the construction of new water wells and through additional purchase of AVEK water. According to the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) updated in 2017, the addition of two new wells will assist in the City's goal in meeting future water demands from 2020 through 2040. These wells include: Well No. 01 in 2018 and Well No. 11 in 2019. As stated in the UWMP, it is projected that in 2040 the City will be using 82.3 percent of the current water production capacity. It is noted that 82.3 percent capacity utilization in 2040 is conservative and that for the foreseeable future, the City has excess production capacity that will handle system demands year around and during worst case summer demand months.

As required by the policies of the General Plan, the City will continue to cooperate with IRWMG and other agencies/jurisdictions in implementing a groundwater replenishment and ensuring the viability of the Fremont Valley Sub-basin. The proposed development will be expected to follow water conservation guidelines to mitigate impacts to public water supplies. Examples of these water conservation methods include water conserving plumbing fixtures, drought tolerant landscaping, and drip irrigation systems. The project proposes to connect to the existing water line located in Shepard Place. Additional domestic water improvements necessary to serve this development will be identified by IRWMG and approved by the City of California City. Less than significant impacts to water supply are expected.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

47. Sewer

a) Require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities, including septic systems, or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental effects?

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b) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may service the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's Projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Land Use Element.

Findings of Fact: The City of California City operates one wastewater treatment plant located at 10835 Nelson Drive, approximately 4.50 miles east of the project site. All City sewage is collected

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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into sewage mains and delivered to the 1 MGD sanitary facility. The existing wastewater treatment facility collected domestic wastewater to approximately 30 percent of the City sewersystem, while the remaining 70 percent is served by onsite septic systems. The existing California City Wastewater Treatment Facility is designed to treat an average flow of 1.5 MGD and peak flow of 3.0 MGD. Currently, the average influent flow is 0.8 MGD.

The proposed project is designed to connect into the existing water and sewer facilities, as outlined in the 2002 Water Master Plan for California City, and the 2017 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). The operation and construction of these facilities will comply with the requirements of the City, and the State Regional Water Quality Control Board. Connections into sewer infrastructure once installed, will undergo review by City Staff to ensure wastewater capacity and compliance. Additionally, sewer installation and connection fees in place at the time of development or connection would be collected. As determined previously, the average influent flow (0.8 MGD) for the Wastewater Treatment Facility is lower than the capable average flow (1.5 MGD) and peak flow (3 MGD). Due to the size and the nature of the project, the wastewater treatment provider is anticipated to have adequate capacity for project implementation. Less than significant impacts to wastewater treatment are expected.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

48. Solid Waste	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Is the Project served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the Project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid wastes including the CIWMP (City Integrated Waste Management Plan)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Safety Element.

Findings of Fact: Solid waste disposal and recycling services for the City of California City are provided by Waste Management (WM). However, Waste Management does not provide removal of cannabis byproducts or waste generated from the manufacturing, testing, and packaging processes. As such, the City is currently undergoing a procurement for a solid waste contract to specifically manage solid waste generated from the cannabis cultivation process. The Project will be required to comply with the future regulations resulting from these procurements. Solid waste generated by the project would consist of standard household/office waste. Unused plant material will be composted and reintroduced into soil composite. Commercial waste and recycling collected from the proposed Project will be hauled to the CA City Recycling and Transfer Station (15-AA-0401). Waste from this transfer station is then sent to a permitted landfill or recycling facility within Kern County. These include Bena, Boron, Mojave-Rosamond, Ridgecrest, Shafter-Wasco, Taft, and Tehachapi Landfills. CalRecycle data indicates that these landfills have 3 to 90 percent of their remaining estimated capacity, with the Mojave-Rosamond Sanitary Landfill having the lowest remaining capacity, 3 percent, and the Boron Sanitary

