



## **CORYDON GATEWAY**

### **PLANNING APPLICATION No. 2019-69**

Tentative Tract Map No. 37977, Commercial Design Review No. 2020-02,  
Conditional Use Permit No. 2020-05

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW No. 2020-04**

(INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION)

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**November 2020**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. PURPOSE

This document is an Initial Study for evaluation of environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the Corydon Gateway project. For purposes of this document, this application will be called the “proposed project.”

### B. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

As defined by Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, an **Initial Study** is prepared primarily to provide the Lead Agency with information to use as the basis for determining whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration would be appropriate for providing the necessary environmental documentation and clearance for any proposed project.

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15065, an **EIR** is deemed appropriate for a particular proposal if the following conditions occur:

- The project has 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 an endangered, rare or threatened species; or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- The project has the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- The project has possible environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
- The environmental effects of a project will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

According to CEQA Section 21080(c)(1) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(a), a **Negative Declaration** can be adopted if it can be determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

According to CEQA Section 21080(c)(2) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b), a **Mitigated Negative Declaration** can be adopted if it is determined that although the **Initial Study** identifies that the project may have potentially significant effects on the environment, revisions in the project plans and/or mitigation measures, which would avoid or mitigate the effects to below the level of significance, have been made or agreed to by the applicant.

This Initial Study has determined that the proposed project may result in potentially significant environmental effects but that said effects can be reduced to below the level of significance through the implementation of mitigation measures and, therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration is deemed the appropriate document to provide the necessary environmental evaluations and clearance.

This Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration are prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 *et seq.*); the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA Guidelines”), as amended (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000, *et seq.*); applicable requirements of the City of Lake Elsinore; and the regulations, requirements, and procedures of any other responsible public agency or agency with jurisdiction by law.

The City of Lake Elsinore is designated the Lead Agency, in accordance with Section 15050 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Lead Agency is the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project which may have significant effects upon the environment.

## **C. INTENDED USES OF INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

This Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration are informational documents which are intended to inform the City of Lake Elsinore decision-makers, other responsible or interested agencies, and the general public of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The environmental review process has been established to enable public agencies to evaluate environmental consequences and to examine and implement methods of eliminating or reducing any potentially adverse impacts. While CEQA requires that consideration be given to avoiding environmental damage, the Lead Agency and other responsible agencies must balance adverse environmental effects against other public objectives, including economic and social goals (CEQA Guidelines Section 15021).

The City of Lake Elsinore City Council, as Lead Agency, has determined that environmental clearance for the proposed project can be provided with a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Initial Study and Notice of Availability and Intent to Adopt prepared for the Mitigated Negative Declaration will be circulated for a period of 30 days for public and agency review. Comments received on the document will be considered by the Lead Agency before it acts on the proposed project.

## **D. CONTENTS OF INITIAL STUDY**

This Initial Study is organized to facilitate a basic understanding of the existing setting and environmental implications of the proposed project.

**I. INTRODUCTION** presents an introduction to the entire report. This section identifies City of Lake Elsinore contact persons involved in the process, scope of environmental review, environmental procedures, and incorporation by reference documents.

**II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION** describes the proposed project. A description of discretionary approvals and permits required for project implementation is also included.

**III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM** contains the City’s Environmental Checklist Form. The checklist form presents results of the environmental evaluation for the proposed project and those areas that would have either a potentially significant impact, a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated, a less than significant impact, or no impact.

**IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS** provides the background analysis supporting each response provided in the environmental checklist form. Each response checked in the checklist form is discussed and supported with sufficient data and analysis. As appropriate, each response discussion describes and identifies specific impacts anticipated with project implementation. In this section, mitigation measures are also set forth, as appropriate, that would reduce potentially significant adverse impacts to levels of less than significance.

**V. MANDATORY FINDINGS** presents the background analysis supporting each response provided in the environmental checklist form for the Mandatory Findings of Significance set forth in Section 21083(b) of CEQA and Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines.

**VI. PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED** identifies those individuals consulted and involved in the preparation of this Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

**VII. REFERENCES** lists bibliographical materials used in preparation of this document.

## **E. SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

For evaluation of environmental impacts, each question from the Environmental Checklist Form is stated and responses are provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of the Initial Study. All responses will take into account the whole action involved, including offsite as well as onsite, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts. Project impacts and effects will be evaluated and quantified, when appropriate. To each question, there are four possible responses, including:

1. **No Impact:** A “No Impact” response is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to the proposed project. A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. **Less Than Significant Impact:** Development associated with project implementation will have the potential to impact the environment. These impacts, however, will be less than the levels of thresholds that are considered significant and no additional analysis is required.
3. **Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated:** This applies where incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The Lead Agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
4. **Potentially Significant Impact:** There is substantial evidence that the proposed project may have impacts that are considered potentially significant and an EIR is required.

## **F. TIERED DOCUMENTS, INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE, AND TECHNICAL STUDIES**

Information, findings, and conclusions contained in this document are based on the incorporation by reference of tiered documentation and technical studies that have been prepared for the proposed project which are discussed in the following section.

### **1. Tiered Documents**

As permitted in CEQA Guidelines Section 15152(a) the analysis of general matters contained in a broader EIR (such as one prepared for a general plan or policy statement) with later EIRs and negative declarations on narrower projects; incorporating by reference the general discussions from the broader EIR; and concentrating the later EIR or negative declaration solely on the issues specific to the later project.

Tiering is defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15385 as follows:

“Tiering” refers to the coverage of general matters in broader EIRs (such as on general plans or policy statements) with subsequent narrower EIRs or ultimately site-specific EIRs incorporating by reference the general discussions and concentrating solely on the issues specific to the EIR subsequently prepared. Tiering is appropriate when the sequence of EIRs is:

- (a) From a general plan, policy, or program EIR to a program, plan, or policy EIR of lesser scope or to a site-specific EIR;
- (b) From an EIR on a specific action at an early stage to a subsequent EIR or a supplement to an EIR at a later stage. Tiering in such cases is appropriate when it helps the Lead Agency to focus on the issues which are ripe for decision and exclude from consideration issues already decided or not yet ripe.

Tiering also allows this document to comply with Section 15152(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, which discourages repetitive analyses, as follows:

“Agencies are encouraged to tier the environmental analyses which they prepare for separate but related projects including general plans, zoning changes, and development projects. This approach can eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues and focus the later EIR or negative declaration on the actual issues ripe for decision at each level of environmental review. Tiering is appropriate when the sequence of analysis is from an EIR prepared for a general plan, policy or program to an EIR or negative declaration for another plan, policy, or program of lesser scope, or to a site-specific EIR or negative declaration.”

Further, Section 15152(d) of the CEQA Guidelines states:

“Where an EIR has been prepared and certified for a program, plan, policy, or ordinance consistent with the requirements of this section, any lead agency for a later project pursuant to or consistent with the program, plan, policy, or ordinance should limit the EIR or negative declaration on the later project to effects which:

- (1) Were not examined as significant effects on the environment in the prior EIR; or
- (2) Are susceptible to substantial reduction or avoidance by the choice of specific revisions in the project, by the imposition of conditions or other means.”

For this document, the “City of Lake Elsinore General Plan Update Final Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report” certified December 13, 2011 (SCH #2005121019) serves as the broader document, since it analyzes the entire City area, which includes the proposed project site. However, as discussed, site-specific impacts, which the broader document (City of Lake Elsinore General Plan Update Final Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report) cannot adequately address, may occur for certain issue areas. This document, therefore, evaluates each environmental issue alone and will rely upon the analysis contained within the Lake Elsinore General Plan Final EIR with respect to remaining issue areas.

## **2. Incorporation by Reference**

An EIR or Negative Declaration may incorporate by reference all or portions of another document which is a matter of public record or is generally available to the public. Where all or part of another

document is incorporated by reference, the incorporated language shall be considered to be set forth in full as part of the text of the EIR or Negative Declaration. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[a])

Incorporation by reference is a procedure for reducing the size of EIRs/MND and is most appropriate for including long, descriptive, or technical materials that provide general background information, but do not contribute directly to the specific analysis of the project itself. This procedure is particularly useful when an EIR or Negative Declaration relies on a broadly-drafted EIR for its evaluation of cumulative impacts of related projects (*Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation v. County of Los Angeles* [1986, 177 Ca.3d 300]). If an EIR or Negative Declaration relies on information from a supporting study that is available to the public, the EIR or Negative Declaration cannot be deemed unsupported by evidence or analysis (*San Francisco Ecology Center v. City and County of San Francisco* [1975, 48 Ca.3d 584, 595]).

When an EIR or Negative Declaration incorporates a document by reference, the incorporation must comply with CEQA Guidelines Section 15150 as follows:

- Where part of another document is incorporated by reference, such other document shall be made available to the public for inspection at a public place or public building. The EIR or Negative Declaration shall state where the incorporated documents will be available for inspection. At a minimum, the incorporated document shall be made available to the public in an office of the Lead Agency. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[b])
- The incorporated part of the referenced document shall be briefly summarized where possible or briefly described if the data or information cannot be summarized. The relationship between the incorporated part of the referenced document and the EIR shall be described. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[c])
- This document must include the State identification number of the incorporated document (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[d]).

### **3. Documents Incorporated by Reference/Technical Studies**

a. The following document(s) is/are incorporated by reference:

- City of Lake Elsinore General Plan Update Final Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report (“General Plan EIR”) (SCH #2005121019), certified December 13, 2011. The General Plan EIR, from which this document is tiered, addresses the entire City of Lake Elsinore and provides background and inventory information and data which apply to the project site. Incorporated information and/or data will be cited in the appropriate sections.

b. Various technical reports have been prepared to assess specific issues that may result from the construction and operation of the proposed project. As relevant, information from these technical reports has been incorporated into the Initial Study. The following technical reports are included as appendices to this Initial Study:

- Appendix A: *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impact Study*, prepared by MD Acoustics, LLC, September 14, 2020.
- Appendix B: *Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Consistency Determination*, prepared by L&L Environmental, Inc., September 2020.

