DRAFT INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR A NEW COMMUNITY PARK AT 26540 VISTA ROAD, HELENDALE CA

Lead Agency/Applicant:
Helendale Community Services District
26540 Vista Road
P.O. Box 359
Helendale, CA 92342
c/o Dr. Kimberly Cox, General Manager
kcox@helendalecsd.org

Prepared by:
Alec Land Planning
19531 Highway 18
Apple Valley, CA 92307

August 2020

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INITIAL STUDY
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

Project Information

1. **Project title:** Proposed New Community Park
2. **Lead agency name and address:** Helendale Community Services District, 26540 Vista Road (P.O. Box 359), Helendale, CA 92342
3. **Contact person and phone number:** Dr. Kimberly Cox, General Manager, (760) 951-0006.
4. **Project location:** 26540 Vista Rd, Helendale, CA 92342 (APN 467-081-38)
5. **Project sponsor's name & address:** Helendale Community Services District, 26540 Vista Road (P.O. Box 359), Helendale, CA 92342
6. **General plan designation:** Community Industrial
7. **Zoning:** IC (Community Industrial)
   Overlays: Biological Resources Overlay
8. **Description of project:** To allow for the development of a New Community Park facility in a designated disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged community to include an approximately 35,000+/- square foot community center building with a Gymnasium/Multi-purpose area with raised stage, Senior Center with small Central Kitchen, restroom with interior and exterior access capability, HCSD Park Offices, and exterior uses for potential amenities such as an amphitheater area with raised stage, "Splash Pad", small basic dirt BMX Track, exterior workout area, grass play and picnic areas, small skate park, and/or miniature golf on a portion of the 10.5+/- acre. Primary Access to the site will be provided by the adjacent Vista Road.
9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** The project area is bordered on the north by developed Community Industrial properties; on the south by both vacant and developed RL (Rural Living), RL-5 and CG (General Commercial) zoned properties; on the east by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and vacant but disturbed RL-5 (Rural Living – five acre minimum parcel size) zoned property and on the west by the vacant and developed RL-5 zoned properties. The site is flat, no drainage courses and has been significantly disturbed with historic agricultural use from at least 1952 and the 1974 development of the Helendale Community Services District's office building, parking, and landscaping on a portion of the site and previous grading activities on the remainder of the site. The site and surrounding properties are predominantly disturbed by historic agricultural use and development.
10. **Other public agency whose approval is required:** Issuance of grading and building permits and completion of structures to current building code is required by the County prior to establishment of any development on-site. In addition, confirmation by the Mojave Water Agency, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Caltrans, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, Helendale School District, Victor Valley Union High School District, as well as Southern California Edison, Southwest Gas, and Frontier Communications may be required.
11. **Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1?** If so, has consultation begun is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

    Tribal consultation has been started. Appropriate mitigation measures will be included, as necessary.

    NOTE: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 2108321080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology / Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology / Water Quality	☐ Land Use/ Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population / Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency and/or Consultant)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION shall 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 of the incorporated mitigation measures and revisions of the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION shall be prepared.
☐	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
☐	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is **"potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated". An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT** REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
☐	I find that the proposed project WILL NOT have a significant effect on the environment, because no new potentially significant effects have been identified beyond those previously analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR, pursuant to applicable standards, and no additional mitigation measures beyond those imposed as part of that previous EIR are necessary to be imposed upon the proposed project to reduce mitigable impacts to an insignificant level. Therefore, no additional environmental documentation is necessary.

Ginger E Coleman — August 13, 2020

Signature: prepared by Ginger E. Coleman, MPA — Date

Randolph J Coleman — August 13, 2020

Signature: prepared by RJ Coleman, AICP, CA, CWB, PE, QSD/P — Date

Kimberly Cox

Signature: Dr. Kimberly Cox, General Manager — Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is provided for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources the lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer is explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) "Potentially Significant Impact" is noted if there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact". The lead agency describes the mitigation measures, and briefly explains how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses", may be cross-referenced.)

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

   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on earlier analysis.

   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) The lead agency incorporates into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, includes a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used, or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) The explanation of each issue should identify:

   a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

   b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
I.	**AESTHETICS** - Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? (3; 27)	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? (3)	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (1; 27)	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? (27)	☐	☐	☒	☐

AESTHETICS

The proposed project is not located within a Scenic Corridor, as designated by the Scenic Corridor Overlay District of the County of San Bernardino General Plan, or the California Scenic Highway Mapping System. The Site is within the Helendale CSD. The proposed project is the expansion of agricultural cultivation area at an existing wastewater treatment facility and is consistent with the visual character of other surrounding developments in the area (See Table of Surrounding Uses below).

Surrounding Uses

AREA	EXISTING LAND USE
Site	Existing Helendale CSD office building, and remaining vacant area highly disturbed by AG use.
North	Community Industrial developed properties
South	Vacant and developed RL, RL-5 and CG
East	Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad corridor
West	Vacant and developed RL-5

Joshua trees are another notable aesthetic feature of the greater Victor Valley area. Joshua trees, which can grow up to 12 meters (40 feet) tall, are distributed on gentle slopes and on valley floors of upper bajadas and sandy areas. The Joshua tree (locally protected) is an archetypal plant of the Mojave Desert that can live several hundred years; it provides valuable habitat for a variety of native wildlife species.

NOTE: (1) On 10/15/2019, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) petitioned the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) to protect the western Joshua trees (Yucca brevifolia) under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) because the trees are potentially threatened by climate change, fires, and habitat destruction from urban sprawl and other development in the Mojave Desert. [See Exhibit I]

NOTE: (2) On 04/13/2020 the CFGC reviewed the completed Petition Evaluation and the Department has determined the Petition provides sufficient scientific information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted for the western Joshua tree. Therefore, the Department recommends the CFGC accept the Petition for further consideration under CESA. At this time other local agencies are giving their input to this CESA review process and future CFGC meetings are being schedule [See Exhibit I].

Explanations:

a. **No Impact** - The proposed project will have no impact on scenic vistas. Existing use of the site include the office building of the Helendale CSD and fallow AG land and dominated with invasive grass and weed species. The proposed project is a new community park which will serve the area, which existing improvements is predominantly residential, with some commercial, two recreational lakes, a 27-hole golf course, and various other amenities and the remaining boundary of HCSD is mostly native vacant desert lands, scattered fallow AG and the Mojave River riparian corridor and floodplain areas.

b. **No Impact** - The proposed project will not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. No protected trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings are located on or in close proximity to the project site, which has been disturbed since at least the early 1950s by agricultural use. The project is not located or within proximity to a scenic highway. No Joshua Trees or Cactus on the vacant portions of Site.

c. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The proposed project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings. The site includes the existing office building of the Helendale CSD. This project seeks to develop a New Community Park on a portion of the site to provide additional recreational opportunities for the surrounding community. Since this area has been used for agricultural uses since at least the early 1950 til 1970s and fallow since, and proposed project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings.

d. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The proposed project include minimal new lighting in the area in compliance with the San Bernardino County 2007 Development Code, Section 83.07.040, *Glare and Outdoor Lighting – Mountains and Desert Regions*.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
II.	**AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES** - *In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:*				
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? (19)	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? (1)	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526) or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? (1)	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? (1; 4)	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use? (1; 4; 19)	☐	☐	☐	☒

AGRICULTURE

The FMMP is a non-regulatory program that produces Important Farmland maps and statistical data. The FMMP groups land into one of five categories (Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, and Grazing Land}, with agricultural land being rated according to soil quality and irrigation status (36). The site is not listed as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland or Statewide Importance as 2018.

FORESTY RESOURCES

Plant communities within the Helendale area include creosote bush scrub, Mojave Desert saltbush scrub, rabbitbrush scrub, ruderal (disturbed) communities, Joshua tree woodland, and riparian communities within the Mojave River and its floodplain, which includes transmontane alkali and freshwater marsh, Mojave riparian forest, and southern willow scrub. There is no significant forestland or timberland in the project area.

Explanations:

a.-e. **No Impact** - The site is not listed as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance (23). Additionally, the site and all surrounding properties are within an urbanized area (25, Section 21071), and no forest land or farmland is located in the vicinity that may be affected by the development of this project.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
III.	**AIR QUALITY -** Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? (1; 2; 3; 21; 27)	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	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? (3; 10; 21; 27)	☐	☒	☐	☐
c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? (4; 11)	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors or dust) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? (4)	☐	☐	☒	☐

AIR QUALITY

The project area is located in southwestern San Bernardino County, in the geographic subregion of the southwestern Mojave Desert known as the Victor Valley and commonly referred to as the "High Desert" due to its approximate elevation of 2,900 feet above sea level. Hot summers, mild winters, infrequent rainfall, moderate afternoon breezes, and generally fair weather characterize the climate of the Victor Valley, an interior sub-climate of Southern California's Mediterranean climate. The clouds and fog that form along the Southern California coastline rarely extend across the mountains to Helendale. The most important local weather pattern is associated with the funneling of the daily onshore sea breeze through Cajon Pass into the upper desert to the northeast of the heavily developed portions of the Los Angeles Basin. This daily airflow brings polluted air into the area late in the afternoon from late spring to early fall. This transport pattern both creates unhealthful air quality and inhibits the scenic vistas of the mountains surrounding the Victor Valley.

In California, air quality is regulated by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). CARB divides the state into Districts and Air Basins that share similar meteorological and topographical features.

Explanations:

a. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The project area (Helendale) is located within the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) which lies in the San Bernardino County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) and classified as a dry-hot desert climate, with portions of the MDAB classified as dry-very hot desert, to indicate at least three months have maximum average temperatures over 100.4°F (38). The Air Quality Attainment Plan (AQAP) provides a program for obtaining attainment status for key monitored air pollution standards, based on existing and future air pollution emissions resulting from employment and residential growth projections. The proposed New Community Park will be consistent with this plan, as it will not increase industrial area or increase allowable density in excess of those standards currently allowable by the County's General Plan and Zoning Designation. Therefore, the proposed park should at a minimum ensure that significance thresholds established using the existing rights-of-way, existing zoning, and existing commercial build out projections will not be exceeded as a result of this project.

b. **Less Than Significant Impact w/Mitigation Incorporated** - The project is not projected to violate any air quality standard or result in a considerable net increase to an existing or projected air quality violation. This project will not increase industrial acreage or exceed industrial build out projections outlined in the General Plan land use designation, which was most recently revised in 2007, prior to the most recent version of the AQMD Attainment Plan. Further, since the project is located in an area designated as non-attainment by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (26), an increase in vehicle trips could cumulatively contribute to the level of non-attainment. However, since this project does not increase industrial area outlined in the General Plan (1), it is assumed their cumulative impacts were included in the City's General Plan and AQMD Attainment Plan and will not exceed those growth forecasts. Therefore, since the project meets the requirements of the existing General Plan and industrial zoning designation, approval of this proposal is not anticipated to violate any air quality standard or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in an existing or projected air quality violation. Although not anticipated to violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, the following mitigation has been added at the recommendation of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District in order to ensure fugitive dust best management practices are followed during grading and construction activities.

Mitigation Measures:

AIR 1. Prepare and submit to the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) a dust control plan that describes all applicable dust control measures that will be implemented at the project, prior to commencing earth-moving activity.

AIR 2. The following signage shall be erected not later than the commencement of construction: A minimum 48 inch high by 96 inch wide sign containing the following shall be located within 50 feet of each project site entrance, meeting the specified minimum text height, black text on white background, on one inch A/C laminated plywood board, with the lower edge between six and seven feet above grade, with the contact name of a responsible official for the site and a local or toll-free number that is accessible 24 hours per day:

"[Site Name] {four-inch text}
[Project Name/Project Number] {four inch text}
IF YOU SEE DUST COMING FROM {four-inch text} THIS PROJECT CALL: {four-inch text}
[Contact Name], PHONE NUMBER XXX-XXXX {six-inch text} If you do not receive a response, Please Call {three-inch text} The MDAQMD at 1-800-635-4617 {three-inch text}

AIR 3. Use a water truck to maintain moist disturbed surfaces and actively spread water during visible dusting episodes to minimize visible fugitive dust emissions. For projects with exposed sand or fines deposits (and for projects that expose such soils through

earthmoving}, chemical stabilization or covering with a stabilizing layer of gravel will be required to eliminate visible dust/sand from sand/fines deposits.

AIR 4. All perimeter fencing shall be wind fencing or the equivalent, to a minimum of four feet of height or the top of all perimeter fencing. The owner/operator shall maintain the wind fencing as needed to keep it intact and remove windblown dropout. This wind fencing requirement may be superseded by local ordinance, rule or project specific biological mitigation prohibiting wind fencing.

AIR 5. All maintenance and access vehicular roads and parking areas shall be stabilized with chemical, gravel or asphaltic pavement sufficient to eliminate visible fugitive dust from vehicular use or wind erosion. Take actions to prevent project-related track-out onto paved surfaces and clean any project-related track-out within 24 hours. All other earthen surfaces within the project shall be stabilized by natural, irrigated vegetation, chemical, compaction, or other means sufficient to prohibit visible fugitive dust from wind erosion.

c. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The MDAQMD identifies the following land uses as sensitive receptors: residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds, and medical facilities. Since the proposed project is a New Community Park rather than an industrial-oriented use as is allowed by the Zoning, the project will not need to incorporate mitigation measures in order to prevent residences in the area from being exposed to any substantial pollutant concentrations or objectionable odors.

d. **No Impact**- See discussion 'c' above.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
IV.	**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -** Would the project:				
a)	Have substantial adverse effects, 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 (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)? (3)	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Has a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS? (1; 3; 4)	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Has a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? (1; 4)	☐	☐	☐	☒
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? (3; 12)	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? (13)	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? (3)	☐	☐	☐	☒

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project is the development of a New Community Park on a portion of a developed site. The site is highly disturbed from early 1950's historical agricultural use and development, with few scattered invasive grasses and weeds on the vacant portion of the site. No native vegetation remains onsite.

Site surveys for this project site were specifically conducted August 3rd and 4th, 2020, and prior On-Site Only and observation from perimeter fencing surveys during the preparation of a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment, prior to purchase by HCSD in 2011 [See Exhibit H] and May 2020 during boundary and topographic survey of this Site and included Desert tortoise, Burrowing owl, Mohave ground squirrel, American badger, Desert kit fox, and Nesting Birds.

NOTE: If any of these species are encountered on the Site during project activities, those activities will cease and the Project Wildlife Biologist (Randolph J. Coleman, CWB #43090 [760-242-9917]) contacted for guidance.

Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)
Federal Status – threatened; State Status – threatened.
Distribution – Widely distributed in the Mojave Desert from below sea level to 7,220 feet above sea level.
Habitat – Most common in desert scrub, desert wash and Joshua tree habitats, but also found in other desert habitats. Tortoises are herbivores, preferring forbs over grasses and green vegetation over dry. Desert tortoises excavate burrows and nests in friable, sandy, well-drained soil under bushes, rock formations, or open areas to protect from cold in the northern ranges and from the heat in the southern ranges.

No Tortoises or active/potentially active burrows were encountered during the field survey and no other signs (e.g. shells, bones, scutes, limbs, burrows, pallets, scats, egg shell fragments, tracks, courtship rings, drinking sites.) were found, which would indicate habitat or utilization of the Site. Mitigation has been included to ensure that should desert tortoise be encountered on the site during project activities, those activities will cease, and the Project Wildlife Biologist contacted for guidance.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)
Federal Status – none; State Status – Species of Special Concern
Distribution – yearlong resident in open, dry grassland and desert habitats, and in grass, forb and open shrub stages of pinyon-juniper and ponderosa pine habitats.
Habitat – feed on small insects, small mammals, reptiles, birds, and carrion. Use rodent or other burrows for roosting and nesting. When burrows are scarce, may nest in pipes, culverts, nest boxes, and other protected "burrows".

No Burrowing Owls, other Raptors or active/potentially active burrows or nests were encountered during the field survey, and no other signs (e.g. shells, bones, or burrows, tracks,) were found, which would indicate no habitat or utilization of the site. In addition, no pipes, culverts, nest boxes or other protected "burrows" were located on site, and no rodent or small animal burrows were located. A thorough pedestrian review was completed on the Site and within a 500-foot Buffer area, in addition to transects of the site, and no evidence of present or past use of Burrowing Owls were found. Mitigation has been included to require additional site surveys for burrowing owls and other birds prior to earth-moving activities within specified timeframes.

Mohave Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*)
Federal Status – None; State Status – Threatened.
Distribution – restricted to the Mojave Desert in San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Kern, and Inyo counties.
Habitat – open desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, and Joshua tree. Uses burrows at the base of shrubs for cover. Feeds in annual grasslands. Prefers sandy to gravelly soils.

No Mohave ground squirrels were encountered during the field survey and no burrows were located and no native shrubs remain on the site.

American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*)
Federal Status – None; State Status – Species of Special Concern
Distribution – Uncommon, permanent resident found throughout most of the State, except in the northern North Coast area.
Habitat – Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils.

No American badgers, dens, or other evidence of Badgers were found on site or within the zone of influence. In order to ensure there are no impacts to Badgers, mitigation has been included.

Desert Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis*)
Federal Status – None; State Status – Protected
Distribution – open desert, creosote bush flats and sand dunes. Majority of sightings in areas with less than twenty percent (<20%) vegetation cover.
Habitat – feed on rodents, rabbits, birds, reptiles, and insects. Use several dens throughout their home range, each with several entrances. Select birthing den in September and October, pups born in February or March, pups grown and leave to establish their own dens by October.

Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 460, identifies desert kit fox as a protected fur-bearing mammal. No desert kit fox or their dens were located on or within 100 meters of the project site. In order to ensure there are no impacts to desert kit fox, mitigation has been included.