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Landfill with approximately 90 percent remaining capacity. Additionally, solid waste generated by a medical marijuana facility would be minimal and would comply with all cannabis waste regulations. Less than significant impacts to solid waste are expected. Solid waste disposal and recycling services for the City of California City are provided by Waste Management (WM). Solid waste generated by the project would consist of standard household/office waste. Unused plant material will be composted and reintroduced into soil composite. Commercial waste and recycling collected from the proposed Project will be hauled to the CA City Recycling and Transfer Station (15-AA-0401). Waste from this transfer station is then sent to a permitted landfill or recycling facility within Kern County. These include Bena, Boron, Mojave-Rosamond, Ridgecrest, Shafter-Wasco, Taft, and Tehachapi Landfills. CalRecycle data indicates that these landfills have 3 to 90 percent of their remaining estimated capacity, with the Mojave-Rosamond Sanitary Landfill having the lowest remaining capacity, 3 percent, and the Boron Sanitary Landfill with approximately 90 percent remaining capacity. Additionally, solid waste generated by a medical marijuana facility would be minimal and would comply with all cannabis waste regulations. Less than significant impacts to solid waste are expected. The City of California City contracts with Waste Management to serve the solid waste disposal needs of the city, including the project. The project will comply with all applicable solid waste statutes and guidelines. No impacts are expected relative to solid waste statutes and regulations.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

49. Utilities

Would the Project impact the following facilities requiring or resulting in the construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities; the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

a) Electricity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Natural gas?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Communications systems?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Storm water drainage?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Street lighting?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Other governmental services?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Safety Element.

Findings of Fact: The Project will not produce an impact upon existing or planned city or district utility services. The addition of a 2,400 s.f. industrial and manufacturing facility will not increase the need for utility services or create the need to substantial retrofit existing utility infrastructure. No impact is anticipated from the proposed Project.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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50. Energy Conservation

a) Would the Project conflict with any adopted energy conservation plans?

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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan Open Space Element.

Findings of Fact: The project will reduce its GHG emissions to the maximum extent feasible through energy conservation measures and implementation of the current California Green Building Standards Code in addition to the use of natural light for plant growth and waterefficient irrigation for irrigation and landscape design. No impact is anticipated to adopted Energy Conservation plans.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

Monitoring: No Monitoring Necessary

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

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Source: City of California City Municipal Code; City of California City Final General Plan 2009-2028; California City General Plan.

Findings of Fact: As concluded in the Biological and Cultural Resources sections of this document, the proposed project expansion would result in no impacts or less than significant impacts with mitigation to these resources. The project is compatible with the City of California City General Plan land use designation and its surroundings. The project will not significantly degrade the overall quality of the region's environment, or substantially reduce the habitat of a wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare of endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Less than significant Impacts with mitigation is expected.

52. Does the Project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a Project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past Projects, other current Projects and probable future Projects)?

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Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Source: Staff review, Project Application Materials

Findings of Fact The project is located in a partially developed setting designated for Community Commercial uses. Cultivation of commercial cannabis is allowed within the City's Light Industrial and Research (M1) zone with cannabis cultivation and manufacturing permit from the City of California City, and must be in compliance with all applicable state and local laws and regulations pertaining to the industrial and manufacturing cultivation permit business and activities, including the duty of obtaining any required state licenses. The facility would be compatible with the existing and future land uses within the M1 zone. Based upon the information and mitigation measures provided within this Initial Study and implementation of the proposed cultivation and processing facility is not expected to result in impacts that, when considered in relation to other past, current or probable future projects, would be cumulatively considerable. Less than significant impacts are expected.

53. Does the Project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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Source: Staff review, Project application

Findings of Fact: As discussed in the various sections throughout this Initial Study, the proposed project would not include a land use that could result in substantial adverse effects on human beings. The City of California City has established regulations pertaining to commercial cannabis facilities to ensure these businesses do not conflict with the City's General Plan, its surrounding uses, or become detrimental to the public's health, safety and welfare. The City's review process of cannabis facilities and facility operations will ensure that the regulations are fully implemented. Based upon the findings provided in this document, and mitigation measures and standard conditions incorporated into the project, less than significant impacts are expected.

V. EARLIER ANALYSES

Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration as per California Code of Regulations, Section 15063 (c) (3) (D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

Earlier Analyses Used, if any:

- City of California City General Plan Environmental Impact Report (<http://www.californiacity-ca.gov/CC/index.php/planning/planning-publications>)
- SCAG 2040 RTP/SCS Programmatic EIR (<http://scagrtppscs.net/Pages/DRAFT2021PEIR.aspx>)

Location Where Earlier Analyses, if used, are available for review:

Location:
City of California City
21000 Hacienda Boulevard
California City, CA 93505-2293
(760) 373-8661

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VI. AUTHORITIES CITED

Authorities cited: Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21083.05; References: California Government Code Section 65088.4; Public Resources Code Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21082.1, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21095 and 21151; *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino* (1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 296; *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors* (1990) 222 Cal.App.3d 1337; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 121 Cal.App.4th at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

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