- Appendix C: *Joint Project Review (JPR 20-06-09-01) for the LEAP 2020-02/Corydon Gateway*, prepared by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservative Authority (RCA), September 24, 2020.
- Appendix D: *Review of the Joint Project Review (JPR 20-06-09-01) for the LEAP 2020-02/Corydon Gateway*, provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, October 12, 2020.
- Appendix E: *Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment*, prepared by L&L Environmental, Inc., March 18, 2020.
- Appendix F: *CEQA Energy Review*, prepared by MD Acoustics, LLC, January 28, 2020.
- Appendix G: *Preliminary Fault Hazard Analysis*, prepared by Earth Strata Geotechnical Services, Inc., June 12, 2020.
- Appendix H: *Phase I Environmental Site Assessment*, prepared by Earth Strata Geotechnical Services, Inc., September 27, 2019.
- Appendix I: *Project Specific Water Quality Management Plan*, prepared by KWC Engineers, September 2020.
- Appendix J: *Noise Impact Study*, prepared by MD Acoustics, LLC, September 15, 2020.
- Appendix K: *Traffic Impact Analysis*, prepared by Trames Solutions, Inc., August 12, 2020.
- Appendix L: *Vehicles Miles Traveled Evaluation*, prepared by Trames Solutions, Inc. August 12, 2020.

c. The above-listed documents and technical studies are available for review at:

City of Lake Elsinore  
 Planning Division  
 130 S. Main Street  
 Lake Elsinore, California 92530

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Closed Holidays



## II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### A. PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

The proposed project is located in the City of Lake Elsinore (City), in the western portion of Riverside County, California (see Figure 1, *Regional Location*). The approximately 6.05-acre project site (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 370-050-026 and a portion of 370-050-030) is located at the northwestern corner of the intersection of Mission Trail and Corydon Street, approximately 0.7 mile west of Interstate (I-) 15 and 2.3 miles east of Lake Elsinore (see Figure 2, *Project Vicinity [Aerial Photograph]*). The project site is located within the East Lake Specific Plan area and has a land use designation of Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation. The site is zoned Specific Plan (SP). Access to the site is provided from Corydon Street and Mission Trail.

The site is currently vacant and characterized by non-native grassland that is regularly disturbed for weed abatement. Topographically, the site is generally level with the elevation ranging from 1,267 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) along the western edge of the site to 1,278 feet AMSL along the eastern edge. The predominant surface soil type is Ramona very fine sandy loam with some Waukena loamy fine sand present along the western portion of the site.

Land to the north of the project site is vacant and land to the south is developed with light industrial uses. Commercial and light industrial uses, interspersed with low-density residential uses, are located to the east across Mission Trail within the City of Wildomar. The Lake Elsinore Motorsports Parkway is located to the west, separated from the project site by a chain-link/barbed wire fence and a low-relief berm. A fenced/gated drainage easement owned by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is present along the project site's southern boundary. Additional uses in the vicinity include Skylark Field and Skydive Lake Elsinore southwest of the project site along Cereal Street.

### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project involves a Tentative Tract Map (TTM 37977), Commercial Design Review (CDR 2020-02) Application, and Conditional Use Permit (CUP 2020-05). TTM 37977 would subdivide the 6.05-acre project site into six (6) parcels for commercial development and one lot for a detention basin. The proposed commercial uses include a 2,300-square-foot (sf) fast food restaurant with a drive-thru (Parcel 1), a 4,088-sf 7-Eleven convenience store (with the concurrent sale of beer and wine – Type 20 ABC license) and gas station with 16 fueling stations under a 4,285-sf fueling canopy (Parcel 2) with a maximum throughput of 1.87 million gallons of gasoline per year, a 4,333-sf Superstar Car Wash express tunnel car wash with vacuum bays (Parcel 3), a 5,200-sf tire store (Parcel 4), and 11 flex-tech condos (Parcels 5 and 6), including 10 1,920-sf condos and one (1) 2,880-sf condo. Each of the flex-tech condos would include 500 sf of office space (see Figure 3, *Site Plan*). The remaining area within Parcels 5 and 6 would be used for storage or warehouse space, including 1,420 sf for the 1,920-sf condos and 2,380 sf for the 2,880-sf condo. As the flex-tech condos would be leased, internal improvements may be conducted after initial project development to meet the layout requirements of prospective tenants. The project would also involve off-site roadway improvements, including extending Lemon Street west along the northern boundary of the project site and widening and improving the portions of Mission Trail and Corydon Street adjacent to the project site to include project access driveways, sidewalks, and bike lanes.

The proposed uses would be developed over two phases. Development of the convenience store and gas station, tunnel car wash, fast food restaurant, and detention basin, as well as off-site improvements and utility infrastructure, would occur during Phase 1. Development of the flex-tech condos and tire store would occur during Phase 2. Table 1, *Tentative Tract Map Parcels*, details the phase, size, and use of each of the six TTM parcels and detention basin Lot A.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Table 1</b> <b>TENTATIVE TRACT MAP PARCELS</b></p>				
<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Phase Number</b>	<b>Approximate Parcel Size (acres)</b>	<b>Approximate Building Size (sf)</b>	<b>Proposed Use</b>
1	1	0.63	2,300	Fast food restaurant with drive-thru
2	1	1.09	4,088	Convenience store with gas station
3	1	1.10	4,333	Tunnel car wash
4	2	0.86	5,200	Tire store
5	2	1.04	9,600	Flex-tech condos
6	2	1.10	12,480	Flex-tech condos
Lot A	2	0.22	N/A	Detention basin

N/A = not applicable; sf = square feet

The 7-Eleven proposes to operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The Superstar Car Wash proposes to operate from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days per week. The hours of operation of the remaining uses would be based on tenants that occupy the uses.

### **Architectural Design**

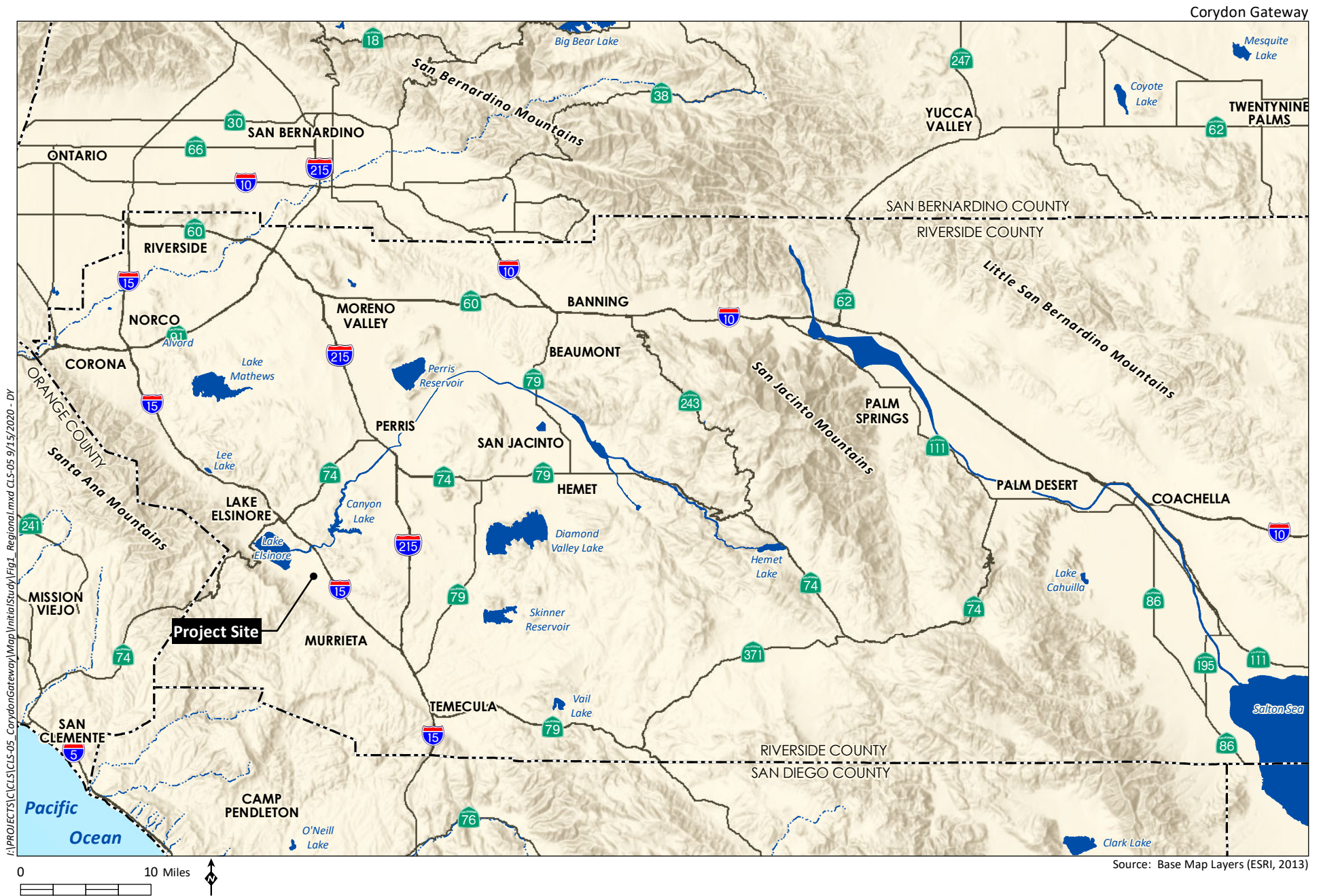
The zoning of the project site restricts the maximum building height to 30 feet. Buildings would range in height from 26 feet (for the fast food restaurant and tire shop) to 30 feet (for the flex-tech condos). The maximum height of each building would not be uniform across the building. Rather, each building would incorporate varying façades and architectural elements (such as parapets) of different heights that would provide for a varying roofline. The gas station canopy would be level and would have a height at the top of the canopy of 17.5 feet and at the bottom of the canopy of 14.5 feet. Eight supporting canopy columns would be provided towards the center of the canopy to form a “T-shaped” structure.