Nesting Birds
The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended, protects migratory non-game native bird species. The California Fish and Game Code sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3513 protect all nesting birds, birds-of-prey, migratory non-game birds, their nests, and eggs. Mitigation has been required to ensure that no nesting birds are inhabiting the site.

Explanations:

a. **Less Than Significant Impact w/Mitigation Incorporated** – Site surveys were specifically conducted by Altec Land Planning. On August 3rd and 4th, 2020, which found no evidence of species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulation, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additionally, the biological assessment found the project site disturbed from historical agricultural use as early as 1952 and development of the Helendale Community Services District's office building in 1974. The site presently contain no native plant species due to this previous disturbance of the site. No sensitive habitats (e.g. wetlands, critical habitats for sensitive species, etc.) have been documented in the area and none were observed during the subject field investigations.

Some species are known to potentially be located within the area (Desert Kit Fox and American Badger), but the project site does support suitable habitat for nesting birds. Therefore, the project site should be surveyed immediately prior to any construction or grading activities on-site to determine the presence or non-presence of any sensitive species as well as implement specific measures for the burrowing owl already identified on-site. Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been included in order to ensure any impacts are less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

BIO 1. A preconstruction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist for the presence of American badger and Desert kit fox dens within 14 days prior to commencement of construction activities. The survey shall be conducted in areas of suitable habitat for American badger and Desert kit fox, which includes desert scrub and Joshua tree habitats. If potential dens are observed and avoidance is feasible, the following buffer distances shall be established prior to construction activities:

- **Desert kit fox or American badger potential den: 50 feet**
- **Desert kit fox or American badger active den: 100 feet**
- **Desert kit fox or American badger natal den: 500 feet**

If avoidance of the potential dens is not feasible, the following measures are recommended to avoid potential adverse effects to the American badger and desert kit fox:

- **If a qualified biologist determines that potential dens are inactive, the biologist shall excavate these dens by hand with a shovel and collapse them to prevent American badgers or desert kit foxes from re-using them during construction.**
- **If the qualified biologist determines that potential dens may be active, an onsite passive relocation program shall be implemented. This program shall consist of excluding American badgers or desert kit foxes from occupied burrows by installation of one-way doors at burrow entrances and monitoring of the burrow for seven days to confirm usage has been discontinued, and excavation and collapse of the burrow to prevent reoccupation. After the qualified biologist determines that American badgers and desert kit foxes have stopped using active dens within the project boundary, the dens shall be hand-excavated with a shovel and collapsed to prevent re-use during construction.**
- **During fencing and grading activities daily monitoring reports shall be prepared by the monitoring biologists. The biologist shall prepare a summary monitoring report documenting the effectiveness and practicality of the protection measures that are in place and making recommendations for modifying the measures to enhance species protection, as needed. The report shall also provide information on the overall activities conducted related to biological resources, including the Environmental Awareness**

Training and Education Program, clearance/pre-activity surveys, monitoring activities, and any observed special -status species, including injuries and fatalities. These monitoring reports shall be submitted to HCSD and relevant resource agencies as applicable on a monthly basis along with copies of all survey reports.

BIO 2. A Certified Wildlife Biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey of the impact areas to confirm presence/absence of burrowing owl individuals no more than 30 days prior to construction. The survey methodology will be consistent with the methods outlined in the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012). If no active breeding or wintering owls are identified, no further mitigation is required.

If burrowing owls are detected onsite, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented in accordance with the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012):

- **A Certified Wildlife Biologist shall be onsite during initial ground -disturbing activities in potential burrowing owl habitat.**
- **No ground-disturbing activities shall be permitted within a buffer no less than 200 meters (656 feet) from an active burrow, depending on the level of disturbance, unless otherwise authorized by CDFW. Occupied burrows will not be disturbed during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), unless a qualified biologist verifies through noninvasive methods that either: (1) the birds have not begun egg-laying and incubation; or (2) juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival.**

- **During the nonbreeding (winter) season (September 1 to January 31), ground-disturbing work can proceed near active burrows as long as the work occurs no closer than 50 meters (165 feet) from the burrow, depending on the level of disturbance, and the site is not directly affected by the project activity. A smaller buffer may be established in consultation with CDFW. If active winter burrows are found that would be directly affected by ground-disturbing activities, owls can be excluded from winter burrows according to recommendations made in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012).**
- **Burrowing owls shall not be excluded from burrows unless or until a Burrowing Owl Exclusion Plan is developed based on the recommendations made in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012). The plan shall include, at a minimum:**
- **Confirmation by site surveillance that the burrow(s) is empty of burrowing owls and other species**
- **Type of scope to be used and appropriate timing of scoping**
- **Occupancy factors to look for and what shall guide determination of vacancy and excavation timing**
- **Methods for burrow excavation**
- **Removal of other potential owl burrow surrogates or refugia onsite**
- **Methods for photographic documentation of the excavation and closure of the burrow,**
- **Monitoring of the site to evaluate success and, if needed, to implement remedial measures to prevent subsequent owl use to avoid take**
- **Methods for assuring the impacted site shall continually be made inhospitable to burrowing owls and fossorial mammals**
- **Compensatory mitigation for lost breeding and/or wintering habitat shall be implemented onsite or off-site through implementation of a Mitigation Land Management Plan based on the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012) guidance. The plan shall include the following components, at a minimum:**
- **Temporarily disturbed habitat on the project site shall be restored, if feasible, to pre-project conditions, including de-compacting soil and revegetation;**
- **Permanent impacts to nesting, occupied and satellite burrows and/or burrowing owl habitat shall be mitigated such that the habitat acreage, number of burrows and burrowing owl impacted are replaced based on a site-specific analysis which includes conservation of similar vegetation communities comparable to or better than that of the impact area, and with sufficiently large acreage, and presence of fossorial mammals;**
- **Mitigation land acreage shall not exceed the size of the project site;**
- **Permanently protect mitigation land through a conservation easement deeded to a nonprofit conservation organization or public agency with a conservation mission. If the project is located within the service area of a CDFW approved burrowing owl conservation bank, the project operator may purchase available burrowing owl conservation bank credits.**
- **Fund the maintenance and management of mitigation land through the establishment of a long-term funding mechanism such as an endowment.**
- **Mitigation lands shall be on, adjacent or proximate to the impact site where possible and where habitat is sufficient to support burrowing owls present.**

BIO 3. If project activities must occur during the avian nesting season (February to September), a survey for active nests must be conducted by a qualified biologist, one to two weeks prior to the activities. If active nests are identified and present onsite, clearing and construction within 50-250 feet of the nest, depending on the species involved (50 feet for common urban-adapted native birds and up to 250 feet for raptors), shall be postponed until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. Limits of construction to avoid a nest site shall be

established in the field by a qualified biologist with flagging and stakes or construct ion fencing. Construction personnel shall be instructed regarding the ecological sensitivity of the fenced area. If construction must occur within this buffer, it shall be conducted at the discretion of a qualified biological monitor to assure that indirect impacts to nesting birds are avoided.

BIO 4. If sensitive wildlife species such as the Desert Tortoise or the Mohave Ground Squirrel, Desert Kit Fox, or nesting birds are detected on the project site during future surveys or assessments or construction, all work on-site shall stop immediately and mitigation measures shall be required to reduce impact to a level of less than significant. Any proposed mitigation measures shall be determined by a Certified Wildlife Biologist and be approved by HCSD and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as applicable in accordance with typical best practices.

Additionally, because the biological survey is valid for one year for the above-mentioned species, except for the Burrowing Owls and Nesting Birds, the following mitigation measure has been included.

Mitigation Measure:

BIO 5. Should grading or construction commence after February 1st, 2021, a new biological survey shall be filed with the HCSD as a Biological Clearance Letter to determine the presence or absence of endangered species on the site. Said survey shall be filed with HCSD or designee prior to issuance of a grading permit. The survey shall be valid for a period of one year or as specifically delineated above.

b. **No Impact** - The project site is not located within any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

c. **No Impact** - The project site does not include any state or federally protected wetlands as protected under CEQA, Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code, or as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

d. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The project will not 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 since the site does not include disturbances to any sensitive areas. Additionally, the only identified wildlife corridors of special concern are located within the area of the Mojave River riparian corridor, which is located approximately 1,300 to 1,700 feet to the west of the project site. Also, Vista Road, scattered residential and AG uses separate the project site from the Mojave River.

e. **No Impact** – There are no native or protected plants located on the site due to the previous site disturbance. Therefore there is no conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance

f. **No Impact** -The plan will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan since there is no adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan in the project area or local region.

	Issues	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant*	*No Impact*
V.	**CULTURAL RESOURCES** - Would the project				
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5? (3; 28)	☐	☒	☐	☐
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? (3; Exhibits E & F)	☐	☒	☐	☐
c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries? (3; 4; 28)	☐	☒	☐	☐

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The proposed project is to allow for the development of a New Community Park to include a community center building, parking lot, grass play and picnic areas, and other potential amenities such as an amphitheater, splash pad, BMX track, skate park, and/or mini-golf on a portion of the 10.5+/- acre site. The site has significant disturbance from historical agricultural use, and development of the present Helendale CSD office building. Historical Agricultural use has disturbed the ground to an estimated depth of 18+/- inches and disturbing any potential cultural resources near the surface is not anticipated.

A review of projects submitted to the County of San Bernardino in the surrounding area, identified one (the Route 66 Market and Gas) located approximately 720 feet southeast of the site at 26426 National Trails Highway (APN 0467-101-12). The application included a letter from the South Central Coastal Information Center dated July 11, 2016, and a Cultural/Paleontological Resource Assessment dated December 27, 2017. No cultural or paleontological resources were located within one mile of the project site or on site.

Therefore, it is reasonable that none would be located on this project site. In addition, the New Community Park will not require grading below the 18+/- inches of disturbed ground. Mitigation measures are recommended in the event evidence of cultural resources are discovered.

Explanations:

a.-d. **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated** – It is reasonable that no cultural resources are located on the site, for the reasons noted above. Mitigation measures are recommended in the event evidence of cultural resources are discovered.

A Tribal consultation list and sacred lands file search have been requested of the Native American Heritage Commission. Once a list is received the interested area Tribes will be notified of the project per the AB52 process, which may result request(s) for tribal consultation, or amendment of the mitigation measures. Any such amendments will be made prior to the Board taking action on this project.

Mitigation Measures:

CUL 1. In the event that Tribal cultural resources are discovered during the project earth moving activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified archaeologist and appropriate local Tribe or Band shall assess the significance of such resources and shall meet and confer regarding the mitigation for such resources. If the owner and the Tribe or Band cannot agree on the significance or the mitigation for such resources, these issues shall be presented to the Helendale CSD General Manager for decision. The Helendale CSD shall make the determination based on the provisions of CEQA with respect to archaeological resources and shall take into account the religious beliefs, customs and practices of the Tribe or Band.

CUL 2. If significant Tribal cultural resources are discovered, for which a Treatment Plan must be prepared, the developer or qualified archaeologist shall contact the appropriate Tribe or Band for collaboration on Plan development.

CUL 3. If requested by a Tribe or Band, the developer or the qualified archaeologist shall, in good faith, consult with Tribal representatives on the discovery and its disposition (e.g. avoidance, preservation, return of artifacts to tribe, etc.).

CUL 4. In the event that fossils are discovered during the project development/construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified paleontologist shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the overall project may continue during this assessment period.

CUL 5. All earthmoving work in the immediate vicinity shall cease and County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 if human remains are encountered. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the State Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be contacted to determine the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD shall be contacted to make a determination regarding disposition of the remains. Work shall not resume until such time as the site has been cleared by the County Coroner or qualified archaeologist or Tribal representative.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
VI.	**ENERGY** - Would the project:				
a)	Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation? (3; 8; 27)	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? (3; 8; 27)	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENERGY

The project which is comprised of a New Community Park with a community center building, parking lot, grass play and picnic areas, and other potential amenities will be designed to comply with the latest energy code standards as required by the latest adopted building code.

Explanations:

a.-b. **Less than Significant Impact**. The project is proposed to use higher insulation values, higher efficiency lighting system(s), higher efficiency HVAC system(s), higher efficiency Water Heater(s), several higher Water Efficiency System(s) and may include solar energy generation, battery supply, additional electric vehicle charging stations and other energy saving opportunities depending upon available and future grants. Additionally, construction would be required to comply with the latest adopted California Building and Green Codes. Therefore, impacts to energy resources are considered less than significant.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
VI.	**GEOLOGY AND SOILS** - Would the project:				
a)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map Issued by the State Geologist	☐	☐	☒	☐

	for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42 (7)				
	ii. Strong seismic ground shaking? (7)	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? (7)	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iv. Landslides? (5)	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? (5; 7; 22)	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse? (5; 7)	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 181-B of the California Building Code (2013) creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property? (5; 8)	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? (15)	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Directly or Indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resources or site unique geological features (3)	☐	☐	☒	☐

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The project area is located in seismically active Southern California, a region that has experienced numerous earthquakes in the past. The Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zones Act specifies that an area termed an Earthquake Fault Zone is to be delineated if surrounding faults that are deemed sufficiently active or well defined after a review of seismic records and geological studies. Neither the community nor the project area is located within any Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zones.

The topography of Helendale varies from gently sloping to rolling hills and occasionally dissected by intermittent natural drainage courses (improved channels in Silver Lakes) to the Mojave River. The major environmental factors controlling stability of the steeper hillsides include precipitation, topography, geology, soils, vegetation, and man-made modifications to the natural topography. The subject site is gently sloping, decreasing in elevation from 2,460 feet above mean sea level at the southern portion of the site to 2,447 feet above mean sea level at the northeastern corner of the site. The site has been historically heavily disturbed by agricultural use for about 70 years.

Explanations:

a. **No Impact** - The proposal will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death as the project does not propose development anywhere where it is not already permitted.

i. **Less than Significant Impact** - There are no known or suspected fault traces located within the Helendale area. Additionally, it is not subject to the provisions of Alquist- Priolo Fault Zoning Act.

The project site is not within an Earthquake Fault Zone according to the California Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and Seismic Hazard Maps from the California Department of Conservation (See Exhibit 7). However, USGS Fault Maps (Exhibit 8) identify the nearest faults as shown below.

Fault	Location
Helendale-South Lockhart fault zone	2 miles northeast
Blake Ranch Fault	10 miles west
Mirage Valley fault zone	11 miles southwest
Kramer Hills fault zone	13 miles northwest
Lenwood-Lockhart fault zone	22 miles east
North Frontal Thrust System	22 miles southeast
Cleghorn Fault Zone	30 miles south
San Andreas Fault Zone	30 miles southwest

The project is the development of a New Community Park including a recreation center building, parking area, grass play and picnic areas, and other potential amenities. Construction will meet all seismic requirements of the latest adopted version of the California Building Code. Therefore, the impact due to rupture will be less than significant.

ii. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The project is located in an area with a high potential for severe ground-shaking. Regardless, construction of building(s) must comply with the latest adopted version of the California Building Code, which will ensure that the buildings would adequately resist the forces of an earthquake (8).

iii. **Less than Significant Impact** - Liquefaction is the loss of soil strength as a result of an increase in pore water pressure due to dynamic earthquake loading. Conditions for liquefaction to occur generally include relatively high water table (within 40 feet of the ground surface), low relative densities of the saturated soils, and a susceptibility of the soil to liquefy based on grain size. Research indicates that the groundwater varies from more than and less than a depth of 40'. Soils on the site are 169 – Victorville Sandy Loam and 171 – Villa Loamy Sand. Prior to construction a Soils or Geotechnical Report will be prepared; however, the soil sequence is predominantly in a relatively dense state, hence the potential for on-site liquefaction is considered less than significant, regardless the Soils or Geotechnical Report will be the ultimate decision making process.

iv. **No Impact** - The proposed project would not have any risks associated with landslides. Landslides are the downslope movement of geologic materials. The stability of slopes is related to a variety of factors, including the slope's steepness, the strength of geologic materials, and the characteristics of bedding planes, joints, faults, vegetation, surface water, and groundwater conditions. The project area is relatively flat terrain where landslides do not occur; therefore, impacts are considered less than significant with respect to seismic-related (or other) landslide hazards.

b. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, because the site has minimal slopes, lower stormwater velocities, and will include grass

and other vegetation. The proposed project includes a community center building, parking, grass play and picnic areas, and other park amenities on disturbed property. The project will utilize disturbed land which is currently used for park and recreation purposes which would reduce soil erosion by soils being fixed in place by vegetation.

c. **Less Than Significant Impact** - As previously noted, due to the plan areas insignificant slopes, soil characteristics, and low liquefaction susceptibility, the area is not considered unstable and should not become unstable as a result of this project.

d. **No Impact** - Typically, soils in Helendale have a low or very-low probability of expansive soils as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994). Additionally, pursuant to Chapter 18 of the 2010 California Building Code, new development occurring as a result of this project will be required to submit a geotechnical investigation report and any provision outlined in that document would be required by the County's Building Official.

e. **No Impact** - Since the project area is located in an industrially zoned area where Helendale CSD sewer is not currently available, a Percolation Report will be required to ensure that the site is capable of a proper On-Site Wastewater System in compliance with County and Regional Water Quality Control Board-Lahontan Region requirements.

f. **Less Than Significant Impact w/Mitigation Incorporated** - Helendale is in a potential resource rich area as far as paleontological resources are concerned. However, previous historical agricultural use of the site disturbed the ground to an estimated depth of 18+/- inches, disturbing and paleontological resources near the surface. Grading below 18+/- inches will not be required for this proposed project. In addition, a Letter from the South Central Coastal Information Center dated July 11, 2016, and a Cultural/Paleontological Resource Assessment dated December 27, 2017 for a project 720 feet southeast of this site found no paleontological resources within one mile.