Figures 4a through 4c, *Conceptual Street Views*, provide a conceptual depiction of the exterior building materials proposed to be used, as seen from adjacent roadways. The buildings would be constructed of earth-tone (off-white, light brown, and gray) exterior cement plaster, brick veneer, and brown composite siding. The material type, as well as massing and height, would vary for the multiple façades and architectural components proposed for each building. Portions of the building fronts would be anodized clear aluminum. The buildings would incorporate decorative architectural features including light fixtures, aluminum canopies, and aluminum cornices that would be either clear or anodized dark bronze, as well as galvanized sheet metal coping on the top of the exterior walls.

### **Access, Circulation, and Parking**

Access to the site would be provided via an ingress/egress located just north of the intersection of Mission Trail and Corydon Street (central access) and an additional ingress/egress to be provided farther south along Corydon Street (southern access). The project would extend Lemon Street west from Mission Trail along the northern property boundary via a proposed reciprocal access easement, which would provide northern access to the project site. The existing traffic signal at the intersection of Mission Trail and Lemon Street would be modified to accommodate the new roadway segment.

A total of 143 parking spaces would be provided on site, including seven (7) accessible parking spaces and 11 clean air vehicle parking spaces. All clean air vehicle parking spaces would be provided with infrastructure for the addition of future electrical vehicle charging stations. Proposed parking would exceed the minimum 121 parking spaces required for the site per the Lake Elsinore Municipal Code (LEMC), as















STREET VIEW FROM CORYDON ROAD- LOOKING NORTH

Source: GK Pierce Architects (2020)





STREET VIEW FROM CORYDON/ MISSION TRAIL INTERSECTION- LOOKING NORTHWEST

Source: GK Pierce Architects (2020)

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STREET VIEW FROM MISSION TRAIL/ LEMON INTERSECTION- LOOKING SOUTHWEST

Source: GK Pierce Architects (2020)

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well as the current California Building Code and California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) requirements for accessible and clean air vehicle parking, respectively.

### **Landscaping, Bio-retention Basin, and Hardscape**

The project site would include approximately 40,826 sf of landscaping, representing 15.5 percent of the site (see Figure 5, *Conceptual Landscape Plan*). As shown in Figure 5, implementation of the landscape plan would include installation of trees along the western, southern, and eastern property boundaries; it is expected that trees would be installed along the northern property boundary by the future developer of the adjacent property. A continuous line of trees along the southwestern boundary of the project site would provide visual screening between the project site and the adjacent light industrial uses. Trees, as well as shrubs and 30-inch tall screen hedges, would also be provided within the numerous parking lot islands throughout the site. The tree planting mix is proposed to consist of six types of trees of varying sizes, shapes, and styles, including crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), Brisbane box (*Lophostemon confertus*), Chinese flame tree (*Koelreuteria bipinnata*), ornamental pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), London plane tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*), and evergreen elm (*Ulmus Parvifolia*) (see Figure 5). A variety of shrubs is proposed to be utilized for landscape massing, accent plantings, groundcover, and screening. Examples include, but are not limited to, bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea cvr.*) and orchid rockrose (*Cistus x purpureus*) for massing, English Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia 'hidcote'*) and New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax*) for accent planting, and dwarf myrtle (*Myrtus communis 'compacta'*) and Indian hawthorne (*Rhaphiolepis indica cvr.*) for screening (see Figure 5 for full list). Vines or other landscape screening would be provided around all trash enclosures, and landscape screening would be provided for above-ground equipment. Landscaping would be permanently maintained by the developer.

A detention basin would be located in the westernmost portion of the project site to serve as a bioretention basin for stormwater runoff. The basin would capture stormwater runoff from a proposed 24-inch storm drain that would run from the central portion of the site, along the northern property boundary, and into the basin. The basin would include an inlet filter that would treat stormwater runoff from the project site. Water would then be diverted into the adjacent Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District channel, which leads to Lake Elsinore. The basin would be enclosed by a six-foot-high chain-link fence and separated from the project site by a five-foot-wide bench that would surround the basin for stormwater retention. The basin would be regularly maintained to ensure effective operation of runoff control.

Concrete in a natural gray color would be used for all interior sidewalks. A retaining wall would be provided along the project site's southwestern boundary between the project site and the adjacent Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District channel. The wall would range in height from 0.5 feet at the end portions of the wall to 3 feet to 4.5 feet in the middle portion of the wall.

### **Signage**

The project's sign program presents a coordinated signage theme encompassing all phases of the project. The signs would reflect the architecture proposed for the project as related to style, materials, and colors (see Figures 4a through 4c). Proposed signs include:

- A small directional sign near the project's northern access.
- Two multi-tenant monument signs, one at the project's northeastern corner near the intersection of Mission Trail and Lemon Street and one at the project's southern corner along Corydon Street.
- Two single-tenant monument signs, one near the proposed 7-Eleven along Mission Trail and one near the proposed drive-thru fast food restaurant along Corydon Street.

- One corner monument sign near the intersection of Mission Trail and Corydon Street.
- Two fuel pricing monument signs, one at the project's southern access along Corydon Street and one at the project's central access along Mission Trail.

## **Utilities**

Water would be provided to the project site via three water lines that would connect to existing off-site water lines and feed into numerous proposed lines within the project site. The first would be an 8-inch potable water line that would connect to an existing 24-inch line at the intersection of Mission Trail and Lemon Street, run west along the northern boundary of the project site within the proposed Lemon Street roadway extension, and then turn south to provide connections within the northern portion of the project site. A second 8-inch line, this one for fire service, would connect to the same existing 24-inch line just south of the first proposed 8-inch line and would run along the northern portion the project site. The third line would be a 12-inch potable water line that would connect to an existing 12-inch line within Mission Trail just north of its intersection with Corydon Street and run southwest along Corydon Street to near the project site's southern access, where it would connect to two proposed 8-inch lines (one being a fire water line) that would run northwest to provide connections within the southern portion of the project site.

An 8-inch sewer line would be provided within the project site and would connect to an existing 18-inch sewer line within Corydon Street near the project site's southern access. A proposed 24-inch storm drain would run from near the center of the project site north to the proposed Lemon Street roadway extension, then west along the roadway to the proposed detention basin.

Electricity would be provided to the project by Southern California Edison (SCE). Natural gas would be provided by Southern California Gas (SoCalGas). The project would connect to existing SCE electrical lines and SoCalGas natural gas lines, as well as existing telecommunications lines.

## **Project Phasing and Construction**

As discussed above, the project is proposed to be developed in two phases. Phase 1 would include all off-site improvements, utility infrastructure, convenience store and gas station, tunnel car wash, fast food restaurant, and the detention basin. Phase 2 would include the flex-tech condos and tire store. Construction of Phase 1 is anticipated to start summer 2021 and conclude in early 2022. The timing of Phase 2 would be dependent on negotiations with future tenants of the flex-tech condos and tire store. Earthwork for the site is anticipated to require 2,809 cubic yards (cy) of cut and 5,975 cy of fill for a net import of 3,166 cy.

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PLANT PALETTE					
SYMBOL	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	DESCRIPTION	QTY
TREES					
MIX OF TREES SHALL INCLUDE AT LEAST: 25% 15-GALLON TREES, 70% 24"-BOX TREES, AND 5% 36"-BOX TREES					
	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crape Myrtle	24" Box	Deciduous flowering accent	17
	<i>Lophospermum confertus</i>	Brisbane Box	24" Box	Evergreen tall vertical	36
	<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	Chinese Flame Tree	36" Box	Deciduous oval street tree	7
	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Ornamental Pear	24" Box	Deciduous vertical	32
	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Plane Tree	15 Gal	Deciduous oval street tree	7
	<i>Ulmus parvifolia 'True Green'</i>	Evergreen Elm	24" Box	Evergreen broad dome	12
SHRUBS					
100% OF SHRUBS SHALL BE INSTALLED AT 5 GALLON SIZE UNLESS THE SHRUB'S MATURE SIZE IS SUCH THAT NURSERIES DO NOT SELL STOCK LARGER THAN 1 GALLON SIZE. SHRUBS SHALL BE PLACED AT A MAXIMUM OF 36" APART ON AVERAGE.					
	<i>Bougainvillea</i> cvr.	Bougainvillea	5 Gal	Massing	39,383 SF
	<i>Cistus x purpureus</i>	Orchid Rockrose	5 Gal	Massing	
	<i>Coprosma repens 'Marble Queen'</i>	Mirror Plant	5 Gal	Shade massing	
	<i>Dieters vegeta</i>	Fortnight Lily	5 Gal	Accent	
	<i>Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'</i>	English Lavender	1 Gal	Accent	
	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	New Zealand Tea Tree	5 Gal	Background massing	
	<i>Leucophyllum frutescens 'Compacta'</i>	Compact Texas Ranger	5 Gal	Screening / Massing	
	<i>Ligustrum japonicum 'Texanum'</i>	Texas Privet	5 Gal	Screening	
	<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Big Blue Lily Turf	1 Gal	Shade massing	
	<i>Myrtus communis 'Compacta'</i>	Dwarf Myrtle	5 Gal	Screening / Massing	
	<i>Phormium tenax</i>	New Zealand Flax	5 Gal	Accent	
	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	Mock Orange	5 Gal	Screening / Massing	
	<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i> cvr.	Indian Hawthorne	5 Gal	Screening / Massing	
	<i>Rosa 'Flower Carpet'</i>	Groundcover Rose	5 Gal	Accent / Massing	
	<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland Sage	5 Gal	Accent / Massing	
	<i>Salvia leucantha 'Santa Barbara'</i>	Mexican Bush Sage	5 Gal	Accent / Massing	
	<i>Festuca idahoensis 'Siskiyow Blue'</i>	Siskiyow Blue Idaho Fescue	1 Gal	Foreground Massing	
VINES					
	<i>Distictus buccinatoria</i>	Blood Red Trumpet Vine	15 Gal		
	<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>	Cat's Claw Vine	15 Gal		

NATURAL GRAY CONCRETE, MEDIUM BROOM FINISH

Source: Pacific Landscape Studio (2020)

### III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

#### A. BACKGROUND

1. **Project Title:** Corydon Gateway
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** City of Lake Elsinore, 130 South Main Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Damaris Abraham, Senior Planner, (951) 674-3124, ext. 913
4. **Project Location:** Northwest corner of Mission Trail and Corydon Street
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Mark Cooper, RED Corydon, LLC, 25425 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 101, Murrieta, CA 92562
6. **General Plan Designation:** Specific Plan (East Lake Specific Plan – Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation Land Use Designation)
7. **Zoning:** Specific Plan (SP)
8. **Description of Project:** See project description in Section II.B, *Project Description*, above.
9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** See project location and setting in Section II.A, *Project Location and Setting*, above.
10. **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:** The project would be required to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction of Land Disturbance Activities (State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB] Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, NPDES No. CA2000002), in addition to related City requirements for storm water and erosion control; South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Permit to Operate; Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Joint Project Review
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, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?:**

In accordance with the requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 52, the City sent notification to six (6) Native American Tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area on May 1, 2020. Of the tribes notified, the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, and the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians requested formal government-to-government consultation under AB 52. Consultation was concluded on June 17, 2020 with the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, on October 26, 2020 with the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, and on October 20, 2020 with the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. Mitigation measures have been added to address a concern over the potential for uncovering tribal cultural resources (TCRs) or other tribal-affiliated resources during construction of the project. Please see Section XVIII of the Initial Study Environmental Checklist for more detail.

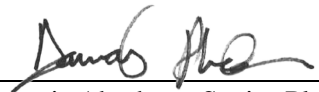
## B. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

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

## C. DETERMINATION

- ☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
Damaris Abraham, Senior Planner

10/28/2020  
Date

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>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 forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</b>				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest uses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:</b>				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VI. ENERGY. Would the project:</b>				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:</b>				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:</b>				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:</b>				
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 other applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:</b>				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XV. 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:</b>				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public services/facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVI. RECREATION.</b>				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:</b>				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:</b>				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XX. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:</b>				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This section provides an evaluation of the impact categories and questions contained in the Environmental Checklist. A complete list of the reference sources applicable to the following source abbreviations is contained in Section VII, References, of this document.

### I. AESTHETICS

#### a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? (Less Than Significant Impact)

The City's aesthetic setting is characterized by urbanized development of various densities occurring within varied topographical features and interspersed with undeveloped natural areas. Scenic resources within and surrounding the City include Lake Elsinore, portions of the Cleveland National Forest, rugged hillside land, distant mountains and ridgelines, rocky outcroppings, streams, vacant land with native vegetation, parkland, and buildings of historical and cultural significance. Views of these scenic resources within and surrounding the City are the prominent scenic vistas identified in the General Plan and General Plan EIR. Due to the importance of Lake Elsinore as the largest natural lake in southern California, scenic resources were addressed in the General Plan by identifying public vantage points of the lake throughout the City. Vantage points identified in Figure 4.10 of the General Plan include northbound I-15, State Route (SR-) 74/Ortega Highway, the Lake Elsinore Recreation Area and Campground, the baseball stadium, the boat launch on the eastern edge of the lake, and the Aloha Pier lookout. There are no recognized scenic vistas on the project site or in the project vicinity. Therefore, while views of portions of the distant mountains and ridgelines to the southwest of the project site may be temporarily obstructed for passing motorists on Mission Trail from the project's buildings, this area is not a prominent public viewpoint and scenic vistas would not be substantially affected. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan)

#### b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? (No Impact)

California's Scenic Highway Program was created by the legislature in 1963 to protect and enhance the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors. The State Scenic Highway System includes a list of highways that are either currently designated or eligible for designation as scenic highways. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) currently identifies both I-15 and SR-74 as eligible for listing as state scenic highways, but they not yet officially designated. The project site is located approximately 0.6 mile from I-15 and 4.5 miles from the closest portion of SR-74. The project also would not result in impacts to scenic trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings. Accordingly, no impact to scenic resources within a state scenic highway would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: California State Scenic Highway System Map [Caltrans 2018])

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

CEQA defines the term “urbanized area” to mean an incorporated city that has a population of at least 100,000 persons, or has a population of less than 100,000 persons if the population of that city and not more than two contiguous incorporated cities combined equals at least 100,000 persons. U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census Bureau) data from 2019 indicates that the City has a population of 69,283 and the adjacent City of Wildomar has a population of 37,229 (U.S. Census Bureau 2020). Thus, the project site is considered to be located within an urbanized area and is evaluated relative to applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.

The proposed project involves the development of a commercial retail center on an existing undeveloped lot, which would change the visual character of the site. The project site, as well as the areas to the north and west, are within the East Lake Specific Plan area and have a land use designation of Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation. Development of the project would follow the design guidelines contained in the East Lake Specific Plan, which would provide for consistency in visual character between the project and existing and future development in the adjacent areas that are also within the East Lake Specific Plan area. Therefore, the project would not conflict with regulations governing scenic quality, and impacts related to visual character would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: East Lake Specific Plan, U.S. Census Bureau)

**d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

According to the City’s General Plan, light and glare impacts to the Mount Palomar Observatory are of concern to the City. Areas of light pollution impacts have been identified through a “ring analysis,” where primary impacts to the Observatory are within a 30-mile radius, and secondary impacts are within a radius of up to 45 miles. According to General Plan Figure 4.12, the project site is located within the 45-mile secondary impacts radius. The project site is currently undeveloped, with no existing on-site sources of light or glare. Existing sources of night lighting attributed to nearby light industrial, commercial, and residential development include street lamps, accent and security lighting, parking lot lighting, and vehicle headlights. Development of the project would be required to comply with Section 17.112.040, Lighting (for Nonresidential Development), of the LEMC. Section 17.112.040 requires all outdoor lighting fixtures in excess of 60 watts to be oriented and shielded to prevent direct illumination above the horizontal plane passing through the luminaire and prevent glare or illumination on adjacent properties or streets. This section of the LEMC encourages the use of low-pressure sodium vapor lighting due to the City’s proximity to the Mount Palomar Observatory.

Sources of glare during the day result primarily from parked cars located in large parking lots and from sunlight reflected from window glazing on buildings. The proposed project would introduce new sources of daytime glare due to the new building surfaces and vehicles at the site; however, glare created by the proposed project would be similar to the glare that is emitted by the surrounding development. Based on the above considerations, the project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Potential impacts associated with light or glare would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan, General Plan EIR, LEMC)



## **II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES**

### **a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? (No Impact)**

According to the City's General Plan EIR (City 2011b), agricultural uses constitute approximately 0.8 percent of the City's total acreage. Some of this existing agricultural land, as well as vacant land used for purposes other than agriculture, are designated by the California Department of Conservation (CDC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) as Farmland of Local Importance (554 acres within the City), Grazing Land (827 acres within the City), and Unique Farmland (25 acres within the City) (City 2011b). Remaining land is considered Urban/Built-Up Land or Other Land, reflecting its developed uses or other characteristics making it unsuitable for agriculture. The project site is an undeveloped property that is designated by the FMMP as Farmland of Local Importance (CDC 2016). The site does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. In addition, the site has a land use designation of Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation. The site is currently not used for agriculture nor is it planned to be used for agriculture. Therefore, there would be no conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance to a non-agricultural use as a result of this project. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR, CDC FMMP)

### **b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? (No Impact)**

The project site is not zoned for agricultural use and the Lake Elsinore Zoning Code does not contain agricultural zones or zones that principally allow for agriculture. Further, the City's General Plan EIR indicates that there are no Williamson Act agricultural preserves within the City boundaries. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Zoning Map, General Plan EIR)

### **c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? (No Impact)**

### **d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest uses? (No Impact)**

Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) identifies forest land as land that can support 10 percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits. The City's General Plan does not identify specific designations for forest land or timberland uses, nor is there a zoning designated for forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production within City limits. The project site is vacant and not currently being managed or used for forest land or timberland. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan, Zoning Map, Public Resources Code Section 12220(g))

**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? (No Impact)**

There are no agricultural operations or timberland production operations within the project site; therefore, the project would not result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Zoning Map)

### **III. AIR QUALITY**

This section is based on the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Impact Study prepared for the proposed project by MD Acoustics, LLC (2020a, Appendix A). The project's construction and operational emissions were calculated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), Version 2016.3.2. CalEEMod is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to provide a uniform platform for government agencies, land use planners, and environmental professionals to quantify potential criteria pollutant and GHG emissions associated with construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. The results and conclusions of the report and calculations relative to pollutant emissions are summarized herein.

**a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? (No Impact)**

The City is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) under the jurisdiction of SCAQMD. SCAQMD and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) are responsible for formulating and implementing the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the SCAB. The AQMP is a series of plans adopted for the purpose of reaching short- and long-term goals for those pollutants the SCAB is designated as a 'nonattainment' area because the SCAQMD does not meet federal and/or state Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS). The land use and transportation control portions of the AQMP are based on the regional growth forecasts included in SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which is a long-range transportation plan that uses growth forecasts to project trends over a 20-year period to identify regional transportation strategies to address mobility needs. Both the RTP/SCS and AQMP are based, in part, on projections originating with County and City General Plans. The two principal criteria for conformance to the AQMP are (1) whether a project would result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations, cause or contribute to new violations, or delay timely attainment of air quality standards; and (2) whether a project would exceed the assumptions in the AQMP.