Mitigation is recommended in the event evidence of paleontological resources is found during earth-moving operations.

Mitigation Measure:

GEO 1. **In the event that fossils are discovered during the project development/construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified paleontologist shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the overall project may continue during this assessment period.**

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
VII	**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS -** Would the project:				
a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? (3; 31)	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? (3; 31)	☐	☐	☒	☐

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Explanations:

a. **Less Than Significant Impact** – REFERENCES: SB COUNTY 2007 DEVELOPMENT CODE CHAPTER. 84.30 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION PLAN; AND GHG REDUCTION PLAN. With the passage of California Assembly Bill AB32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, jurisdictions are required to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. To comply with this legislation San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA was formerly SANBAG - San Bernardino Association of Governments) to conduct a Countywide GHG inventory and GHG Reduction Plan. With that process complete, the County of San Bernardino has adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to demonstrate how the County will reduce its GHG emissions in compliance with AB32. The CAP is not additional regulation created, in as much as the regulation to reduce GHG's already exists under CEQA, including Section 15064.4 Determining the Significance of Impacts from GHG Emissions. The CAP assists in streamlining the CEQA review by allowing developers to demonstrate that their projects are consistent with the CAP by demonstrating compliance through a screening table process that the County has developed along with SBCTA, thus not requiring the developer to conduct a complete GHG analysis on their own for CEQA processing. Absent of their own GHG analysis the developer is subject to the screening table process which allows the developer to choose any of a number of reduction measures through the Performance Standard PS-1 of reduction measures. For a project to meet the reduction goal through the screening tables, 45-points must be achieved. The applicant has submitted a GHG Emission screening table review form indicated that *80-points* are planned to be achieved. Since the project is consistent with the CAP, all GHG impacts, including cumulative, will be less than significant.

b. **Less Than Significant Impact** - No conflict would occur with any established plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purposes of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Refer to conformance measures specified in the above Section “a.”

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
VIII.	**HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -** Would the project:				
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? (1)	☐	☐	☒	☐
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? (1)	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? (1)	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? (7)	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area? (1; 4)	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? (7)	☐	☐	☒	☐
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires? (1; 4; 7)	☐	☐	☐	☒

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Explanations:

a-c & f **Less Than Significant Impact w/Mitigation Incorporated** - The proposed project poses a low probability of subjecting the public to health hazards since the project does not involve the use of hazardous substances or emit hazardous emissions, nor does it interfere with existing emergency/evacuation plans.

d, e, g **No Impact** - The project site is not identified on a list of hazardous materials sites and is not located in an airport land use plan or within the vicinity of any public or private airstrip that would be affected. It is also located in an area where the risk of wildland fires is not high due to the low density of vegetation.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
IX.	**HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -** Would the project:				
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality? (3; 16)	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede substantial groundwater management of the basin? (1; 3; 17; 22)	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: (16)	☐	☒	☐	☐
	i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
	ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iv) impede or redirect flood flows? (7, Panel 06071C5150J)	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? (7)	☐	☐	☒	☐
e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

The Helendale CSD provides domestic water to the project area. Their primary source of fresh water is groundwater extracted by numerous wells. This project proposes to develop a New Community Park which presently will utilize an existing well located on-site.

The project site and surrounding areas are subject to San Bernardino County requirements relating to flood control, and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to protect surface water from pollution. There is no off-site stormwater affecting the Site and the proposed new community park will provide stormwater retention by designing specific components to provide stormwater retention capacity such as, grass play and picnic areas, amphitheater area, splash pad, basic BMX track, skate park, and/or mini-golf on a portion of the 10.5+/- acre and specifically the depressed landscaping planter areas.

Overall, project related impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

Explanations:

a. **No Impact** - The project will not violate any water quality standards, wastewater discharge requirements or degrade surface and/or groundwater quality since the project is required to pay applicable fee's, and utilize on-site retention of storm water via v-swales, storm drain inlets, storm drainpipe, and Retention Basin(s). Additionally, no allowances are included in the proposal that will adversely affect existing standards and requirements.

b. **Less Than Significant Impact** - Presently the area is under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) by the existing four-(4) contracts is entitled to 85,800 acre-feet cumulative per year of supplemental water from the California Water Project (CWP or California Aqueduct), increasing another 4,000 acre-feet in January 2020 for future growth. The original 50,800 acre-feet entitlement of the CWP has been available for 50+ years and the MWA has purchased additional water transfers (first of several from Dudley Ranch) on March 26, 1996, which increased the entitlement by 25,000 acre-feet yearly. Only 7,257 acre-feet per year has been committed to the Morongo Basin, leaving 82,543 acre-feet available to provide "Supplement/Make Up Water" under MWA's jurisdiction in 2020. The water demand for the project is significantly less than a residential development. However, the project does create demand for the Helendale Community Services District (CSD) and as such may have to purchase Make Up Water if the district exceeds the free production allowance as stipulated in the Final Judgment to the Mojave Basin Area Adjudication entered January 10, 1996. However, this project is in accordance with the underlying industrial build out established by the General Plan and the needs of this project were subsequently planned for.

   Further, any new construction shall employ all water conservation measures outlined in the State Appliance Efficiency Standards as enforced by the County Building Division as part of obtaining a building permit for the development in addition to the water conservation measures required by the County, which includes drought tolerant landscaping, further reducing the water demand of new commercial development that occurs as a result of this proposal.

c. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area as there are no existing streams or rivers that traverse the area. No public storm drain system currently exists in the vicinity of the project. The project includes v-swales, storm drain inlets, storm drainpipe and Retention Basin(s) [infiltration basins], which will alleviate any negative impacts due to increased runoff. Lastly, all projects are required to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, including permits prior to grading permit issuance.

   Mitigation Measure:

   HYD 1 Prior to issuance of a grading permit the applicant shall obtain coverage under the statewide general NPDES permit for control of construction and post-construction related storm water in accordance with the requirements of the Small MS4 General Permit. In addition, the applicant shall:

- **Prepare a project specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as required in the NPDES permit and shall identify site-specific erosion and sediment control best management practices that will be implemented;**
- **The SWPPP shall be applicable to all areas of the project site including construction areas, access roads to and through the site, and staging and stockpile areas; and**
- **Temporary best management practices for all components of the project must be implemented until such time as permanent post-construction best management practices are in place and functioning.**

i.-iv. **Less Than significant Impact** - See "c" above. The project will not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted stormwater runoff since all development is required to retain post-development increased stormwater on-site, as well as may require and gain approval of a Hydrology Study and a Preliminary Water Quality Management Plan (37 & 38). Additionally, since the development as proposed is permitted by existing standards in the project area, approval of this New Community Park will not increase runoff water more than what would be currently permitted and would not impede or redirect current flows. Lastly, Title 16 requires permeable surfaces within all landscape area, and requires landscaping, which will replenish existing aquifers and reduce runoff.

d. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding as no flood hazards traverse the project area nor is the site subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow as there is no evidence suggesting potential for these hazards based upon types of localized soils and depth to the water table.

e. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The project will not conflict or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater plan. Presently the area is under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) which has numerous approved water resource management plans; Ground Water Management Plan (GWMP), Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP), Mojave Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), and Mojave Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP).

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
X.	**LAND USE AND PLANNING** - Would the project:				
a)	Physically divide an established community? (4)	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? (1; 2; 27)	☐	☐	☐	☒

LAND USE AND PLANNING

Explanations:

a. **No Impact** - The project will not disrupt or divide an established community since the project area is designated for industrial development, and a portion of the property contains the

Helendale CSD office building. Additionally, no development exists on the portion of project site to be developed with a New Community Park, and the proposed development will connect to existing improved roadways with existing curb and gutter.

b. **No Impact** - The project will not conflict with the General Plan's Land Use Plan or the Zoning Ordinance since proposal is in accordance with CI (Community Industrial) development standards and density requirements outlined in those documents, including an approximate density, off-street parking, land use, and other development code requirements, etc.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XI.	**MINERAL RESOURCES** - Would the project:				
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? (3)	☐	☐	☐	☒
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? (3)	☐	☐	☐	☒

MINERAL RESOURCES

Naturally occurring mineral resources within the County include sand, gravel, or stone deposits that are suitable as sources of concrete aggregate, located primarily along the Mojave River (3).

Explanations:

a. & b. **No Impact** - The project will not 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, because there are no identified locally important mineral resources on the project site. The underlying soils in the area could be recovered, but the project site has already been developed with a mix of uses providing services to the residents of the Silver Lakes and Helendale community. As such, the area has not been identified as a locally important mineral resource, and the project will have no impact.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XII.	**NOISE** - Would the project:				
a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? (1; 14; 23)	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 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? (1; 4)	☐	☐	☒	☐

NOISE

Explanations

a. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The project is not anticipated to substantially increase temporary or periodic ambient levels. The New Community Park facility is in a designated disadvantaged and

severely disadvantaged community to include an approximately 35,000+/- square foot community center building with a Gymnasium/Multi-purpose area with raised stage, Senior Center with small Central Kitchen, restroom with interior and exterior access capability, HCSD Park Offices, and exterior uses for potential amenities such as an amphitheater area with raised stage, "Splash Pad", small basic dirt BMX Track, exterior workout area, grass play and picnic areas, small skate park, and/or miniature golf on a portion of the 10.5+/- acre. Short-term construction noise and intermittent noise from various uses may increase noise levels above prior uses, residential uses in the surrounding area are minimal and distant and the exposure of persons to noise levels in excess of standards is less than significant.

b. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The project is not anticipated to generate excessive ground borne vibration or noise levels, as described in a. The surrounding properties are a mix of other governmental uses, railroad corridor, Manufacturing and Agricultural areas with scattered low density residential uses. However, due to the size of residential parcels and governmental uses in the surrounding area, the exposure of persons to noise levels in excess of standards is less than significant.

c. **No Impact** - The project site is not located in an airport land use plan or within the vicinity of any public or private airstrip that would be affected.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XIII.	**POPULATION AND HOUSING** - Would the project:				
a)	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? (4; 6; 11; 26; 27)	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? (4; 6)	☐	☐	☐	☒

POPULATION AND HOUSE

Explanations:

a. **No Impact** - The proposed project will not directly increase the population within Helendale as the current jobs-housing balance demonstrates a lack of jobs for the current population, therefore the population of Helendale will not increase.

b. **No Impact** - The proposed project will not displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing as no existing housing or areas currently designated for housing will be removed or reduced.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XIV.	**PUBLIC SERVICES**. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:*				
a)	Fire Protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Police Protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒

d)	Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e)	Other Public Facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

PUBLIC SERVICES

Explanations:

a.-e. **Less Than Significant/No Impact** - The proposed project may result in an increase in HCSD Parks services due to the construction of the New Community Park facilities, which may result in the need for increased budgets. However, the proposed project is not anticipated to have an impact on other public services (Fire, Police, School) and public facilities.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XV.	**RECREATION**				
a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RECREATION

The project is the development of a New Community Park on a partially developed parcel.

Explanations:

a. **No Impact** - The proposed project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities.

b. **Less than Significant Impact** - The proposed project is the development of a New Community Park Facility to serve the Helendale area. It is on a portion of a highly disturbed parcel, with the remainder developed with the Helendale CSD office building. The majority of impacts analyzed within the Initial Study are either no or less than significant. A few impacts are reduced to less than significant with the inclusion of mitigation measures.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XVI.	**TRANSPORTATION -** *Would the project result in*:				
a)	Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle lanes and pedestrian facilities? (11; 18)	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 Subdivision (b)? (11; 20)	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Substantially increase hazards due to geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? (11; 18)	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access? (4; 24)	☐	☐	☐	☒

TRANSPORTATION

Explanations:

a. - e. **No Impact** – The project is the development of a New Community Park on a partially developed site. The park will serve the Helendale community, and will not generate additional traffic, substantially increase hazards, or reduce emergency access to the community.

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
XVII.	**TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**				
a)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resource 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: (Exhibits E & F)	☐	☒	☐	☐
i)	Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii)	A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. (Exhibits E & F)	☐	☐	☒	☐

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

As noted in the Section V explanation, the project area has significant disturbance from historical agricultural use, and development of the current Helendale CSD office building. Agricultural use disturbed the ground to an estimated depth of 18+/- inches and disturbing any resources near the surface. It is not anticipated that development of the New Community Park will disturb the ground below that depth.

A review of projects submitted to the County of San Bernardino in the surrounding area, identified one (the Route 66 Market and Gas which Altec provided consulting services) located approximately 720 feet southeast of this site, at 26426 National Trails Highway. The application included a letter from the South Central Coastal Information Center dated July 11, 2016, and a Cultural/Paleontological Resource Assessment dated December 27, 2017. No cultural or paleontological resources were located within one mile or on site. Therefore, it is reasonable that none would be located on this project site.

Explanations:

A request for Tribal Consultation List and Sacred Lands File Search has been submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission. Once that information is received, consultation with the applicable tribes will be undertaken, as applicable.

a. & ii. **Less Than Significant Impact w/Mitigation Incorporated** – Based on the above information and analysis, it is not anticipated the project will cause substantial adverse change in

significant tribal cultural resources. Mitigation measures are included to address the discovery of any resources during construction activities.

Mitigation Measures:

TRI 1. In the event that Tribal cultural resources are discovered during the project earth moving activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified archaeologist and appropriate local Tribe or Band shall assess the significance of such resources and shall meet and confer regarding the mitigation for such resources. If the owner and the Tribe or Band cannot agree on the significance or the mitigation for such resources, these issues shall be presented to the Helendale CSD General Manager for decision. The Helendale CSD shall make the determination based on the provisions of CEQA with respect to archaeological resources and shall take into account the religious beliefs, customs and practices of the Tribe or Band.

TRI 2. If significant Tribal cultural resources are discovered, for which a Treatment Plan must be prepared, the developer or qualified archaeologist shall contact the appropriate Tribe or Band for collaboration on Plan development.

TRI 3. If requested by a Tribe or Band, the developer or the qualified archaeologist shall, in good faith, consult with Tribal representatives on the discovery and its disposition (e.g. avoidance, preservation, return of artifacts to tribe, etc.).

TRI 4. In the event that fossils are discovered during the project development/construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified paleontologist shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the overall project may continue during this assessment period.

TRI 5. All earthmoving work in the immediate vicinity shall cease and County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 if human remains are encountered. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the State Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be contacted to determine the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD shall be contacted to make a determination regarding disposition of the remains. Work shall not resume until such time as the site has been cleared by the County Coroner or qualified archaeologist or Tribal representative.

i. **No Impact** – The site does not meet the criteria to be listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register. Therefore, there is no impact.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XVIII.	**UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -** Would the project:				
a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? (3; 15; 25)	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years? (1; 3; 17; 22)	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? (3; 9; 25)	☐	☐	☒	☐

d)	Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals? (3; 25)	☐	☐	☒	☐
e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? (3)	☐	☐	☒	☐

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Explanations:

a. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The proposed project is the development of a New Community Park Facility to serve the Helendale area and will use some water, and this increase would create an additional demand on existing facilities, but a water well already exists on the Site. Wastewater will be processed through an on-site septic system, so no additional demand to the existing public sewer system will be created. Current facilities on the Site already uses other existing utilities, however capacity and distribution improvements may be needed to meet new peak demand scenarios, updated, or current expansion plans expedited if deemed necessary as a result of cumulative projects. However, the proposal itself will not immediately require the construction or expansion of water facilities as the development will pay associated development impact fees that are intended to fund the ongoing maintenance and expansion/construction of facilities as needed. Additionally, electrical power, natural gas, and telecommunication infrastructure are already available on site in conjunction with existing building uses and associated street improvements, and a project of this limited scope will not typically require new facilities. Therefore, since the project will not directly require the construction or expansion of water, wastewater treatment, electrical, natural gas, or communication facilities, this project will have a less than significant impact.

b. **Less Than Significant Impact** - Presently the area under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) by the existing four-(4) contracts is entitled to 85,800 acre-feet cumulative per year of supplemental water from the California Water Project (CWP or California Aqueduct), increasing another 4,000 acre-feet in January 2020. The original 50,800 acre-feet entitlement of the CWP has been available for 50+ years and the MWA has purchased additional water transfers (first of several from Dudley Ranch) on March 26, 1996, which increased the entitlement by 25,000 acre-feet yearly. Only 7,257 acre-feet per year has been committed to the Morongo Basin, leaving 82,543 acre-feet available to provide “Supplement/Make Up Water” under MWA’s jurisdiction in 2020. The water demand for the project is significantly less than a residential development. However, the project does create demand for the Helendale CSD Water services and as such may have to purchase Make Up Water if HCSD exceeds the free production allowance as stipulated in the Final Judgment to the Mojave Basin Area Adjudication entered January 10, 1996. However, this project is in accordance with the underlying industrial build out established by the General Plan and the needs of this project were subsequently planned for. Also, the applicant will need a will serve letter from HCSD as required by the following mitigation measure in order to ensure water can be served to the site as required by mitigation measure #15 as noted in Section X(b) in order to ensure water can be served to the site.

c. **Less Than Significant Impact** - Due to the extended distance to existing sewer services on the west side of the Mojave River and relatively low wastewater production, an On-Site Wastewater System will be designed and provided for the proposed project, therefore no additional demand to the existing public sewer system will be created..

d.-e. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The HCSD deposits trash at the Victorville Landfill, which is operated by the Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) of the San Bernardino County Public Works Department in accordance with a Waste Disposal Agreement between HCSD and the County. The Victorville Landfill currently operates on 67-acres of a total 491-acre property with a capacity of 1,180 tons per day. With a planned expansion, as summarized in a Joint Technical Document prepared by the SWMD, the overall capacity will raise to 3,000 tons per day by expanding to a 341-acre operation. With this planned expansion and daily acceptance capabilities, as well as the required construction waste management plan enforced during construction, the impacts of this project at total build out will be less than significant.