As described below under Item III(b), pollutant emissions from the project would be less than the SCAQMD thresholds and would not result in a significant impact. Further, the project does not involve a change to a General Plan or zoning designation and, therefore, would not exceed the growth assumptions in the AQMP. As such, the project would not conflict with the AQMP and no impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Air Quality and GHG Impact Study, MD Acoustics [2020a, Appendix A])

**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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project would result in criteria pollutant emissions during construction and operation. Construction activities that would generate emissions are anticipated to include site preparation, grading, building construction, paving, and architectural coating. Operational sources of emissions would include vehicular sources, natural gas use, landscape equipment use, consumer products, and architectural coatings. Both construction and operation would result in emissions of carbon monoxide (CO), reactive organic gases (ROGs), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>), and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>). The SCAQMD has thresholds for emissions of each of these pollutants, as identified below in Table 2, *Maximum Daily Emissions Thresholds*. The attainment status for criteria pollutants in the SCAB is shown in Table 3, *South Coast Air Basin Criteria Pollutant Attainment Status*.

<b>Table 2</b> <b>MAXIMUM DAILY EMISSIONS THRESHOLDS</b> <b>(pounds per day)</b>		
<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Operations</b>
Reactive Organic Gases (ROGs)	75	55
Nitrogen Oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> )	100	55
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	550	550
Particulate Matter 10 microns in diameter (PM <sub>10</sub> )	150	150
Particulate Matter 2.5 microns in diameter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	55	55
Sulfur Oxides (SO <sub>x</sub> )	150	150
Lead	3	3

Source: SCAQMD 2019

<b>Table 3</b> <b>SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN CRITERIA POLLUTANT ATTAINMENT STATUS</b>		
<b>Criteria Pollutant</b>	<b>Federal Designation</b>	<b>State Designation</b>
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ) – 1-hour standard	(No federal standard)	Nonattainment
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ) – 8-hour Standard	Extreme Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Attainment (Maintenance)	Attainment
Particulate Matter 10 microns in diameter (PM <sub>10</sub> )	Attainment (Maintenance)	Nonattainment
Particulate Matter 2.5 microns in diameter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	Serious Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	Attainment (Maintenance)	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	Attainment	Attainment
Sulfates	(No federal standard)	Attainment
Lead	Attainment	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide (H <sub>2</sub> S)	(No federal standard)	Attainment

Source: SCAQMD 2016

If the project's criteria pollutant and precursor emissions during construction and operation are below the SCAQMD daily regional thresholds, the project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant. To determine whether the project's emissions would result a cumulatively considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant for which the region is in non-attainment, or contribute substantially to a projected air quality violation, the project's emissions were evaluated based on the quantitative emission thresholds established by the SCAQMD, as described below and shown in Table 4, *Maximum Daily Construction Emissions*, and Table 5, *Maximum Daily Operational Emissions*.

## Construction Emissions

As discussed above, the project would result in criteria pollutant emissions during its various construction activities, including site preparation, grading, building construction, paving, and architectural coating. Dust is typically the primary concern during construction of new buildings and infrastructure. Because such emissions are not amenable to collection and discharge through a controlled source, they are called “fugitive emissions.” Fugitive dust emissions include PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Average daily PM<sub>10</sub> emissions during site grading and other disturbance average about 10 pounds per acre. This estimate presumes the use of reasonably available control measures (RACMs). The SCAQMD requires the use of best available control measures (BACMs) for fugitive dust from construction activities. With the use of BACMs, fugitive dust emissions can be reduced to one to two pounds per day per acre disturbed. The estimated construction emissions calculated for the proposed project are presented below in Table 4.

<b>Table 4</b> <b>MAXIMUM DAILY CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS</b> <b>(pounds per day)</b>						
<b>Category</b>	<b>ROG</b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>
Site Preparation	<0.5	2	3	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
Grading	3	26	17	<0.5	4	3
Building Construction	3	24	22	<0.5	3	1
Paving	2	13	15	<0.5	1	1
Architectural Coating	20	2	3	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
<b>Maximum Daily Emissions<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>25</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>&lt;0.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>SCAQMD Threshold</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>55</i>
<b><i>Exceeds Threshold?</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>

Source: MD Acoustics 2020a

Notes:

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Construction emissions calculations incorporate SCAQMD Rules 402 and 403 (Fugitive Dust), which include standard requirements the project would incorporate.

<sup>1</sup> Maximum daily emissions would occur if/when the building construction, paving, and architectural coating phases overlap.

ROG = reactive organic gas; NO<sub>x</sub> = nitrogen oxides; CO = carbon monoxide; SO<sub>2</sub> = sulfur dioxide; PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; PM<sub>2.5</sub> = particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter; SCAQMD = South Coast Air Quality Management District

As shown in Table 4, maximum daily construction emissions are estimated to be below SCAQMD significance thresholds. Therefore, project construction would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of criteria pollutant emissions and impacts would be less than significant.

## Operational Emissions

Operational emissions associated with the proposed project, including those from area, energy, and mobile sources, are shown below in Table 5.

<p align="center"><b>Table 5</b>  <b>MAXIMUM DAILY OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS</b>  <b>(pounds per day)</b></p>						
<b>Category</b>	<b>ROG</b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>
Area	1	0	<0.5	0	0	0
Energy	<0.5	1	1	0	<0.5	<0.5
Mobile	7	44	57	<0.5	15	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>&lt;0.5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>SCAQMD Threshold</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>55</i>
<b><i>Exceeds Threshold?</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>

Source: MD Acoustics 2020a

Notes:

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Emissions account for VOC content in paint limits per SCAQMD Rule 1113.

ROG = reactive organic gas; NO<sub>x</sub> = nitrogen oxides; CO = carbon monoxide; SO<sub>2</sub> = sulfur dioxide; PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; PM<sub>2.5</sub> = particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter; SCAQMD = South Coast Air Quality Management District

As shown in Table 5, operation emissions would be below the SCAQMD significance thresholds. Therefore, project operation would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of criteria pollutant emissions and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Air Quality and GHG Impact Study, MD Acoustics [2020a, Appendix A])

**c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Air quality impacts are analyzed relative to those persons with the greatest sensitivity to air pollution exposure. Such persons are called “sensitive receptors.” Sensitive population groups include young children, the elderly, and the acutely and chronically ill (especially those with cardio-respiratory disease). Residential areas are considered to be sensitive to air pollution exposure because they may be occupied for extended periods, and residents may be outdoors when exposure is highest. Schools are similarly considered to be sensitive receptors. The closest existing sensitive use to the project site is the residential property located approximately 100 feet east of the site across Mission Trail.

The SCAQMD has developed analysis parameters to evaluate ambient air quality on a local level, called Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs). LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that could occur, beyond which the project would cause or contribute measurably to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. LSTs are only applicable to the following criteria pollutants: NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. LSTs are developed based on the ambient pollutant concentrations for each source area and distance to the nearest sensitive receptor, and are applicable for a sensitive receptor where it is possible that an individual could remain for 24 hours such as a residence, hospital, or convalescent facility.

Potential impacts to sensitive receptors from construction-related toxic air contaminants (TACs) and operational CO hotspots and emissions associated with the proposed gas station are also assessed.

## Construction

### *Localized Criteria Pollutant Emissions*

The construction LSTs used for this analysis are based on Source Receptor Area (SRA) 25, Lake Elsinore, a disturbance area of 2 acres per day, and a distance of 25 meters (82 feet). Construction emissions are based on the number of equipment hours and the maximum daily soil disturbance activity possible for each piece of equipment. Per the LST methodology, only on-site emissions are considered. The applicable LSTs and localized construction emissions are shown in Table 6, *Maximum Daily Localized Construction Emissions*.

<b>Table 6 MAXIMUM DAILY LOCALIZED CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (pounds per day)</b>				
<b>Phase</b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>
Site Preparation	2	2	<0.5	<0.5
Grading	26	16	4	2
Building Construction	19	17	1	1
Paving	13	15	1	1
Architectural Coating	2	2	<0.5	<0.5
<b>Maximum Daily Emissions</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>SCAQMD LSTs<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>234</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>4</i>
<b><i>Exceeds Threshold?</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>

Source: MD Acoustics 2020a

Notes:

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Construction emissions calculations incorporate SCAQMD Rules 402 and 403 (Fugitive Dust), which include standard requirements the project would incorporate.

<sup>1</sup> The LSTs used are based on Source Receptor Area (SRA) 25, Lake Elsinore, a disturbance area of 2 acres per day, and a distance of 25 meters (82 feet).

NO<sub>x</sub> = nitrogen oxides; CO = carbon monoxide; PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; PM<sub>2.5</sub> = particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter; SCAQMD = South Coast Air Quality Management District; LST = Localized Significance Thresholds

As indicated in Table 6, project emissions would be below the LST thresholds for construction, and LST impacts would be less than significant.

### *Toxic Air Contaminants*

TACs are a diverse group of air pollutants that may cause or contribute to an increase in deaths or in serious illness or that may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. Emissions during construction would be related to diesel particulate matter (DPM) associated with heavy equipment operations during earth-moving activities. The SCAQMD does not consider diesel-related cancer risks from construction equipment to be a significant issue due to the short-term nature of construction activities. Construction activities associated with the proposed project would be sporadic, transitory, and short term in nature at any given location across the large project site. Further, the overall construction duration for Phase I is anticipated to be less than one year. The construction duration for Phase II is not yet determined but is likely to be similar to the Phase I duration. The amount of DPM to which the receptors could be exposed, which is a function of concentration and duration of exposure, is the primary factor used to determine health risk. Current models and methodologies for conducting cancer health risk assessments are associated with longer-term exposure periods (typically 30 years for individual residents) and are best suited for evaluation of long duration TAC emissions with predictable schedules and locations. These assessment models and methodologies do not correlate well with the temporary and highly variable nature of construction activities.

Due to the variable and sporadic nature of construction activity and the anticipated short construction schedule in any one area, TAC emissions from the project's construction activity would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. As such, project-related TAC emission impacts during construction would be less than significant.

## Operations

### *Localized Criteria Pollutant Emissions*

The operational LSTs used for this analysis are based on SRA 25, Lake Elsinore, a disturbance area of 5 acres per day, and a distance of 25 meters (82 feet). The LST analysis only includes on-site sources; however, CalEEMod emissions outputs do not separate on-site and off-site emissions for mobile sources. As a conservative assessment, the localized operational emissions presented herein include all on-site stationary sources and 10 percent of the project-related new mobile sources. This percentage is an estimate of the amount of project-related new vehicle traffic that would occur on site. The applicable LSTs and localized operational emissions are shown in Table 7, *Maximum Daily Localized Operational Emissions*.

<b>Table 7</b> <b>MAXIMUM DAILY LOCALIZED OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS</b> <b>(pounds per day)</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>
Area	0	<0.5	0	0
Energy	1	1	<0.5	<0.5
Mobile	4	6	2	<0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>&lt;0.5</b>
<i>SCAQMD LSTs<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>371</i>	<i>1,965</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>
<b><i>Exceeds Threshold?</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>	<b><i>No</i></b>

Source: MD Acoustics 2020a

Notes:

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Emissions account for VOC content in paint limits per SCAQMD Rule 1113.

<sup>1</sup> The LSTs used are based on SRA 25, Lake Elsinore, a disturbance area of 5 acres per day, and a distance of 25 meters (82 feet).

NO<sub>x</sub> = nitrogen oxides; CO = carbon monoxide; PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; PM<sub>2.5</sub> = particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter; SCAQMD = South Coast Air Quality Management District; LST = Localized Significance Thresholds

As indicated in Table 7, project emissions would be below the LST thresholds for operations, and LST impacts would be less than significant.

### *CO Hotspots*

A CO hotspot is an area of localized CO pollution caused by severe vehicle congestion on major roadways, typically near intersections. A quantitative screening is required in two instances: (1) if a project increases the average delay at signalized intersections operating at Level of Service (LOS) E or F; or (2) if a project causes an intersection that would operate at LOS D or better without the project to operate at LOS E or F with the project. According to the Traffic Impact Analysis prepared for the project (Trames Solutions, Inc. 2020a, Appendix KJ), neither of these two scenarios would occur with implementation of the project. Therefore, the project would not result in a CO hotspot and impacts would be less than significant.

### *Operational Health Risk*

The project proposes the development of a gas station and associated underground storage tank. Fugitive emissions associated with gasoline and/or diesel include VOCs and TACs, which can be harmful to human health. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) recommend a 50-foot separation between gas stations and sensitive receptors. The nearest sensitive receptors, single-family residences to the east of the project site across Mission Trail, would be located approximately 150 feet from the gas station and approximately 270 feet from the underground storage tank; therefore, impacts from these facilities are not anticipated. Furthermore, the SCAQMD gasoline station HRA screening tables show that the maximum individual cancer risk (MICR) at residential receptors 25 meters (the pumps are located further away at approximately 45 meters) from the fuel source would not even exceed 2.978 in a million (per 1,000,000 gallons of through put), which is a reasonable assumption given the size of the project and number of pumps. The proposed project is estimated to have approximately 1.87 million gallons of through put per year, which equates to an approximate 5.57 in a million MICR, at a distance of approximately 25 meters. The risk is below SCAQMD's 10 in a million threshold and therefore no additional mitigation is required. In addition, the fuel pump portion of the proposed development would be permitted by SCAQMD through a Permit to Operate and would be regulated by SCAQMD Rule 461. The gasoline dispensing facilities would be required to use Phase I/II Enhanced Vapor Recovery systems to restrict fugitive emissions. As such, impacts related to health impacts from operation of the gas station would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Air Quality and GHG Impact Study, MD Acoustics [2020a, Appendix A]; Traffic Impact Analysis, Trames Solutions, Inc. [2020a, Appendix K])

**d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The State of California Health and Safety Code Sections 41700 and 41705 prohibit emissions from any source whatsoever in such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to the public health or damage to property. The project could produce odors during proposed construction activities resulting from construction equipment exhaust, application of asphalt, and/or the application of architectural coatings. However, standard construction practices would minimize the odor emissions and their associated impacts. Furthermore, odors emitted during construction would be temporary, short-term, and intermittent in nature, would disperse rapidly beyond the project site, and would cease upon the completion of the respective phase of construction.

The CARB Air Quality and Land Use Handbook includes a list of the most common sources of odor complaints received by local air districts. Typical sources of odor complaints include facilities such as sewage treatment plants, landfills, recycling facilities, petroleum refineries, and livestock operations (CARB 2005). The proposed project would include a commercial retail center. Therefore, the project would not result in emissions leading to odors that would adversely affect a substantial number of people and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: CARB Air Quality and Land Use Handbook)



#### IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Consistency Analysis was prepared for the proposed project by L&L Environmental, Inc. (2020a, Appendix B) to determine the presence/absence of biological resources within the project study area, determine the potential for sensitive species to occur, and evaluate the project's consistency with the MSHCP objectives for Criteria Cell 5131. The analysis presented below is based on the findings of this report.

A Joint Project Review (JPR) was completed by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) to determine consistency with the MSHCP and identify potential impacts to biological resources associated with the development of the proposed project (RCA 2020a; Appendix C – Joint Project Review [JPR 20-06-09-01] for the LEAP 2020-02/Corydon Gateway, RCA, September 24, 2020).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided comments on the JPR as they relate to the project's consistency with MSHCP Section 6.1.4 (Guidelines Pertaining to the Urban/Wildlands Interface) (RCA 2020b; Appendix D – Review of the Joint Project Review [JPR 20-06-09-01] for the LEAP 2020-02/Corydon Gateway, provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, October 12, 2020).

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

The Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and MSHCP Consistency Determination investigated the likelihood of project-related impacts to sensitive plant and wildlife species in the vicinity of the project site. A complete list of plant and animal species observed in the project vicinity is included in the report (Appendix B). A summary of the status of sensitive species within the project site and vicinity, as well as potential impacts to these species, is presented below.

*Sensitive Plant Species:* Sensitive plant species are those listed as federally threatened or endangered by the USFWS; state listed as threatened or endangered or considered sensitive by CDFW; included in the MSHCP as Covered Species, Non-Covered Species, Criteria Area Species, and/or Narrow Endemic Plant Species; and/or are California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1A, 1B, or 2 species, as recognized in the CNPS' Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California and consistent with the CEQA Guidelines. A total of 39 plant species were observed and identified within the project study area site during the investigation undertaken as part of the Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and MSHCP Consistency Determination. None of the 39 observed species was a sensitive plant species. Smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*), which has a CRPR of 1B.1 (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously threatened in California), has been documented approximately 700 feet north of the project site and was observed just north and outside of the project boundary. Smooth tarplant was not observed on site and impacts, if any, would be covered under the MSHCP. As such, no significant impacts to sensitive plant species would occur.

*Sensitive Animal Species:* Sensitive animal species are those listed as threatened or endangered, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing by the USFWS; considered sensitive animals by the CDFW; and/or included in the MSHCP as Covered Species, Non-Covered Species, and/or Criteria Area Species. The MSHCP identifies one species, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), as a species requiring a habitat assessment and/or presence/absence surveys at the project site. A total of 19 wildlife species, including 16 bird species and 3 mammal species, was observed and identified within the project study area during the

investigation undertaken as part of the Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and MSHCP Consistency Determination. Of the 19 species observed, two were special status wildlife species, including San Diego black tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennetti*; CDFW Species of Special Concern) and great egret (*Ardea alba*; CDFW Special Animal). San Diego black tailed jackrabbit is a covered species under the MSHCP and is considered adequately conserved. Great egret is not covered under the MSHCP but was only observed flying over the project site, not utilizing it. No burrowing owl; occupied burrows; or evidence of recent burrowing owl presence, such as pellets, scat, feathers, and tracks, were observed within the study area or within a 500-foot buffer. Potential for the presence of burrowing owl is considered low based on these observations and disturbances related to ongoing commercial activities near the site, previous clearing and possible annual disking or mowing of the site, and various other disturbances and development of adjacent areas. Impacts to burrowing owl are therefore not anticipated. The potential for impacts to occur would be further minimized through a pre-construction clearance survey for burrowing owl, as required per the MSHCP and included herein as **Mitigation Measure (MM) BIO-1**.

*Riparian Birds:* Sensitive riparian bird with the potential to occur in the project vicinity include least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*; state and federally listed as endangered), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*; state and federally listed as endangered), and western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*; state listed as endangered and federally listed as threatened). Least Bell's vireo has been documented by the California Native Diversity Database (CNDDDB) to occur in the vicinity of the project site at locations 1.5 miles to the west-northwest, 2.3 miles to the west, and 1.0 mile to the east-southeast. There are no CNDDDB documented occurrences of southwestern willow flycatcher or western yellow-billed cuckoo within 10 miles of the project site. Each of these three species is a covered species under the MSHCP and is considered adequately conserved, but surveys are required in suitable habitat as described in MSHCP Section 6.1.2.

Suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and western yellow-billed cuckoo includes dense riparian vegetation. There is no riparian habitat within the project site. A small portion (approximately 0.06 acre) of scattered oaks, mule fat, and willow is present approximately 80 feet west of the site in a fenced area at the end of a constructed concrete trapezoidal tunnel. This vegetation is small, scattered, and isolated and does not provide the dense riparian habitat required by these species. In addition, this vegetation occurs within an existing motorcycle park and is subjected to high levels of noise and disturbance that create unsuitable conditions for these species. Based on these factors, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and western yellow-billed cuckoo are considered absent. Therefore, no significant impacts to these species would occur.

*Nesting Birds:* Given the location of Lake Elsinore within the City, there are a variety of birds that migrate seasonally through the City on the Pacific Flyway, as well as certain birds that permanently reside locally. While there are no trees on site, suitable habitat for ground-nesting birds is present on site. In addition, ornamental trees 65 feet south of the site and native trees 80 feet west of the site may be utilized by nesting birds. As such, development of the proposed project could disturb or destroy active migratory bird nests protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) if construction occurs during the identified breeding season (between February 1 and August 31). Disturbance to or destruction of migratory bird nests are in violation of the MBTA and are, therefore, considered to be a potentially significant impact. Implementation of nesting bird pre-construction surveys included herein as **MM BIO-2** would ensure that potential impacts to birds protected under the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code are avoided during construction.