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

WILDFIRE

Explanations:

a. – d. The project is not located within or near a state responsibility area according to the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) map. Additionally, the Project Site has a low level of mass-loading of native and invasive vegetation for wildland fire potential to occur on the Site.

	Issues	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Less than Significant w/Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant***	***No Impact***
XIX.	**MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:**				
a)	Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? (1; 3; 12)	☐	☒	☐	☐
b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? (20; 25)	☐	☐	☒	☐

c)	Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? (1; 2; 27)	☐	☐	☐	☒

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Explanations:

a. **No Impact** - Since the Site already has building improvements and historically agricultural use since at least 1952, the project does not remove open space, does not include habitat for sensitive fish or wildlife species or threaten a plant or animal community, and because the site is primarily surrounded by a combination of disturbed vacant properties and industrial uses, this project will have no impact.

b. **Less Than Significant Impact** - The proposed project is the development of a New Community Park Facility to serve the Helendale area is not considered regionally significant pursuant to Section 15206 of the CEQA Guidelines. The San Bernardino County General Plan included an environmental impact report (EIR), which incorporates approved projects under construction and their impacts to the Community as a whole. While the subject site was not individually studied, the impacts of all existing zoned and existing uses were included, and appropriate mitigation and implementation measures are included in the General Plan. Therefore, due to the proposed New Community Park Facility the proposals impacts are individually limited, but cumulatively considerably less than significant.

c. **No Impact** - As previously noted earlier in this document, the project does not create hazardous waste or remove any open space. Additionally, the proposal will be developed in accordance with the existing land use allowances, density, and development standards, which have been adopted in order to ensure development does not create environmental effects with substantial adverse impacts to human beings.

XVII. EARLIER ANALYSES.

Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, one or more effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063 (c)(3)(D). In this case a discussion identifies the following:

a) **Earlier analyses used**. Earlier analyses are identified and stated where they are available for review.

b) **Impacts adequately addressed**. Effects from the above checklist that were identified to be within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards are noted with a statement whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

c) **Mitigation measures**. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated", describe the mitigation measures which are incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project are described.

Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21087.
Reference: Public Resources Code Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21083, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21151; Sundstrum v. County of Mendocino, 202 CalApp 3d 296 (1988); Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors, 222 CalApp 3d 1337 (1990.

GENERAL REFERENCES

1. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan Land Use Element.
2. San Bernardino County Land Use Plan/General Plan Land Use Zoning Districts, Map EH22A Helendale.
3. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan Conservation Element.
4. Aerial photos of Helendale, Google Earth.
5. United States Soil Conservation Service *Soil Survey of San Bernardino County*, California.
6. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan 2013-2021 Housing Element.
7. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan Safety Element.
8. Latest adopted version of the California Building Code.
9. Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community Number 06071C5150J, Effective Date September 2, 2016, Federal Emergency Management Agency.
10. Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District CEQA Guidelines, August 2016.
11. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan Circulation Element.
12. United States Bureau of Land Management California Desert Conservation Area, 1988.
13. County of San Bernardino 2007 Development Code, Chapter 88.01, *Plant Protection and Management*, Section 88.01.040, *Regulated Trees and Plants and General Permit*.
14. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan Noise Element.
15. County of San Bernardino 2007 Development Code, Chapter 83.090.050, *Infrastructure Improvement Standards – Desert Region*.
16. County of San Bernardino Public Works – Transportation Design Standards.
17. County of San Bernardino 2007 Development Code, Chapter 83.10, *Landscape Standards*.
18. County of San Bernardino Public Works – Transportation Design Standards.
19. 2006 San Bernardino County Important Farmland Map, California Department of Conservation.
20. California Environmental Quality Act.
21. Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan (Western Mojave Desert Non-attainment area); June 9, 2008.
22. County of San Bernardino 2007 Development Code, Chapter 83.10, *Landscape Standards*.
23. County of San Bernardino 2007 Development Code, Section 83.01.080, *Noise*.
24. San Bernardino County Fire Department Regulations.
25. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report.
26. Southern California Association of Governments 5th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment Allocation Plan 1/1/2014 - 10/1/2021, October 2012.
27. County of San Bernardino 2007 Development Code.
28. DOC (California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection) A Guide to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, Table A-28

29. MDAQMD (Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District) 2009, California Environment al Quality Act and Federal Conformity Guidelines
30. Mojave Water Agency 2015 Urban Water Management Plan and Environmental Impact Report
31. San Bernardino County Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

EXHIBITS

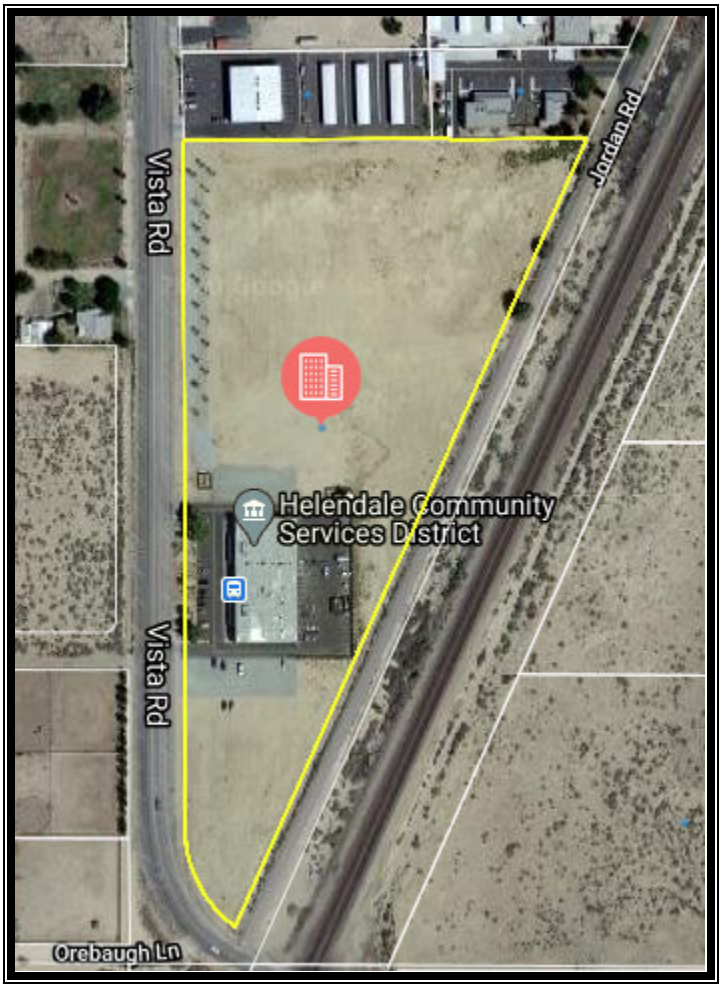
A. Regional Aerial
B. Site Aerial and APN Map
C. USGS Quad Sheet - Helendale
D. Earthquake Faults
E. South Central Coastal Information Center records search dated July 11, 2016
F. Cultural/Paleontological Resource Assessment for the Route 66 Market and Gas Project (APN 0467-101-12) located at 26426 National Trails Highway, Helendale, County of San Bernardino, California, by Duke CRM dated December 27, 2017
G. Biological Assessment Clearance Letter
H. Phase 1 Environmental Assessment Update Letter
I. Western Joshua Tree CESA Petition & DFW's Evaluation of Petition Map
J. Screening Table for Green House Gas Reduction Measures
K. Potential and Conceptual Outdoor Uses

EXHIBIT A

Regional Aerial and Freeway Map

EXHIBIT B

Site Aerial and APN Map



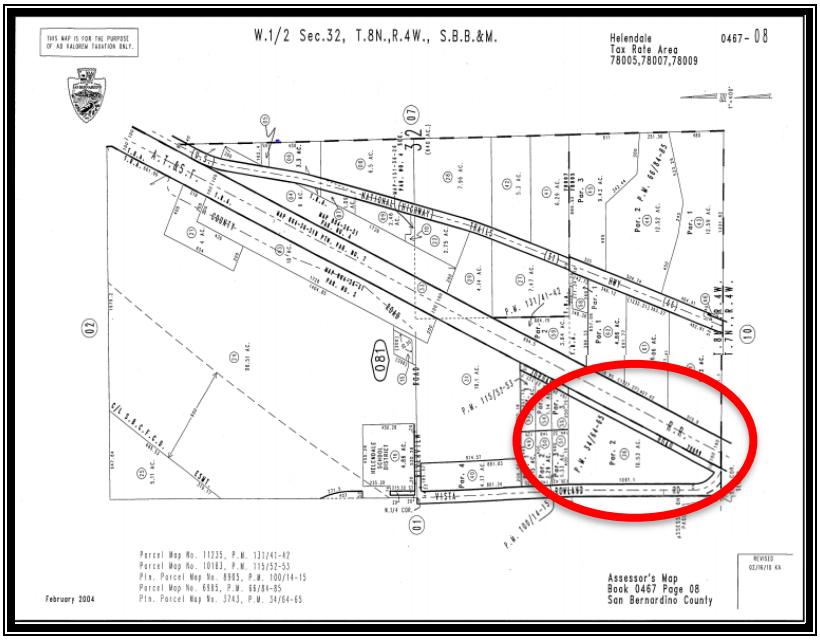


EXHIBIT C

USGS Quad Sheet – Helendale

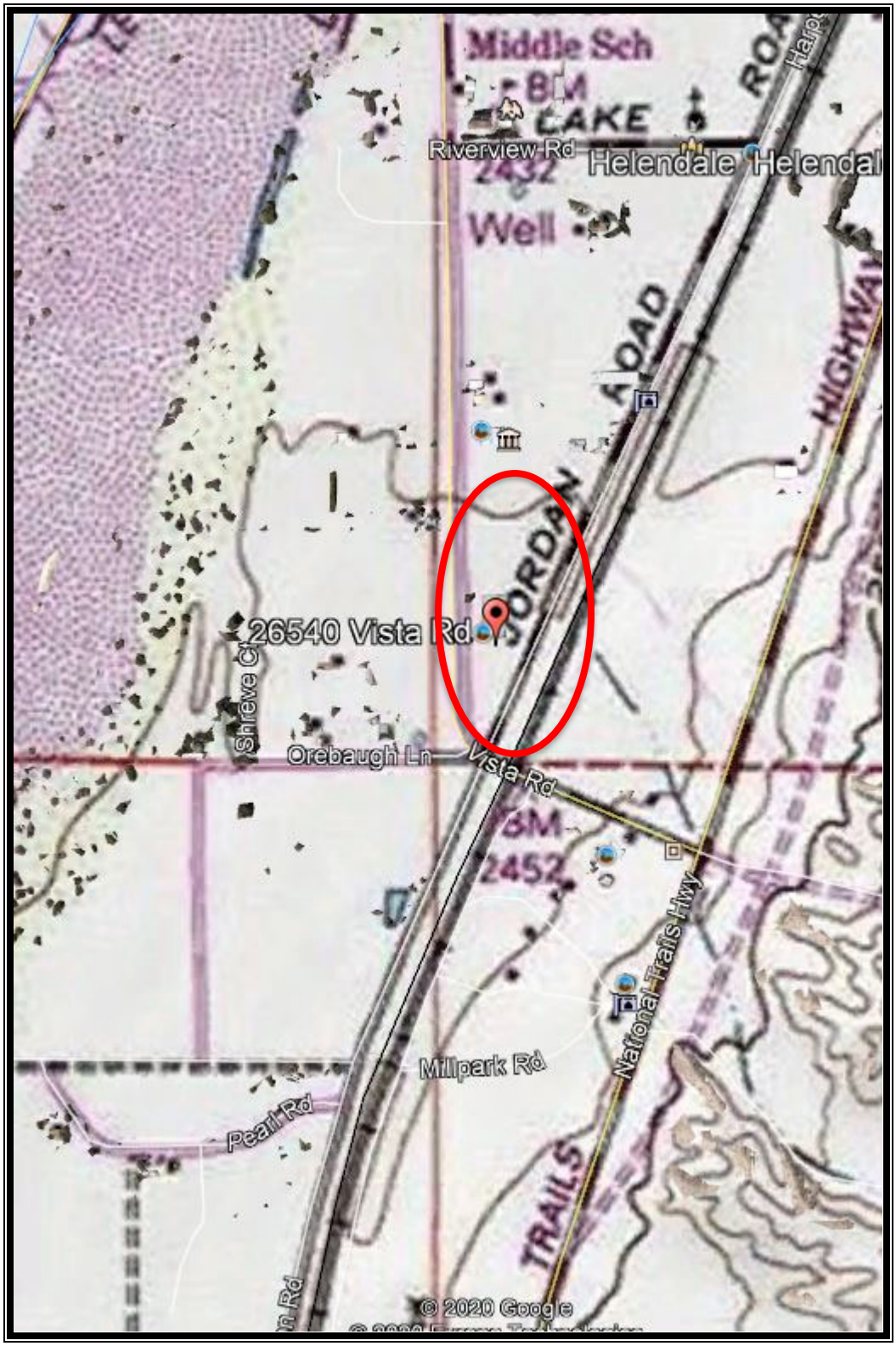


EXHIBIT D

Earthquake Faults - (Helendale Fault 2 miles Northeast is nearest)
Helendale-South Lockhart fault zone, South Lockhart section