Through implementation of **MM BIO-1** and **MM BIO-2**, potential impacts to sensitive wildlife species would be less than significant.

## Mitigation Measures

**MM BIO-1: *Burrowing Owl Surveys.*** A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction focused species surveys in accordance with the CDFW's *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012) within 30 days prior to commencement of construction activities. If burrowing owls are determined to occupy the site during pre-construction surveys and impacts to occupied burrows cannot be avoided, the City shall consult with the CDFW and prepare and implement a project-specific Burrowing Owl Mitigation Plan. The plan shall be reviewed and approved by the CDFW and implemented prior to activities that could affect burrowing owl within the project site. To avoid take, impacted individuals shall be relocated outside of the impact area by a qualified biologist prior to initiation of construction activities using passive or active methodologies approved by CDFW. The relocation shall occur outside of the breeding season for the burrowing owl. Existing burrows shall be destroyed once they are vacated.

**MM BIO-2: *Nesting Bird Pre-construction Surveys.*** In order to avoid violation of the federal MBTA and California Fish and Game Code, construction activities shall be avoided to the greatest extent possible during the nesting season (generally February 1 to August 31).

If construction activities are to occur during the nesting season, a pre-construction nesting survey shall be conducted within three days prior to the commencement of construction (if between February 1 and August 31). A qualified biologist shall perform the nesting survey that will consist of a single visit to ascertain whether there are active raptor nests within 500 feet of the project footprint or other protected bird nests within 300 feet of the project footprint. Nests will be searched for in the trees and shrubs. This survey shall identify the species of nesting bird and to the degree feasible, nesting stage (e.g., incubation of eggs, feeding of young, near fledging). Nests shall be mapped (not by using GPS because close encroachment may cause nest abandonment). The follow-up nesting survey shall be conducted for five (5) consecutive days and no more than three (3) days prior to construction. If an active nest is observed, the nest location shall be fenced off surrounding an adequate radius buffer zone as determined by the biological monitor, to be at least 350 feet. The buffer zone shall not be disturbed until the nest is inactive. Biological monitoring shall occur during vegetation removal activities.

(Sources: Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and MSHCP Consistency Determination, L&L Environmental, Inc. 2020a [Appendix B])

**b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

Sensitive natural communities include land that supports unique vegetation communities or the habitats of rare or endangered species or subspecies of animals or plants as defined by Section 15380 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and MSHCP Consistency Determination conducted for the project involved a general habitat assessment for the project site that included vegetation mapping and an MSHCP Riparian/Riverine and Vernal Pool Resource assessment for the two Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District channels located approximately 80 feet from the project site's western boundary and adjacent to the project site's southwestern boundary. The results of the assessments determined that one vegetation community/land cover type, non-native grassland, is present within the project site. Non-native grassland is not considered a sensitive natural community. The nearby

MSHCP riparian/riverine areas are outside of the project limits and would not be impacted by the project. Further, while the farther of the two MSHCP riparian/riverine areas (the one 80 feet to the west) supports riparian habitat, the closer of the two areas (the one adjacent to the project site's southwest boundary) does not support riparian habitat. No direct impacts to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community would occur. As discussed below in Item IV(f), no on-site habitat conservation is required. In order to mitigate potential adverse effects on adjacent MSHCP Conservation Areas, **MM BIO-3** would require implementation of guidelines contained in Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP. **MM BIO-4** would require the Property Owner/Developer to comply with Construction Best Management Practices from Volume I, Appendix C of the MSHCP. With implementation of **MM BIO-3** and **MM BIO-4**, potential impacts associated with adverse effects on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community would be less than significant.

## **Mitigation Measures**

**MM BIO-3:** ***MSHCP Guideline Implementation.*** Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Property Owner/Developer shall include a note on the plans that outlines the following requirements from Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP:

1. Incorporate measures to control the quantity and quality of runoff from the site entering the MSHCP Conservation Area. In particular, measures shall be put in place to avoid discharge of untreated surface runoff from developed and paved areas into MSHCP Conservation Areas. Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented to prevent the release of toxins, chemicals, petroleum products, exotic plant materials, or other elements that might degrade or harm downstream biological resources or ecosystems. According to the MSHCP consistency analysis prepared for the project, the proposed project will incorporate a detention basin, grass swales, or mechanical trapping devices to filter runoff from the project site.
2. Land uses proposed in proximity to the MSHCP Conservation Area that use chemicals or generate bioproducts, such as manure, that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife species, habitat, or water quality shall incorporate measures to ensure that application of such chemicals does not result in discharge to the MSHCP Conservation Area. The greatest risk is from landscaping fertilization overspray and runoff.
3. Night lighting shall be directed away from the MSHCP Conservation Area and the avoided area on site to protect species from direct night lighting. According to the MSHCP consistency analysis prepared for the project, the proposed project will direct night lighting away from the MSHCP Conservation Area and incorporate light shielding in the project designs to avoid excess ambient light from entering the MSHCP Conservation Area.
4. Proposed noise-generating land uses affecting the MSHCP Conservation Area, including designated avoidance areas, shall incorporate setbacks, berms, or walls to minimize the effects of noise on MSHCP Conservation Area resources pursuant to applicable rules, regulations, and guidelines related to land use noise standards.
5. Avoid use of invasive, non-native plant species listed in Table 6-2 of the MSHCP in approving landscape plans for the portions of the project that are adjacent to the MSHCP Conservation Area, including avoidance areas. Considerations in reviewing the applicability of this list shall include proximity of planting areas to the MSHCP

Conservation Areas and designated avoidance areas, species considered in the planting plans, resources being protected within the MSHCP Conservation Area and their relative sensitivity to invasion, and barriers to plant and seed dispersal, such as walls, topography, and other features. According to the MSHCP consistency analysis prepared for the project, the proposed project landscape plans will avoid utilizing any species listed in Table 6-2 in the landscaping plans.

6. Proposed land uses adjacent to the MSHCP Conservation Area shall incorporate barriers, where appropriate, in individual project designs to minimize unauthorized public access, domestic animal predation, illegal trespass, or dumping into existing and future MSHCP Conservation Areas. Such barriers may include native landscaping, rocks/boulders, fencing, walls, signage, and/or other appropriate mechanisms.
7. Manufactured slopes associated with proposed site development shall not extend into the MSHCP Conservation Area.
8. Weed abatement and fuel modification activities are not permitted in the Conservation Area, including designated avoidance areas.

**MM BIO-4:** ***MSHCP Construction Best Management Practices Implementation.*** Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Property Owner/Developer shall include a note on the plans that outlines the following Construction BMPs from Volume I, Appendix C of the MSHCP shown in italics, and specific requirements in plain text:

Construction Best Management Practices:

1. *A condition shall be placed on grading permits requiring a qualified biologist to conduct a training session for project personnel prior to grading. The training shall include a description of the species of concern and its habitats, the general provisions of the Endangered Species Act and the MSHCP, the need to adhere to the provisions of the Act and the MSHCP, the penalties associated with violating the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, the general measures that are being implemented to conserve the species of concern as they relate to the project, and the access routes to and project site boundaries within which the project activities must be accomplished.*

Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Property Owner/Developer shall retain a qualified biologist to prepare and implement a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) to train all project personnel prior to grading. The details of the training should be consistent with MSHCP Appendix C Standard BMP No. 1, the general provisions of the Endangered Species Act, include a detailed discussion of how to identify the potential special-status plant and animal species that may be encountered during ground disturbance and construction activities, and necessary actions to take if the species are observed on site.

2. *Water pollution and erosion control plans shall be developed and implemented in accordance with RWQCB requirements.*

Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Property Owner/Developer shall submit to the City a project-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prior to initial ground disturbance. The project-specific SWPPP shall describe BMPs that will be implemented in pre-, during-, and post-construction phases. Examples of BMPs may

include dust suppression BMPs, Low Impact Developments (LIDs) such as vegetated swales, and a spill response protocol. The SWPPP is a dynamic document that shall be amended when site conditions warrant changes to protect natural resources and prevent discharge of non-stormwater to neighboring parcels.

The Qualified Stormwater Developer (QSD) shall develop and implement the SWPPP with site-specific BMPs to prevent/reduce the potential for erosion, sedimentation, and offsite discharge of non-stormwater in accordance with the Construction General Permit (CGP), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) MS4 permit, and a 401 Water Quality Certification Permit (if applicable). The QSD shall provide training to the contractor for performing regular site inspections, and for pre-, during-, and post-storm events to ensure that BMPs are functioning as intended.

3. *The footprint of disturbance shall be minimized to the maximum extent feasible. Access to sites shall be via pre-existing access routes to the greatest extent possible.*

Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Property Owner/Developer shall submit to the City a construction management plan that demonstrates that the construction footprint will remain within the limits of the current property boundary, site ingress/egress will be limited to the least impactful location on the Project Site. Trackout (riprap, rumble strips) shall be installed to prevent tracking of sediment to public roadways.

4. *The upstream and downstream limits of projects disturbance plus lateral limits of disturbance on either side of the stream shall be clearly defined and marked in the field and reviewed by the biologist prior to initiation of work.*

Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Property Owner/Developer shall submit to the City a construction management plan that the construction footprint will remain within the limits of the current property boundary, project site boundaries shall be clearly delineated with visible means (i.e. stakes, rope, flagging, snow fence, etc.). The contractor shall adhere to the measures and conditions in all environmental permits to protect Jurisdictional Waters of the United States.

5. *Projects should be designed to avoid the placement of equipment and personnel within the stream channel or on sand and gravel bars, banks, and adjacent upland habitats used by target species of concern.*

The Habitat Assessment found that no habitat for target species was observed within the project boundaries. The project site does not contain stream channels, gravel bars, or streambanks. The coarse-grained soil onsite has insufficient clay/fines and does not allow standing water to persist in durations sufficient to support many of the target species. All project-related construction activities would occur within the property boundaries and no equipment or personnel would work outside the clearly identified project boundaries.