EXHIBIT E

Soils Map - United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

169 – Victorville Sandy Loam (majority of Site)
171 – Villa Loamy Sand

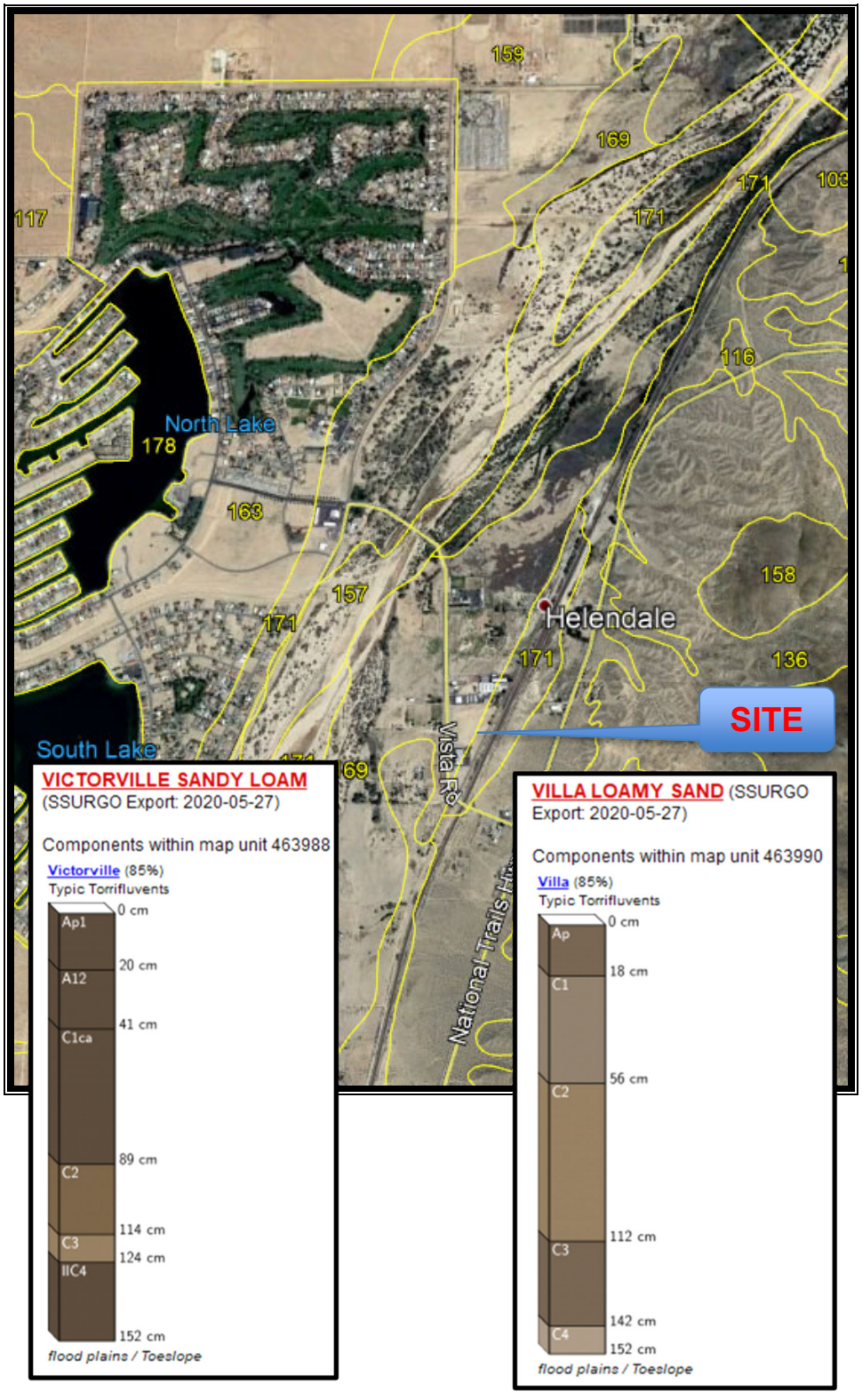


EXHIBIT F

FEMA Flood Map and Information

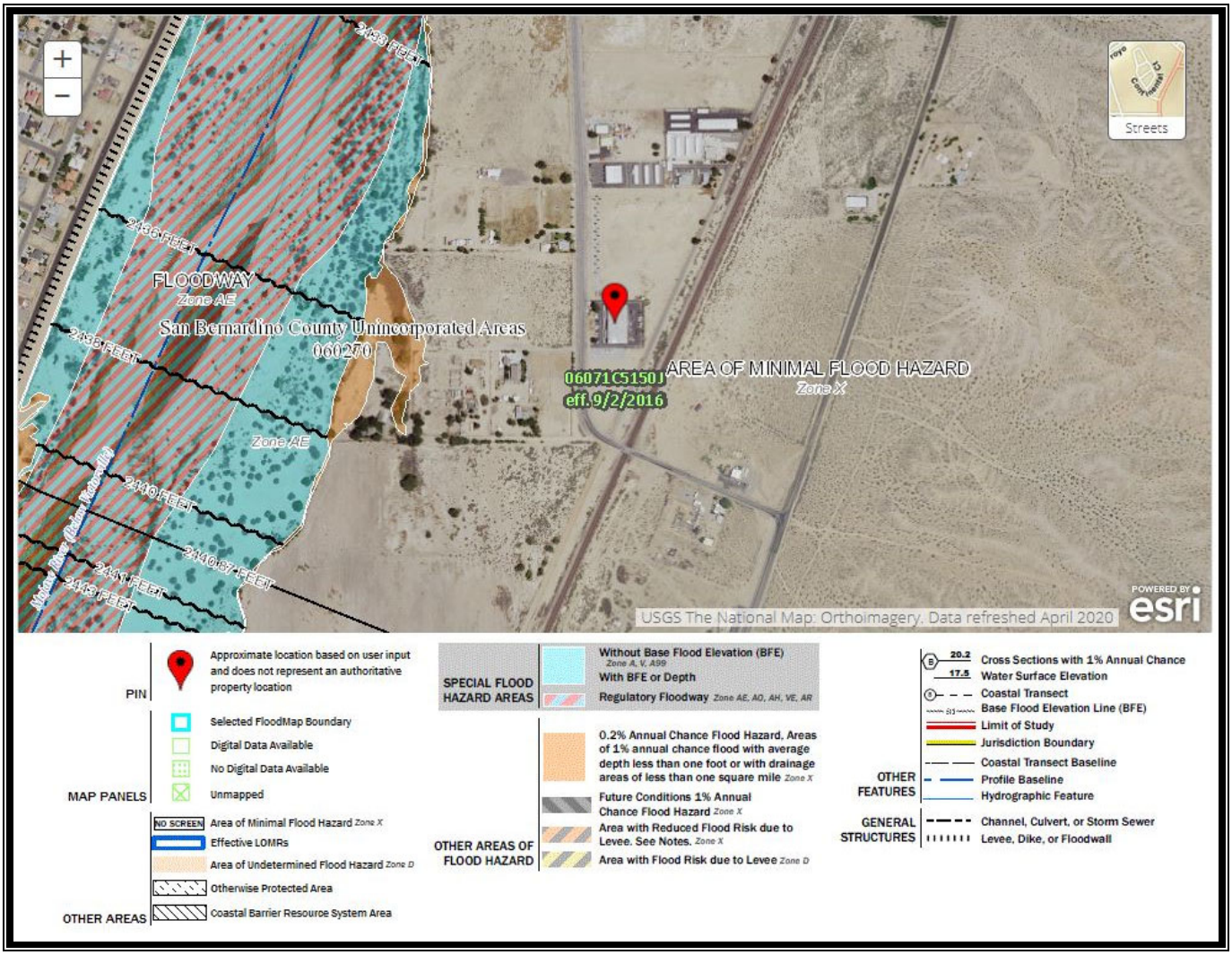


EXHIBIT G

Western Joshua Tree CESA Petition & DFW's Evaluation of Petition Map

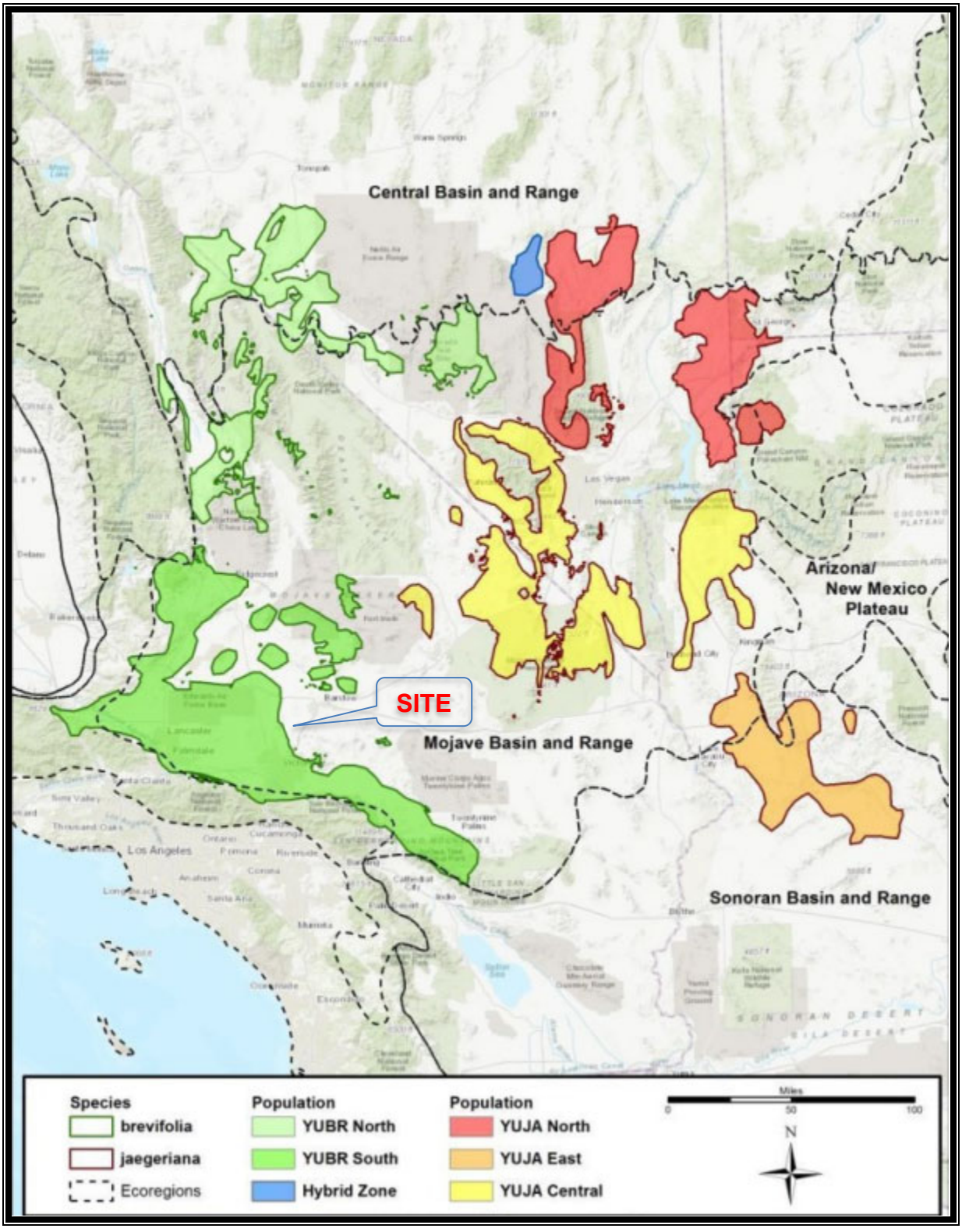


EXHIBIT H

South Central Coastal Information Center records search dated July 11, 2016.

South Central Coastal Information Center
California State University, Fullerton
Department of Anthropology MH-426
800 North State College Boulevard
Fullerton, CA 92834-6846
657.278.5395
California Historical Resources Information System
Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura and San Bernardino Counties
sccic@fullerton.edu

7/11/2016 SCCIC File #: 16612.2711

Joe Mazariegos
PA Design Associates, Inc
12371 Antelope Dr
Victorville CA 92392

Re: Route 66 Gas Station, Helendale CA

The South Central Coastal Information Center received your records search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Helendale, CA USGS 7.5' quadrangle. The following summary reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a ½-mile radius. The search includes a review of all recorded archaeological and built-environment resources as well as a review of cultural resource reports on file. In addition, the California Points of Historical Interest (SPHI), the California Historical Landmarks (SHL), the California Register of Historical Resources (CAL REG), the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California State Historic Properties Directory (HPD) listings were reviewed for the above referenced project site. Due to the sensitive nature of cultural resources, archaeological site locations are not released.

RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS SUMMARY

Archaeological Resources	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 0
Built-Environment Resources	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 0
Reports and Studies	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 3
OHP Historic Properties Directory (HPD)	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 0
California Points of Historical Interest (SPHI)	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 0
California Historical Landmarks (SHL)	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 0
California Register of Historical Resources (CAL REG)	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 0
National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)	Within project area: 0 Within project radius: 0

HISTORIC MAP REVIEW – Victorville, CA (1934) USGS 15': indicated that in 1934, there was little to no visible development within the project site; however, there were five roads and several buildings within the vicinity of the project area. The Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad ran to the east of the project site and the Mojave River ran to the west of the project site. There was one school visible within the vicinity of the project area. Historic place names nearby included Las Cruces Ranch.

RECOMMENDATIONS

According to our records, the project site has not been subjected to any previous studies and the cultural resource sensitivity of the project site is unknown. However, there is the potential for the discovery of prehistoric and historic cultural resources within the project boundaries. Agricultural remains, foundations, trails, hearths, trash dumps, privies, changes in soil colorations, human or animal bone, pottery, chipped or shaped stone, etc. are all potential indications of an archaeological site. Therefore, customary caution and a halt-work condition should be in place for any ground-disturbing activities. In the event that any evidence of cultural resources is discovered, all work within the vicinity of the find should stop until a qualified archaeological consultant can assess the find and make recommendations. Additionally, the Native American Heritage Commission should be consulted to identify if any additional traditional cultural properties or other sacred sites are known to be in the area.

For your convenience, you may find a professional consultant* at www.chrisinfo.org. Any resulting reports by the qualified consultant should be submitted to the South Central Coastal Information Center as soon as possible.

*The SCCIC does not endorse any particular consultant and makes no claims about the qualifications of any person listed. Each consultant on this list self-reports that they meet current professional standards.

If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at 657.278.5395 Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the SCCIC number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Thank you for using the California Historical Resources Information System,

Stacy St. James
2016.07.29 13:33:14 -07'00'

Lindsey Noyes
Lead Staff Researcher

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the California Historical Resources

Information System (CHRIS) Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, state, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. Recommendations made by IC coordinators or their staff regarding the interpretation and application of this information are advisory only. Such recommendations do not necessarily represent the evaluation or opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer in carrying out the OHP's regulatory authority under federal and state law.

EXHIBIT I

**Cultural/Paleontological Resource Assessment
for the Route 66 Market and Gas Project (APN 0467-101-12)
located at 26426 National Trails Highway, Helendale,
County of San Bernardino, California, by Duke CRM dated December 27, 2017.**

DUKE CRM

18 Technology Drive, Suite 103
Irvine, California 92618
949-356-6660
www.dukecrm.com

December 27, 2017

Randy Arnold, President
RCA Associates, Inc.
15555 Main St. #D4-235
Hesperia, CA 92345

Subject: Cultural/Paleontological Resource Assessment for the Route 66 Market and Gas Project (APN 0467-101-12), Located at 26426 National Trails Highway, Helendale, County of San Bernardino, California (DUKE C R M Project C-0237)

Dear Mr. Arnold;

Duke Cultural Resources Management, LLC (DUKE C R M) is under contract to perform a cultural resources assessment of the proposed Route 66 Market and Gas Project (Project), located at 26426 National Trails Highway in Helendale, San Bernardino County, California. This report has been prepared to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Project is situated at the southwest corner of National Trails Highway and Vista Road, in the unincorporated community of Helendale in Section 5, Township 7 North, Range 4 West, Lot 2 of San Bernardino County, as depicted on the USGS *Helendale, California* 7.5" quadrangle map (see Attachment 1 for Project Vicinity, Location, and Aerial maps). The Project is comprised of 1.72 acres of vacant land, as shown on Book 467, page 10 in the Office of the County Recorder of San Bernardino County. The Project proposes development of a gas station with a total of six pumps; a 4,998 square foot convenience store/fast food facility with a Type 21 liquor license, tobacco, and propane sales; and associated entrances, parking, lighting, sidewalks, signage, and landscaping.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Record Search

A records search was performed at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) on October 9, 2017, by Archaeologist Matthew Stever, M.A., RPA. The results of the records search indicate that the Project has not been previously surveyed. There have been nine cultural resources studies conducted within a one-mile radius of the Project. They include three linear surveys, five small surveys (approximately 10 acres or less), and one large survey (more than 50 acres). In total, less than 20% of the one mile radius has been surveyed for cultural resources. Table 1 presents eight of the nine cultural resource studies within one mile of the Project. The report omitted from the table was single power pole replacement reports with negative results approximately .8 miles north of the project.

The results of the record search indicate there are no cultural resources recorded within the Project. However, there are four resources within one mile of the Project. CA-SBR-3033/H includes the (prehistoric) Old Mojave Trail or Road, and historic Old Government Road, .5 miles west of the project. It is unknown if CA-SBR-3033/H has been evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR). CA-SBR-6693H, is located west of the Project and it is the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (AT&SF) Railroad. Due to its length, various segments of the AT&SF has been evaluated for listing on the NRHP/CRHR and have been ineligible, while other segments have been found eligible for listing. It is unknown if the segment closest to the Project has been evaluated.

Table 1. Cultural Resource Studies within One Mile of the Project

Report No.	Year	Author	Affiliation	Title	Resources reported on in current Project
SB-00078	1967	Walker, Clifford E.	San Bernardino County Museum Association	Life and Adventure Along the Mojave River Trail	36-003033
SB-01327	1982	Sutton, Mark	Author	M.J. Baxter Explosives Storage Site	None
SB-01734	1987	Shackley, Steven, et al.	Dames and Moore	Cultural and Paleontological Resources Survey: US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project, Rialto, California to Las Vegas, Nevada.	None
SB-01758	1988	De Munck, Victor	Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Associates	Environmental Impact Evaluation: A Cultural Resource Assessment of 11.70 Acres of Land Designated as Assessor's Parcel No. 467-142-12 in Vicinity of Helendale, San Bernardino County, California	None
SB-04247	1997	Lerch, Michael	M. K. Lerch and Associates	Cultural Resources Inventory & Evaluation of the P&V Enterprises Phase V Land Exchange, Barstow, San Bernardino County, CA.	36-008702
SB-05055	1998	Lerch, Michael	M.K. Lerch and Associates	Reach 1B, 2, 3A Addendum: Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation of the Mojave River Pipeline Project, Phelan to Minneola, San Bernardino County, California	None
SB-5433	2006	Jordan, Stacey	Jones & Stokes	Archaeological Survey Report for the Southern California Edison Company New Circuit DSP-Daylight O/O Helendale Substation, San Bernardino County, California. (WO#6073-5321, AI36-5312)	None
SB-07283	2012	Underbrink, Susan	TRC	Class III Cultural Resource Survey for BNSF Railway 2013 Bridge Renewal Project, San Bernardino County, CA	None

Site CA-SBR-8702 was recorded as a stone circle and associated surface artifacts, and is located approximately .8 miles south of the Project. CA-SBR-8702 was determined to not be eligible for listing upon the NRHP. P-1518-2, located approximately one mile north of the project, was recorded as a prehistoric village site in 1939, and reported destroyed or built over by 1973, and could not be relocated in 2002 (Estes 2002). The recording of this site has been inconsistent and therefore the actual location is largely unknown.

Though outside the one mile radius, nine prehistoric resources are located just over one mile to the south near CA-SBR-8702. These sites consist primarily of lithic scatters, though rock cairns and a trail is present. None of these resources is listed on the NRHP or CRHR, nor are they listed in the Historic Properties Directory for San Bernardino County.

While not listed at the SCCIC as a resource upon the Helendale Quadrangle Map, the Project abuts CA-SBR-2910H, the National Old Trails Highway/U.S. Highway 66/Route 66. This famous road runs nearly 300 miles through California (Bischoff 2005) and is both eligible for and listed on, the NRHP and CRHR (Roland et al. 2011). A letter report dated July, 2016, evaluates the section of National Trails Highway immediately north of the Project due to the repair of washouts along the roadway (Hatheway 2016) and summarizes three previous NRHP and CRHR eligibility determinations have been made for CA-SBR-2910H. See Table 2 below for an accounting of resources within one mile.

Table 2: Cultural Resources Within One Mile of Project

Primary #	Description	Distance
P-1518-2	Prehistoric Village Site	~1-mile, north
CA-SBR-2910H	National Trails Highway/Route 66	Adjacent, east

Primary #	Description	Distance
CA-SBR-3033/H	Old Mojave Trail/Old Government Road	~1/2-mile, west
CA-SBR-6693H	Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (AT&SF) Railroad	~1/4-mile, west
CA-SBR-8702	Prehistoric Stone Circle and Associated Surface Artifacts	~3/4 mile, south

Historic Aerial Photographs

A review of historic aerial photographs, dating to 1952, show the soils within the Project have been disturbed, likely by vegetation control disking or grubbing. A small structure appears on the property in the 1968 photograph at the same time as, and likely associated with, the buildings immediately west of the Project (Historicaerials.com 2017). This is likely the shed that is currently standing on the property. No other structures or features are noted on the property.

Field Survey

A 10 meter transect pedestrian survey of the Project (Figures 1-4 below) was conducted by Mr. Stever on October 13, 2017. The topography is flat, and soils are characterized as Cajon Gravelly Sand, alluvium derived from granitic parent material (USDA-NRCS 2017). Vegetation consisted primarily of scrub juniper, creosote bush, and non-native grasses. The Project appears to have been at least surficially disturbed by vegetation control and/or grading, as well as modern refuse dumping. Surface visibility was excellent at approximately 85%. One resource, seen in historic aerial photographs, was confirmed to be a small shed enclosing a water tank, and was designated site C-0237-001H (see Historic Resource Evaluation section below). No other archaeological or paleontological resources were observed on the surface.

Figure 1: Project overview.

Figure 2: Project overview.

Figure 3: Project overview.

Figure 4: Project overview.

Buried Sites Testing Program

At the request of the lead agency, on the recommendation of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, a limited excavation program was conducted to determine if there are any buried archaeological sites within the project. Six 50 cm by 50 cm Shovel Test Pits (STPs) and six auger holes in the bottom of each STP were excavated on December 12 and 13, 2017 by Field Director Nicholas F. Hearth, M.A., RPA and Archaeologist Mathew Stever M.A, RPA. The purpose of the excavations was to test for the presence or absence of archaeological material, to examine soil stratigraphy and past depositional environments, and to aid in assessing the archaeological sensitivity of the Project. Three STPs and auger locations were based on the Project plan and assumed that the locations of the in-ground fuel tanks, septic vault/drain field, and the physical building footprint would be the areas of deepest earth moving activity. Additionally, three arbitrary locations within proposed parking lot/ paved areas were chosen to ensure adequate coverage of the parcel. The locations of the STPs were recorded using a Spectra Precision Mobile Mapper 20 GPS unit with sub-meter post-processing accuracy.

The STPs were manually excavated using a shovel at each of the six locations (Figure 5 below) and all soils were screened through ¼ inch mesh. Each STP was given a consecutive number (STP's 1-6), and each was 50cm x 50 cm in size to a maximum of 1 meter deep. The STPs were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels, and all levels were excavated using the highest corner of the STP as an arbitrary datum to record depth below ground surface. No cultural artifacts or features were encountered in the STPs.

Additionally, due to the estimated depths of Project excavation, a three inch diameter, manually operated auger was used to bore a hole in the bottom of each STP (Figure 6 below), and attempted to reach a depth of 10 ft. below ground surface. The locations of the STPs and augers correlate, so Auger 1 was placed in the bottom of STP 1. A shovel was used to prepare the bottom of each STP for auguring, creating a flat spot for the soil extraction bucket, which was necessary due to the extremely dry, loose nature of the sand falling out of the auger head. The corner of each STP selected for auguring was soaked with water to prevent loose sand from refilling the auger hole. All soil from auguring was screened through ¼" mesh. When a potential impasse was reached with the sand auger head, a dig bar was used to attempt to break up the obstruction, and a standard soil auger head was used to attempt to remove the obstruction before impasse was determined.

Figure 5: DUKE CRM personnel excavating STP-6.

Figure 6: DUKE CRM personnel excavating AUG-4.

The soil strata profile of each STP was recorded using USDA soil texture descriptions and Munsell colors to gain an understanding of the geomorphology of the Project. Soils were observed during auguring, and any changes were recorded. The STPs and augers were backfilled after excavation was complete and the data were completely recorded. During backfilling, care was taken to not damage the sidewalls. No archaeological or paleontological materials were discovered in any of the STP's or auger holes. Table 2 below presents the locations and depths of the STPs and auguring.

Table 2: STP/Auger Locations, Depths, and Results

STP/ Auger	UTM Location(E/N)	STP Depth (cmbs)	Auger Depth (cmbs)	Soils/Stratigraphy	Cultural Material Present
1	470041/3843377	90	110	Fill soils from surface to 22 cm. A1, 22-29cmbs, medium silty sand with cobbles. 29-90cmbs, fine silty sand with cobbles	No
2	470022/3843344	90	160	Disturbed H1, surface to 45cmbs, , context bad. H2, 45-90cmbs, medium-fine sandy silt with 20% gravels and 5% cobbles	No
3	469997/3843315	75	133	H1, surface to 25cmbs, coarse sandy silt, 10% gravels H2, 25-47cmbs fine silty sand, 3% gravels. H3, 47-75cmbs, coarse silty sand, 3% gravels.	No
4	470045/3843356	90	190	H1, Surface to 50cmbs, Medium coarse sand with minor silt. 20% gravels, cobbles increasing with depth and poorly developed silt lensing. H2, 50-90cmbs, Medium sand with trace silt and 20% gravels and cobbles	No
5	470058/3843333	90	200	H1, Surface to 34cmbs, medium silty sand, 20% gravel and cobbles, and with poorly developed silt lensing and a weak transition to H2. H2, 34-90cmbs, Medium sand with 20% gravel and cobbles, massive.	No
6	470045/3843310	63	133	H1, Surface to 50cmbs, silty sand with grit and 10% gravel and cobbles. Poorly defined lensing of gravels. H2, 50-63cmbs, fine silty sand with same contents as H1.	No

*cm bs = centimeters below ground surface

Historic Resource Evaluation

The historic shed discovered on-site was given a temporary site number: C-0237-001H. This resource was recorded and evaluated for the CRHR/NRHP by Dana Supernowicz, M.A. RPA. Site C-0237-001H consists of a single-story, wood or stick-frame, gabled roof shed used to shelter a well and pump, see Figures 7 and 8 below. The structure measures approximately 8' x 10' with a 9' high roof plate. The shed rests on a poured concrete footing or stem wall foundation. Besides the simple rectangular shape or massing and gable roof clad with wood sheathing (presumably the shed had a tin or asphalt shingle roof), other character defining features include a small gable vent at the apex or ridgeline of the roof, v-groove wood exterior wall cladding, a wooden paneled door, and a simple rectangular window on one gable end, lacking the window frame and glass. The interior of the shed features a galvanized steel water tank and other miscellaneous material related to the tank. The interior walls are not sheathed and appear to be 1" x 6" framing. Immediately adjacent to the shed is a chain link fence and a remodeled circa 1960s California Ranch style residence beyond the fence.

Figure 7: C-0237-001H overview southwest.

Figure 8: C-0237-001H overview northwest.

Despite the fact that the subject property retains relatively good integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the subject property does not appear to be eligible for the NRHP nor CRHR. This finding is based largely upon the property's overall lack of association with the National Trails Highway during its primary period of use, and, ultimately, significance to the motoring public. Nor does the property have direct association with the Small Tracts Act of 1938. Although the property was once likely associated with 15401 Vista Road, this association is diminished, due to a parcel split and a variety of contemporary improvements to the Vista Road property. The pump house shed likely served the Vista

Road property at one time, but was subsequently abandoned. In regards to NRHP Criterion D and CRHR Criterion 4, no evidence was found to support a finding that the property contains archaeological data of significance. Please see Attachment 3 for the complete evaluation on California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Forms.

PALEONTOLOGY

The geology in the vicinity of the Project has been mapped by Dibblee and Minch (2008) at a scale of 1:62,500. A review of this map indicated that the Project is located on surficial sediments (*Qa*) of the Holocene Epoch (11,700 years ago to today), specifically alluvial silt, sand, and gravel of valley areas derived from adjacent higher ground (Dibblee and Minch 2008). Because of their young age, Holocene-age deposits have not accumulated enough biological material to contain significant paleontological resources, and are assigned a low sensitivity at the surface. However, Holocene-age deposits can transition with depth into older deposits of the Pleistocene Epoch (2.5 million years ago to 11,700 years ago), which would have a higher sensitivity. A records search by the Division of Earth Sciences of the San Bernardino County Museum revealed no documented fossil localities within the Project boundaries or within several miles in any direction (Gilbert 2017). Paleontologist Benjamin Scherzer, M.S., also performed a search of the online collections at the University of California Museum of Paleontology, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the online Paleobiology Database, and other published literature for fossil localities from Pleistocene-age deposits in or near (within 5 miles) the Project. This search produced no fossil localities within the Project, but did produce one fossil locality near the Project which has produced remains of rabbit and hare (*Sylvilagus* sp., *Lepus* sp.), rodent (*Perognathus* sp., *Dipodomys* sp., *Thomomys* sp., *Neotoma* sp.), horned lizard (*Phrynosoma* sp.), and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) (Jefferson 1989). The surficial sediments (*Qa*) in the Project have a low sensitivity in the shallower levels, but due to the potential to transition at depth into fossiliferous Pleistocene deposits, they are assigned a high sensitivity at depth.

Impacts Analysis and Recommendations

DUKE CRM evaluated the proposed Project for impacts to cultural and paleontological resources according to CEQA. Based on a lack of previously recorded prehistoric archaeological sites in the one mile vicinity, the disturbed nature of the soils from vegetation control, and negative results from field survey and buried sites testing, the likelihood of encountering prehistoric archaeological resources is low. C-0237-001H, a historic shed, is likely associated with the residences immediately west of the Project is not eligible for the CRHR/NRHP. The negative results of the STP's and augers indicate the possibility of historic-aged archaeological deposits are also low. The sensitivity of this Project for archaeological resources is considered low as there is little potential to impact archaeological resources.

The Project plans alterations along the frontage of National Trails Highway/Route 66 (CA-SBR-2910H), which is considered eligible for the CRHR/NRHP. These alterations include a 40-foot-wide driveway entrance and sidewalk, curb, and gutter on either side of the driveway. These alterations will likely not require removal of portions of the existing National Trails Highway/Route 66. However, they will change the setting and character of the National Trails Highway/Route 66 along the project. This change to the setting is considered minor and not significant as it does change eligibility of the National Trails Highway/Route 66; it is still considered eligible for the NRHP/CRHR. Due to the disturbed nature of the soils, the negative results of subsurface testing, and the minimal impact to Route 66, DUKE CRM does not recommend archaeological monitoring of the Project, and recommends that the Project will have no significant impacts on cultural resources. If previously unidentified cultural materials are un-earthed during ground disturbing activity, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and make recommendations.

Based on the results of the Paleontological Record Search, the sensitivity for paleontological resources is low in surficial sediments; however, the sensitivity can increase at depth to high. This would be considered a potential significant impact. In order to mitigate this potential impact to a level that is less than significant under CEQA, DUKE CRM recommends paleontological monitoring as described below:

a. The applicant shall retain a San Bernardino County qualified paleontologist who meets County's requirements for paleontologists.
b. The qualified paleontologist shall be on-site at the pre-construction meeting to discuss monitoring protocols.
c. A paleontological monitor, working under the direct supervision of the qualified paleontologist, shall be on-site to observe ground disturbing activities below 6 feet in depth from the surface. If no paleontological resources are observed after 50 percent of ground disturbance is complete, paleontological monitoring may be reduced to part-time or spot-checks.
d. The paleontological monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect excavation efforts if paleontological resources are discovered.
e. In the event of a paleontological discovery the monitor shall flag the area and notify the construction crew immediately. No further disturbance in the flagged area shall occur until the qualified paleontologist has cleared the area.
f. The qualified paleontologist shall quickly assess the nature and significance of the find. If the specimen is not significant it shall be quickly removed and the area shall be cleared.
g. If the discovery is significant the qualified paleontologist shall notify the applicant and the County immediately.
h. In consultation with the applicant and the County the paleontologist shall develop a plan of mitigation which will likely include salvage excavation and removal of the find, removal of sediment from around the specimen (in the laboratory), research to identify and categorize the find, curation of the find in a local qualified repository, and preparation of a report summarizing the find.

If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Thank you for contacting DUKE C R M on this request. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact DUKE C R M at (949) 356-6660 or by e-mail at mattstever@dukecrm.com.

Sincerely,

DUKE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, LLC

Matthew Stever, M.A. RPA
Archaeologist

Attachment 1: Project Maps
Attachment 2: STP Map
Attachment 3: DPR 523 Form

REFERENCES CITED

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USGS (United States Geological Survey)
1956 Helendale, California 7.5 Minute Quadrangle https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#14/34.7450/-117.3221, accessed October 5, 2017.

Attachment 1

PROJECT LOCATION, VICINITY, AND AERIAL MAPS

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Document Path: S:\GIS\Projects\0237_Helendale\Map1ProjectVicinity.mxd

Map 1- Project Vicinity

26426 National Trails Hwy

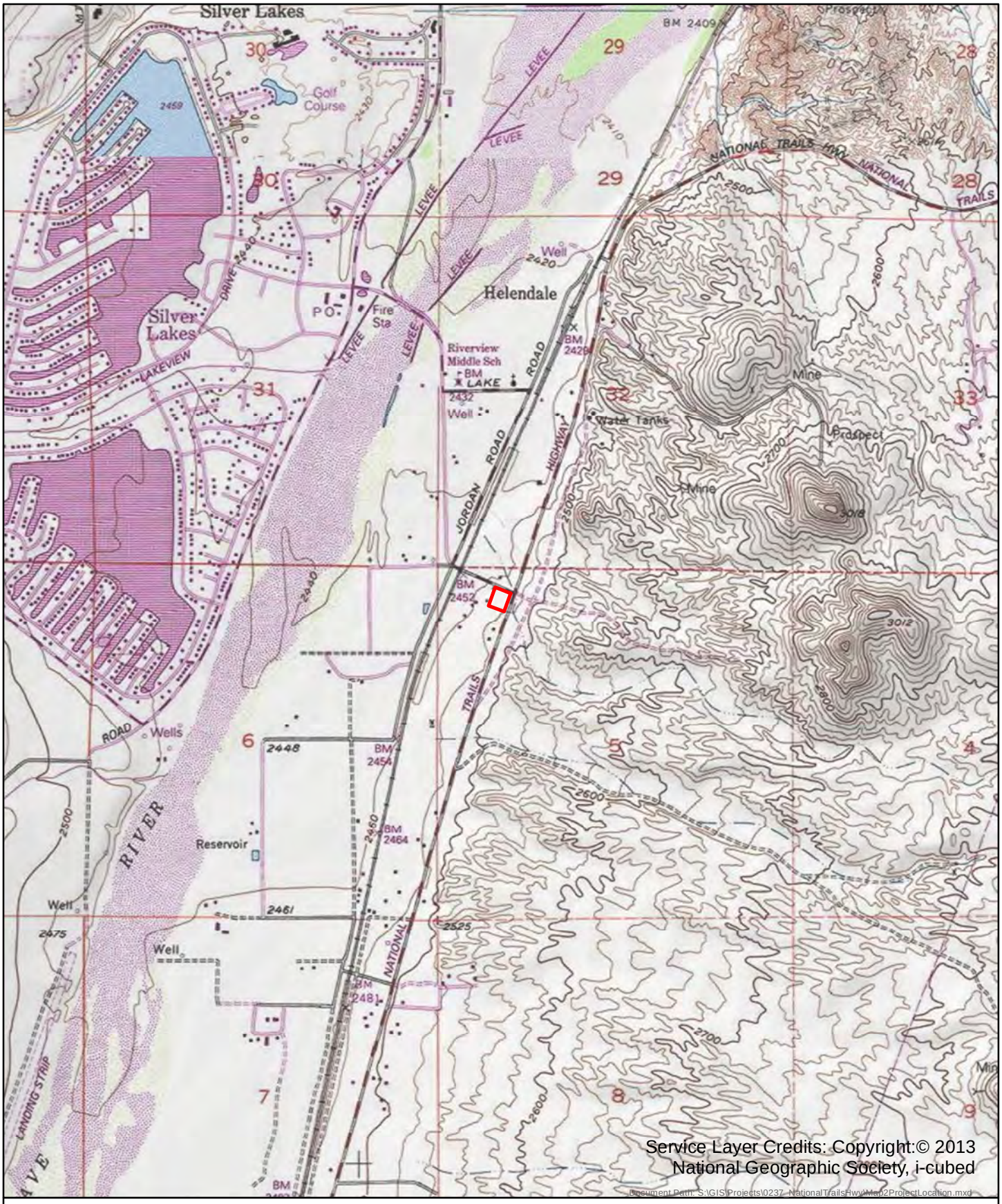
San Bernardino County

DUKE CRM

0 5 10 Miles

N

1 inch = 5 miles 1:316,800



Map 2- Project Location
26426 National Trails Hwy
San Bernardino County

DUKE CRM

Project Boundary
Helendale USGS
7.5-Min. Quadrangle
Township 7 N, Range 4 W,
Section 5

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

1 inch = 2,000 feet 1:24,000

N

Map 3- Project Aerial
26426 National Trails Hwy
San Bernardino County

DUKE CRM

Project Boundary

Helendale USGS
7.5-Min. Quadrangle
Township 7 N, Range 4 W,
Section 5

0 75 150 Feet

1 inch = 75 feet 1:900

N

Attachment 2

STP Location Map

Shovel Test Pit Locations

26426 National Trails Hwy
San Bernardino County

DUKE CRM

Shovel Test Pit

Project Boundary

0 50 100 Feet

N

1 inch = 50 feet 1:595

Attachment 3

DPR 523 Forms

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code: _____
Other Listings _____
Review Code ____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #:** 26426 National Trails Highway Shed

P1. Other Identifier: APN 046-710-113
***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ■ **Unrestricted** ***a. County:** San Bernardino
***b. USGS 7.5' Quadrangle**: Helendale, California
c. Address: 26426 National Trails Highway **City:** Helendale **Zip**: 92342
d. UTM:
e. Other Locational Data (APN #): The subject structure is located in the rear of 26426 National Trails Highway (APN 046-710-112), adjacent to a single-family residential house and commercial property at 15401 Vista Road on a separate parcel (APN 046-710-113).

***P3a. Description:** The property consists of a single-story, wood or stick-frame, gabled roof shed used to shelter a well and pump. The structure measures approximately 8' x 10' with a 9' high roof plate. The shed rests on a poured concrete footing or stem wall foundation. Besides the simple rectangular shape or massing and gable roof clad with wood sheathing (presumably the shed had a tin or asphalt shingle roof), other character defining features include a small gable vent at the apex or ridgeline of the roof, v-groove wood exterior wall cladding, a wooden paneled door, and a simple rectangular window on one gable end, lacking the window frame and glass. The interior of the shed features a galvanized steel water tank and other miscellaneous material related to the tank. The interior walls are not sheathed and appear to be 1" x 6" framing. Immediately adjacent to the shed is a chain link fence and a remodeled circa 1960s California Ranch style residence beyond the fence.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP4 - Ancillary building
***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Building ■ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects).

P5b. Description of Photo: Looking at the shed with the single-family residence behind the shed.
***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** ■ Historic
Circa late-1950s or 1960s.
***P7. Owner and Address:**
***P8. Recorded by:** Dana E. Supernowicz, Historic Resource Associates, 2001 Sheffield Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762.
***P9. Date Recorded:** December 12, 2017
***P10. Type of Survey:** ■ Architectural
Describe: Field Survey
***P11. Report Citation:** Architectural Evaluation Study of the 26426 National Trails Highway Project, 26426 National Trails Highway, Helendale, San Bernardino County, CA 92342. Prepared for Duke Cultural Resources Management, LLC, 18 Technology Drive, Suite 103, Irvine, CA 92618. Prepared by Historic Resource Associates, 2001 Sheffield Drive, El Dorado Hills, California 95762. December 2017.

***Attachments:** Building, Structure, and Object Record; Photograph Record

B1. Historic Name: Undetermined
B2. Common Name: Pump House Shed
B3. Original Use: Pump House Shed **B4. Present Use:** Abandoned
***B5. Architectural Style:** Vernacular Utilitarian Shed
***B6. Construction History:** Based upon historic maps, aerial photographs, and construction materials, the pump house shed appears to have been either moved to its present location or reconstructed on its current side in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The materials used in the shed structure appear to predate its construction on the current site.
***B7. Moved?** ☐ No ☐ Yes ■ Unknown **Date:** **Original Location:**
***B8. Related Features:** Single-family remodeled California Ranch style residence, power lines, and chain-link fence.
B9a. Architect: N/A **B9b. Builder:** Undetermined
***B10. Significance: Theme:** Post-World War II Residential/Commercial Development **Area:** Helendale/San Bernardino County
Period of Significance: Late 1950s-early 1960s **Property Type:** Vernacular Utilitarian **Applicable Criteria:** NRHP A, B, C, and D; CRHR 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The subject property is located in Helendale in San Bernardino County. Helendale or Silver Lakes is an unincorporated census-designated community located in the Victor Valley of the Mojave Desert. The town lies along US Route 66/National Trails Highway, west of the Mojave Freeway (I-15), between Barstow and Victorville (USDI, National Park Service 2011). The historic context for the subject property is rooted in the Small Tract Act of 1938 and the modern-era of residential development that occurred in eastern San Bernardino County during the 1950s and 1960s, associated with improved highways and motorized travel.

The Mojave Desert was one of the last places in the "lower 48" where the federal government granted free homesteads to anyone who was willing to improve the land. Five-acre parcels were deeded by the federal government under the Small Tract Act, one of the last of the government's homestead acts. The government's goal was to distribute 457,000 acres of desert that the Bureau of Land Management deemed disposable, most of it in California. By the time the act was repealed in 1976, about 36% of the land was privately owned. The rest is federally protected desert. Under amendments to the act, homesteaders were granted a deed only if they built a structure with dimensions not less than 20.5 No x 27.4 No (12 feet by 16 feet). No water or power was required for the homestead (Republic of Molossia Website 2017). Ironically, many, if not most of the homesteads failed in the first decade, in large part due to a reliable water source.

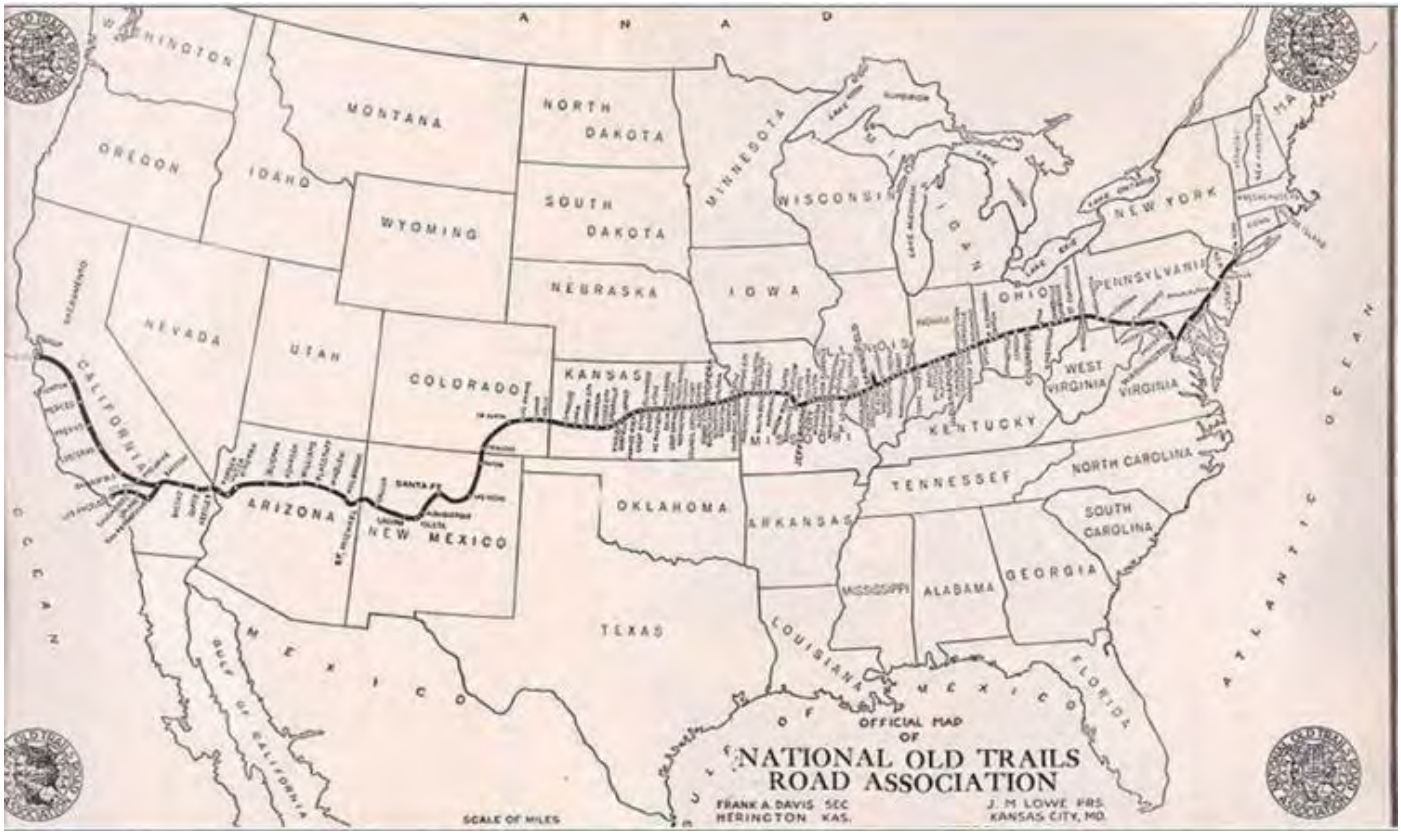
Based upon historic aerial photographs and topographic maps, between 1952 and 1957 a residential house appears to have been constructed on the adjacent parcel at 15401 Vista Road (APN 046-710-113). By 1968, the subject structure had been built or moved to its present location. By the 1970s, several outbuildings appear on topographic maps and other buildings were moved to different locations, forming the building complex to the west, accessed via Vista Road. Thus far there is no evidence to suggest the subject parcel was developed as part of the Small Parcel Act of 1938, but the impetus for development in this part of the desert was certainly aided by the act (Refer to BSO, Page 3 of 7).

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: N/A
B12. References: Feller, Walter. "National Old Trails Highway," http://digital-desert.com/historic-roads/national-trails.html, Accessed December 11, 2017; Gudde, Edwin G. *California Place Names*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1969; Hatheway, Roger G. Cultural Resource Compliance Letter/Report: California U.S. Highway 66/National Trails Highway Emergency Washout Repairs, North of Helendale/Vista Road, San Bernardino County, California, 2016; Republic of Molossia Website. Republic of Molossia: Desert Homestead Province and National Monument, www.molossia.org/desert.html, accessed December 11, 2017; USDI, National Park Service. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for US Highway 66 in California, 2011; Hatheway, Roger G. Cultural Resource Compliance Letter/Report: California U.S. Highway 66/National Trails Highway Emergency Washout Repairs, North of Helendale/Vista Road, San Bernardino County, California, 2016.
B13. Remarks:
B14. Evaluator: Dana E. Supernowicz, Architectural Historian, 2001 Sheffield Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
Date of Evaluation: December 12, 2017

(This space reserved for official comments.)

***B10. Significance: (Continued):**

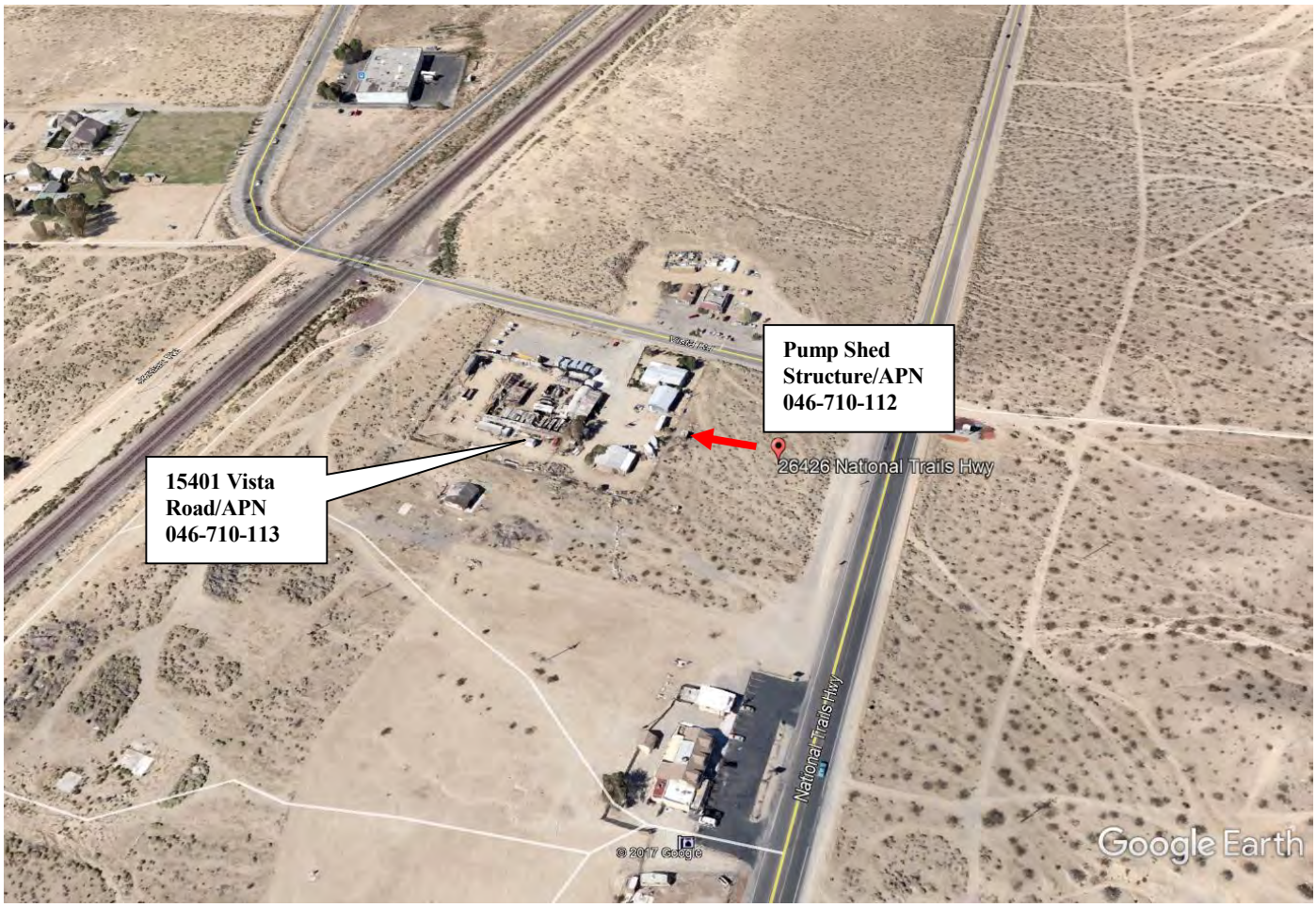
As previously noted another historic context associated with the subject property is transportation. Immediately east of the property is the National Trails Highway. Present-day Interstate 40 roughly follows the route of U.S. Highway 66, John Steinbeck's famous "mother road." The route developed initially as cross-desert motorists drove as close as possible to the Santa Fe Railway tracks, because the presence of settlements along the line made it easier to obtain supplies and help if needed. The alignment eventually became known as the "National Old Trails Road," or today as the National Trails Highway. The Automobile Club of Southern California placed signs along its route from Los Angeles to Kansas City in 1914 and produced maps of the road for motorists and to promote its use (Hatheway 2016).



Map of the National Old Trails Highway (www.cityprofiles.com).

*B10. Significance: (Continued):

The route was designated U.S. Highway 66 in 1926, and paving through the Mohave Desert was completed in 1931 by state agencies, assisted by federal funds. The road was realigned several times; the initial route through Fenner and Goffs was bypassed in 1931 by a shorter route with a steeper grade. The federal government passed legislation in 1956 that called for the construction of a system of limited access, high speed, multiple lane interstate highways, which ultimately resulted in the construction of Interstate 40 that bypassed much of the National Old Trails Highway, which garnered its present name after 1985. Nostalgia for Route 66 has increased as the convenience and speed of the interstates has become a fixed part of American culture, and desert towns near the Mojave Preserve like Needles, Goffs, Essex, Amboy, and Barstow count Route 66-related tourism as a significant economic engine (Feller 2017).



Aerial Photograph 2017 (Google Earth).
The red arrow points to the subject property.

***B10. Significance: (Continued):**

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

The subject property was evaluated for the National Register and for the California Register of Historic Resources.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria

Criterion A: Event

Properties can be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Criterion B: Person

Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Criterion C: Design/Construction

Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Criterion D: Information Potential

Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

As the National Register points out, "when evaluated within its historic context, a property must be shown to be significant for one or more of the four Criteria for Evaluation - A, B, C, or D." The rationale for judging a property's significance and, ultimately, its eligibility under the Criteria is its historic context and integrity. The use of historic context allows a property to be properly evaluated in a variety of ways. The key to determining whether the characteristics or associations of a particular property are significant is to consider the property within its proper historic context (USDI, National Park Service. n.d.).

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) Criteria

The regulatory framework for this historic resource evaluation lies within the guidelines imposed for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) under Public Resources Code section 5024.1. CEQA guidelines define a significant cultural resource as "a resource listed in or eligible for listing on the CRHR. A historical resource may be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR if it:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

***B10. Significance: (Continued):**

Even if a resource is not listed in, or determined eligible for listing in, the CRHR, the lead agency may consider the resource to be an "historical resource" for the purposes of CEQA provided that the lead agency determination is supported by substantial evidence (CEQA Guidelines 14 CCR 15064.5). According to the state guidelines, a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource or a unique archaeological resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15064.5[b]). CEQA further states that a substantial adverse change in the significance of a resource means the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource would be materially impaired. Actions that would materially impair the significance of a historical resource are any actions that would demolish or adversely alter those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its significance and qualify it for inclusion in the CRHR or in a local register or survey that meet the requirements of PRC 5020.1(k) and 5024.1(g).

In addition, the resource must retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Factors to be considered include:

a. a structure removed from its original location is eligible if it is significant primarily for its architectural value or it is the most important surviving structure associated with a historic person or event; and

b. a birthplace or grave is eligible if it is that of a historical figure of outstanding importance and there is no other appropriate site or structure directly associated with his or her productive life.

c. a reconstructed building is eligible if the reconstruction is historically accurate, if the structure is presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan; and if no other, original structure survives that has the same association.

d. properties that are primarily commemorative in intent are eligible if design, age, tradition or symbolic value invest such properties with their own historical significance.

e. properties achieving significance within the past fifty (50) years are eligible if such properties are of exceptional importance.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The subject property, a modest wood or stick frame shed appears to have been reconstructed or moved to its present location in the late-1950s or most likely 1960s, when various improvements were made to 15401 Vista Road, a residential/commercial property located immediately to the west. It is also likely the two parcels were at one time combined in a larger parcel. The construction of the tank house shed appears to predate the other improvements on the adjacent parcel, providing additional evidence it was either reconstructed on the site or moved to its present location. The fact that the shed has a rather contemporary poured stem wall footing or foundation seems to confirm its relatively recent construction or reconstruction on the current site.

In order for a property to be significant under any criteria, it must retain integrity. The National Park Service, along with state and local agencies, define integrity as retaining location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. In applying the definition of integrity to the subject property, the following findings are made below:

Location - The subject property retains its original location since the late 1950s or early 1960s, but may have moved to the present site from another nearby location or rebuilt on its present location.

Design - The subject property retains its original design, however, it is in extremely poor condition and the window frame and glass are missing, as is roof cladding.

*B10. Significance: (Continued):

Setting - The setting of the property is largely intact, although the adjacent property has been modernized and expanded with new buildings and structures since the 1970s.

Materials – The structure retains most of its original materials, although in poor condition, with the exception of roof cladding and the only window in the building.

Workmanship - The workmanship of the structure is rudimentary or utilitarian, which is expected for a structure of this type and function.

Feeling - The feeling of the property is diminished, due to modernization of the nearby residence and business.

Association - The property's association has dramatically diminished, due to numerous alterations to the property to the west along Vista Road. Its association with the National Trails Highway remains the same.

APPLICATION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

In summary, despite the fact that the subject property retains relatively good integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the subject property does not appear to be eligible for the NRHP nor CRHR, under any of the aforementioned criteria. This finding is based largely upon the property's overall lack of association with the National Trails Highway during its primary period of use, and, ultimately, significance to the motoring public.

Nor does the property have direct association with the Small Tracts Act of 1938. Although the property was once likely associated with 15401 Vista Road, this association is diminished, due to a parcel split and a variety of contemporary improvements to the Vista Road property. The pump house shed likely served the Vista Road property at one time, but was subsequently abandoned. In regards to NRHP Criterion D and CRHR Criterion 4, no evidence was found to support a finding that the property contains archaeological data of significance.

EXHIBIT J

Biological Assessment Clearance Letter

ALTEC Engineering Inc. **(760) 242-9900**
19531 U.S. Highway 18
Apple Valley, CA 92307 Altec1Eng@gmail.com
Carl P. Coleman, PE- Civil #30322, President
,

Helendale Community Services District
c/o Dr. Kimberly Cox, General Manager
26540 Vista Road
P.O. Box 359
Helendale, CA 92342
Office 760-951-0006
FAX 760-217-2221
kcox@helendalecsd.org

August 5, 2020

RE: Boundary and Topographic Survey

Prior engineering and surveying services for the Helendale Community Services District (HCSD) included a boundary and topographic survey for the preparation of a parking lot expansion for the HCSD offices on July 17, 2019.

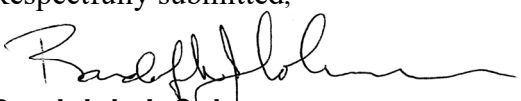
At that time, Randolph Coleman, AICP, CA, CWB, PE, PLS reviewed the Site for any new Hazardous Materials issues and various Endangered and Species of Concern on this Site and visual observation of the adjacent properties for the following species:

- Desert tortoise
- Burrowing owls
- Mojave ground squirrel
- American badger
- Desert kit fox
- Nesting Birds
- Protected Native Desert Trees, Cactus and other plants

This is to confirm no observations of Endangered or Species of Concern were observed on the Site in July 17, 2019.

If you have any question, please call. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to providing other services and assistance as needed, I and my family have been operating continuously since 1973 operating full-service, Civil & Soils Engineering, Planning, Land Surveying, Construction Management and since 1981 required Biological, Protected Plant, CEQA and other Environmental services for new projects.

Respectfully submitted,



Randolph J. Coleman, AICP CEP, CCIM, CDP, MIRM, Certified Wildlife Biologist #43090, QSD/P #21595
CDFW: Scientific Collecting Permit #11586, Certified Arborist/Tree Risk Assessment Qualified #WE-8024A
CA Licenses: Engineer-Civil #36293 expires June 30, 2022, Land Surveyor #5413 expires Sept. 30, 2022

EXHIBIT K

Phase 1 Environmental Assessment Update Letter

ALTEC Land Planning **(760) 242-9917**
19531 U.S. Highway 18
Apple Valley, CA 92307 RandyAICP@gmail.com
Ginger Coleman, MPA, Director of Environmental Planning & Community Relations
Randy Coleman: AICP, CCIM, MIRM, Certified Wildlife Biologist #04390, Certified Arborist #WE-8024A, R.E. Broker #00836955,
Calif. Licenses: Civil Engineer #36293, Land Surveyor #5413, QSD/P #21595,

Helendale Community Services District August 5, 2020
c/o Dr. Kimberly Cox, General Manager
26540 Vista Road
P.O. Box 359
Helendale, CA 92342
Office 760-951-0006
FAX 760-217-2221
kcox@helendalecsd.org

RE: Phase 1 Environmental Assessment completed in 2011 Update Letter

Prior to the purchase of this property by Helendale Community Services District in 2011, Randolph Coleman, AICP, CA, CWB, PE, PLS [Altec Land Planning] completed a thorough Site Survey with 10-meter transects specifically for Hazardous Materials and a review of the Governmental Records Search for Hazardous Materials.

This Site Survey also included a review for various Endangered and Species of Concern on this Site and visual observation of the adjacent properties for the following species:

- Desert tortoise
- Burrowing owls
- Mojave ground squirrel
- American badger
- Desert kit fox
- Nesting Birds
- Protected Native Desert Trees, Cactus and other plants

This is to confirm no hazardous material were observe on the Site and no Endangered or Species of Concern were observed on in 2011 or August 4th and 5th, 2020

If you have any question, please call. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to providing other services and assistance as needed, I and my family have been operating continuously since 1973 operating full-service, Civil & Soils Engineering, Planning, Land Surveying, Construction Management and since 1981 required Biological, Protected Plant, CEQA and other Environmental services for new projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Randolph J. Coleman, AICP CEP, CCIM, CDP, MIRM, Certified Wildlife Biologist #43090, QSD/P #21595
CDFW: Scientific Collecting Permit #11586, Certified Arborist/Tree Risk Assessment Qualified #WE-8024A
CA Licenses: Engineer-Civil #36293 expires June 30, 2022, Land Surveyor #5413 expires Sept. 30, 2022

EXHIBIT L

Potential exterior uses and amenities
"Splash Pad" and "Small Dirt BMX Track"

Small Dirt BMX Track

EXHIBIT L - continued

Potential exterior uses and amenities
"Small Skate Track" and "Basic Miniature Golf"

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MITIGATION MEASURE SUMMARY

Mitigation Measures:

AIR QUALITY:

AIR 1. **Prepare and submit to the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) a dust control plan that describes all applicable dust control measures that will be implemented at the project, prior to commencing earth-moving activity.**

AIR 2. **The following signage shall be erected not later than the commencement of construction: A minimum 48 inch high by 96 inch wide sign containing the following shall be located within 50 feet of each project site entrance, meeting the specified minimum text height, black text on white background, on one inch A/C laminated plywood board, with the lower edge between six and seven feet above grade, with the contact name of a responsible official for the site and a local or toll-free number that is accessible 24 hours per day:**

"[Site Name] {four-inch text}
[Project Name/Project Number] {four inch text}
IF YOU SEE DUST COMING FROM {four-inch text} THIS PROJECT CALL: {four-inch text}
[Contact Name], PHONE NUMBER XXX-XXXX {six-inch text} If you do not receive a response, Please Call {three-inch text} The MDAQMD at 1-800-635-4617 {three-inch text}

AIR 3. **Use a water truck to maintain moist disturbed surfaces and actively spread water during visible dusting episodes to minimize visible fugitive dust emissions. For projects with exposed sand or fines deposits (and for projects that expose such soils through earthmoving}, chemical stabilization or covering with a stabilizing layer of gravel will be required to eliminate visible dust/sand from sand/fines deposits.**

AIR 4. **All perimeter fencing shall be wind fencing or the equivalent, to a minimum of four feet of height or the top of all perimeter fencing. The owner/operator shall maintain the wind fencing as needed to keep it intact and remove windblown dropout. This wind fencing requirement may be superseded by local ordinance, rule or project specific biological mitigation prohibiting wind fencing.**

AIR 5. **All maintenance and access vehicular roads and parking areas shall be stabilized with chemical, gravel or asphaltic pavement sufficient to eliminate visible fugitive dust from vehicular use or wind erosion. Take actions to prevent project-related track-out onto paved surfaces and clean any project-related track-out within 24 hours. All other earthen surfaces within the project shall be stabilized by natural, irrigated vegetation, chemical, compaction, or other means sufficient to prohibit visible fugitive dust from wind erosion.**

MITIGATION MEASURE SUMMARY

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:

BIO 1. **A preconstruction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist for the presence of American badger and Desert kit fox dens within 14 days prior to commencement of construction activities. The survey shall be conducted in areas of suitable habitat for American badger and Desert kit fox, which includes desert scrub and Joshua tree habitats. If potential dens are observed and avoidance is feasible, the following buffer distances shall be established prior to construction activities:**

- **Desert kit fox or American badger potential den: 50 feet**
- **Desert kit fox or American badger active den: 100 feet**
- **Desert kit fox or American badger natal den: 500 feet**

If avoidance of the potential dens is not feasible, the following measures are recommended to avoid potential adverse effects to the American badger and desert kit fox:

- **If a qualified biologist determines that potential dens are inactive, the biologist shall excavate these dens by hand with a shovel and collapse them to prevent American badgers or desert kit foxes from re-using them during construction.**
- **If the qualified biologist determines that potential dens may be active, an onsite passive relocation program shall be implemented. This program shall consist of excluding American badgers or desert kit foxes from occupied burrows by installation of one-way doors at burrow entrances and monitoring of the burrow for seven days to confirm usage has been discontinued, and excavation and collapse of the burrow to prevent reoccupation. After the qualified biologist determines that American badgers and desert kit foxes have stopped using active dens within the project boundary, the dens shall be hand-excavated with a shovel and collapsed to prevent re-use during construction.**
- **During fencing and grading activities daily monitoring reports shall be prepared by the monitoring biologists. The biologist shall prepare a summary monitoring report documenting the effectiveness and practicality of the protection measures that are in place and making recommendations for modifying the measures to enhance species protection, as needed. The report shall also provide information on the overall activities conducted related to biological resources, including the Environmental Awareness**

Training and Education Program, clearance/pre-activity surveys, monitoring activities, and any observed special -status species, including injuries and fatalities. These monitoring reports shall be submitted to HCSD and relevant resource agencies as applicable on a monthly basis along with copies of all survey reports.

MITIGATION MEASURE SUMMARY

BIO 2. **The Project Wildlife Biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey of the impact areas to confirm presence/absence of burrowing owls no more than 30 days prior to construction. The survey methodology will be consistent with the methods outlined in the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012). If no active breeding or wintering owls are identified, no further mitigation is required.**

If burrowing owls are detected onsite, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented in accordance with the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012):

- **A Certified Wildlife Biologist shall be onsite during initial ground - disturbing activities in potential burrowing owl habitat.**
- **No ground-disturbing activities shall be permitted within a buffer no less than 200 meters (656 feet) from an active burrow, depending on the level of disturbance, unless otherwise authorized by CDFW. Occupied burrows will not be disturbed during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), unless a qualified biologist verifies through noninvasive methods that either: (1) the birds have not begun egg-laying and incubation; or (2) juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival.**
- **During the nonbreeding (winter) season (September 1 to January 31), ground- disturbing work can proceed near active burrows as long as the work occurs no closer than 50 meters (165 feet) from the burrow, depending on the level of disturbance, and the site is not directly affected by the project activity. A smaller buffer may be established in consultation with CDFW. If active winter burrows are found that would be directly affected by ground-disturbing activities, owls can be excluded from winter burrows according to recommendations made in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012).**
- **Burrowing owls shall not be excluded from burrows unless or until a Burrowing Owl Exclusion Plan is developed based on the recommendations made in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012). The plan shall include, at a minimum:**
- **Confirmation by site surveillance that the burrow(s) is empty of burrowing owls and other species**
- **Type of scope to be used and appropriate timing of scoping**
- **Occupancy factors to look for and what shall guide determination of vacancy and excavation timing**
- **Methods for burrow excavation**
- **Removal of other potential owl burrow surrogates or refugia onsite**
- **Methods for photographic documentation of the excavation and closure of the burrow,**
- **Monitoring of the site to evaluate success and, if needed, to implement remedial measures to prevent subsequent owl use to avoid take**
- **Methods for assuring the impacted site shall continually be made inhospitable to burrowing owls and fossorial mammals**
- **Compensatory mitigation for lost breeding and/or wintering habitat shall be implemented onsite or off-site through implementation of a Mitigation Land Management Plan based on the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012) guidance. The plan shall include the following components, at a minimum:**

- **Temporarily disturbed habitat on the project site shall be restored, if feasible, to pre-project conditions, including de-compacting soil and revegetation;**
- **Permanent impacts to nesting, occupied and satellite burrows and/or burrowing owl habitat shall be mitigated such that the habitat acreage, number of burrows and burrowing owl impacted are replaced based on a site-specific analysis which includes conservation of similar vegetation communities comparable to or better than that of the impact area, and with sufficiently large acreage, and presence of fossorial mammals;**
- **Mitigation land acreage shall not exceed the size of the project site;**
- **Permanently protect mitigation land through a conservation easement deeded to a nonprofit conservation organization or public agency with a conservation mission. If the project is located within the service area of a CDFW approved burrowing owl conservation bank, the project operator may purchase available burrowing owl conservation bank credits.**
- **Fund the maintenance and management of mitigation land through the establishment of a long-term funding mechanism such as an endowment.**
- **Mitigation lands shall be on, adjacent or proximate to the impact site where possible and where habitat is sufficient to support burrowing owls present.**

BIO 3. **If project activities must occur during the avian nesting season (February to September), a survey for active nests must be conducted by a qualified biologist, one to two weeks prior to the activities. If active nests are identified and present onsite, clearing and construction within 50-250 feet of the nest, depending on the species involved (50 feet for common urban-adapted native birds and up to 250 feet for raptors), shall be postponed until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. Limits of construction to avoid a nest site shall be established in the field by a qualified biologist with flagging and stakes or construct ion fencing. Construction personnel shall be instructed regarding the ecological sensitivity of the fenced area. If construction must occur within this buffer, it shall be conducted at the discretion of a qualified biological monitor to assure that indirect impacts to nesting birds are avoided.**

BIO 4. **If sensitive wildlife species such as the Desert Tortoise or the Mohave Ground Squirrel, Desert Kit Fox, or nesting birds are detected on the project site during future surveys or assessments or construction, all work on-site shall stop immediately and mitigation measures shall be required to reduce impact to a level of less than significant. Any proposed mitigation measures shall be determined by a Certified Wildlife Biologist and be approved by HCSD and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as applicable in accordance with typical best practices.**

BIO 5. **Should grading or construction commence after February 1st, 2021, a new biological survey shall be filed with the HCSD as a Biological Clearance Letter to determine the presence or absence of endangered species on the site. Said survey shall be filed with HCSD or designee prior to issuance of a grading permit. The survey shall be valid for a period of one year or as specifically delineated above.**

MITIGATION MEASURE SUMMARY

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

CUL 1. **In the event that Tribal cultural resources are discovered during the project earth moving activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified archaeologist and appropriate local Tribe or Band shall assess the significance of such resources and shall meet and confer regarding the mitigation for such resources. If the owner and the Tribe or Band cannot agree on the significance or the mitigation for such resources, these issues shall be presented to the Helendale CSD General Manager for decision. The Helendale CSD shall make the determination based on the provisions of CEQA with respect to archaeological resources and shall take into account the religious beliefs, customs and practices of the Tribe or Band.**

CUL 2. **If significant Tribal cultural resources are discovered, for which a Treatment Plan must be prepared, the developer or qualified archaeologist shall contact the appropriate Tribe or Band for collaboration on Plan development.**

CUL 3. **If requested by a Tribe or Band, the developer or the qualified archaeologist shall, in good faith, consult with Tribal representatives on the discovery and its disposition (e.g. avoidance, preservation, return of artifacts to tribe, etc.).**

CUL 4. **In the event that fossils are discovered during the project development/construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified paleontologist shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the overall project may continue during this assessment period.**

CUL 5. **All earthmoving work in the immediate vicinity shall cease and County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 if human remains are encountered. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the State Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be contacted to determine the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD shall be contacted to make a determination regarding disposition of the remains. Work shall not resume until such time as the site has been cleared by the County Coroner or qualified archaeologist or Tribal representative.**

GEOLOGICAL & SOILS:

GEO 1. **In the event that fossils are discovered during the project development/construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified paleontologist shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the overall project may continue during this assessment period.**

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

HYD 1. **Prior to issuance of a grading permit the applicant shall obtain coverage under the statewide general NPDES permit for control of construction and post-construction related storm water in accordance with the requirements of the Small MS4 General Permit. In addition, the applicant shall:**

- **Prepare a project specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as required in the NPDES permit and shall identify site-**

specific erosion and sediment control best management practices that will be implemented;

- **The SWPPP shall be applicable to all areas of the project site including construction areas, access roads to and through the site, and staging and stockpile areas; and**
- **Temporary best management practices for all components of the project must be implemented until such time as permanent post-construction best management practices are in place and functioning.**

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

TRI 1. **In the event that Tribal cultural resources are discovered during the project earth moving activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified archaeologist and appropriate local Tribe or Band shall assess the significance of such resources and shall meet and confer regarding the mitigation for such resources. If the owner and the Tribe or Band cannot agree on the significance or the mitigation for such resources, these issues shall be presented to the Helendale CSD General Manager for decision. The Helendale CSD shall make the determination based on the provisions of CEQA with respect to archaeological resources and shall take into account the religious beliefs, customs and practices of the Tribe or Band.**

TRI 2. **If significant Tribal cultural resources are discovered, for which a Treatment Plan must be prepared, the developer or qualified archaeologist shall contact the appropriate Tribe or Band for collaboration on Plan development.**

TRI 3. **If requested by a Tribe or Band, the developer or the qualified archaeologist shall, in good faith, consult with Tribal representatives on the discovery and its disposition (e.g. avoidance, preservation, return of artifacts to tribe, etc.).**

TRI 4. **In the event that fossils are discovered during the project development/construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified paleontologist shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the overall project may continue during this assessment period.**

TRI 5. **All earthmoving work in the immediate vicinity shall cease and County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 if human remains are encountered. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the State Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be contacted to determine the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD shall be contacted to make a determination regarding disposition of the remains. Work shall not resume until such time as the site has been cleared by the County Coroner or qualified archaeologist or Tribal representative.**