6. *Projects that cannot be conducted without placing equipment or personnel in sensitive habitats should be timed to avoid the breeding season of riparian identified in MSHCP Global Species Objective No. 7.*

Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Property Owner/Developer shall retain a qualified wildlife biologist to monitor ground disturbance activities that would occur during the nesting season. The Habitat Assessment found that no sensitive habitats were observed within the project boundaries, including riparian habitat. The Construction Contractor shall take care to ensure that construction activities do not negatively impact potentially sensitive habitats or species surrounding the project site. Construction equipment and personnel shall be made aware of MSHCP Global Species Objective No. 7 as part of the WEAP training and would always remain within project site boundaries.

7. *When stream flows must be diverted, the diversions shall be conducted using sandbags or other methods requiring minimal instream impacts. Silt fencing of other sediment trapping materials shall be installed at the downstream end of construction activity to minimize the transport of sediments off site. Settling ponds where sediment is collected shall be cleaned out in a manner that prevents the sediment from reentering the stream. Care shall be exercised when removing silt fences, as feasible, to prevent debris or sediment from returning to the stream.*

No water diversion activities are proposed during project activities. The Property Owner/Developer shall implement erosion and sediment control BMPs as identified in the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) throughout the project site to reduce/prevent sediment impacts in pre-, during- and post-construction phases. Personnel would be educated during WEAP training as to the importance of preventing impacts to the Temescal Wash from construction activities.

8. *Equipment storage, fueling, and staging areas shall be located on upland sites with minimal risks of direct drainage into riparian areas or other sensitive habitats. These designated areas shall be located in such a manner as to prevent any runoff from entering sensitive habitat. Necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent the release of cement or other toxic substances into surface waters. Project related spills of hazardous materials shall be reported to appropriate entities, including but not limited to applicable jurisdictional city, USFWS, CDFW, and SARWQCB, and shall be cleaned up immediately and contaminated soils removed to an approved disposal areas.*

Ongoing during construction and operation, all project activities shall occur within the property boundary. Equipment storage, fueling and staging areas shall be located outside any sensitive habitats and in areas with no risk of direct drainage into riparian areas and other sensitive habitats. All fuel storage tanks shall have secondary containment to retain fuel spills. The project site-specific SWPPP shall have BMPs designed to prevent the release of cement or other toxic substances into surface waters or bare soil, as required by the RWQCB. All potentially hazardous materials shall be stored appropriately on site away from sensitive habitats or Waters of the United States. Concrete washouts and active/inactive materials stockpiles shall have secondary containment BMPs to prevent the accidental release of hazardous substances to bare soil. The SWPPP is required to have a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) to describe necessary actions that should occur in the event of a spill or release of potentially hazardous substances. Spills or releases of toxic substances greater than five gallons shall be reported to the RWQCB, DTSC, Local Municipalities, and/or federal agencies, as appropriate.

9. *Erodible fill material shall not be deposited into water courses. Brush, loose soils, or other similar debris material shall not be stockpiled within the stream channel or on its banks.*

Materials stockpiles shall be located away from sensitive areas. Inactive materials stockpiles shall be covered and bermed to prevent windborne dust or accidental release. The SWPPP shall describe BMPs to prevent fugitive dust from migrating to neighboring parcels or the Temescal Wash.

10. *The qualified project biologist shall monitor construction activities for the duration of the project to ensure that practicable measures are being employed to avoid incidental disturbance of habitat and species of concern outside the project footprint.*

Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Property Owner/Developer shall retain a qualified wildlife biologist to monitor ground disturbance activities to ensure that all measures to protect species on and off site are being implemented during construction activities, including burrowing owl surveys (**MM BIO-1**), and nesting bird surveys (**MM BIO-2**). Additional protective measures recommended by the qualified wildlife biologist shall be implemented as necessary by the Property Owner/Developer to avoid incidental disturbance of habitat and species of concern outside the project footprint.

11. *The removal of native vegetation shall be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Temporary impacts shall be returned to pre-existing contours and revegetated with appropriate native species.*

No clearing and grubbing of native vegetation would be anticipated during the project activities as the project site is almost entirely devoid of vegetation.

12. *Exotic species that prey upon or displace target species of concern should be permanently removed from the site to the extent feasible.*

No exotic species were encountered during the project Habitat Assessment and none would be utilized in any revegetation efforts. The final landscaping design may incorporate native plant species; however, regular landscape maintenance shall prevent exotic, or noxious plant species from taking root on the Project Site.

13. *To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the project site shall be kept as clean of debris as possible. All food related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s).*

The SWPPP shall contain BMPs for trash storage and removal, including containment of sanitation facilities (e.g. portable toilets), and covering waste disposal containers at the end of every business day and before rain events. Trash cans shall have a fastenable lid to prevent animals from accessing or spreading trash onsite. The Project QSD should consult the MSHCP Appendix C Standard Best Management Practices, RWQCB recommendations, and any applicable environmental permit measures and conditions when developing the project SWPPP.

14. *Construction employees shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the proposed project footprint and designated staging areas and routes of travel. The construction area(s) shall be the minimal area necessary to*



*complete the project and shall be specified in the construction plans. Construction limits will be fenced with orange snow screen. Exclusion fencing should be maintained until the completion of all construction activities. Employees shall be instructed that their activities are restricted to the construction areas.*

In accordance with the WEAP, all project activities would occur within the clearly delineated property boundaries. Construction activities shall be confined to the project footprint, and approved routes of travel shall be established, including ingress/egress points. Exclusion fencing shall be utilized throughout the project duration.

15. *The Permittee shall have the right to access and inspect any sites of approved projects including any restoration/enhancement area for compliance with project approval conditions, including these BMPs.*

The Contractor shall allow the Permittee access to the construction site. All visitors shall check in with the Project Engineer (or Site Supervisor) prior to accessing the construction site and will be escorted within project boundaries during normal business hours when construction activities are occurring.

(Sources: Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and MSHCP Consistency Determination, L&L Environmental, Inc. 2020a [Appendix B]; JPR, RCA 2020a [Appendix C]; Wildlife Agencies Review of the JPR, RCA 2020b [Appendix D]; MSHCP)

- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? (No Impact)**

No federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) occur within the project area. No cracked soils, evidence of vegetation changes, or other evidence of long-term inundation is present. The proposed project would not result in direct impacts to the nearby off-site MSHCP riparian/riverine habitat and indirect impacts would be avoided through compliance with standard construction BMPs included in Appendix C of the MSHCP (County 2003). As such, no impacts to wetlands would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and MSHCP Consistency Determination, L&L Environmental, Inc. 2020a [Appendix B]; MSHCP)

- 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? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

According to the City of Lake Elsinore General Plan Update EIR, there are numerous identified or potential wildlife movement corridors located within the City, especially where development is sparse and open space or ephemeral watercourses are available. In addition, the City provides forage and nesting sites for both locally common and rare bird species and migrating birds covered by the MBTA. The project site is characterized by non-native grassland that does not provide high-quality habitat as it is regularly cleared for weed abatement. In addition, the areas surrounding the project site are predominately developed and/or disturbed and do not contain high-quality wildlife habitat that would serve as wildlife corridors. In order to address the potential loss or disturbance of nesting habitat for burrowing owl and migratory birds, the

project would implement **MM BIO-1** and **BIO-2** during construction. The Property Owner/Developer would be required to follow the Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines in Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP to minimize urban/wildlands interface issues in the nearby Temescal Wash and conservation areas as outlined in **MM BIO-3** and Construction Best Management Practices from Volume I, Appendix C of the MSHCP as outlined in **MM BIO-4**. These include measures related to indirect impacts such as water quality (drainage), use of toxics, night lighting, indirect noise, invasive plant and wildlife species, protection of habitat areas (barriers), and grading/land development adjacent to habitat areas. Therefore, impacts to wildlife corridors would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures: MM BIO-1, MM BIO-2, MM BIO-3, and MM BIO-4**

(Sources: Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and MSHCP Consistency Determination, L&L Environmental, Inc. 2020a [Appendix B]; JPR, RCA 2020a [Appendix C]; Wildlife Agencies Review of the JPR, RCA 2020b [Appendix D])

**e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? (No Impact)**

The proposed project would be consistent with local policies and ordinances related to biological resources. The LEMC includes a City Tree Preservation Ordinance (Ordinance 1256) that protects the City's streetscape and trees. The City has also determined that certain species of palm trees in the family Palmaceae are locally significant resources through the City Significant Palm Tree Ordinance (LEMC Ordinance 1160). Implementation of the project would not result in the removal of existing trees, including palm trees, as there are no trees located within the project site. As part of implementation of the conceptual landscape plan prepared for the project, tree spacing, distance from curbs and sidewalks, and other aesthetic guidelines would be followed in accordance with LEMC Ordinance 1256. As such, the project would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources and no impacts would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and MSHCP Consistency Determination, L&L Environmental, Inc. 2020a [Appendix B]; LEMC)

**f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

The Western Riverside County MSHCP is a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional effort that includes unincorporated County of Riverside lands and multiple cities in the western portion of the County, including the City. Rather than address sensitive species on an individual basis, the MSHCP focuses on the conservation of 146 species, proposing a reserve system of approximately 500,000 acres and a mechanism to fund and implement the reserve system (County 2003). The MSHCP allows participating entities to issue take permits for listed species so that individual applicants need not seek their own permits from USFWS and/or CDFW. The MSHCP was adopted on June 17, 2003 by the County Board of Supervisors. The Incidental Take Permit was issued by both the USFWS and CDFW on June 22, 2004.

Pursuant to the provisions of the MSHCP, all discretionary development projects within a Criteria Area are to be reviewed for compliance with the "Property Owner Initiated Habitat Evaluation and Acquisition Negotiation Strategy" (LEAP) process or equivalent process. The LEAP process "ensures that an early determination will be made of what properties are needed for the MSHCP Conservation Area, that the owners of property needed for the MSHCP Conservation Area are compensated, and that owners of land

not needed for the MSHCP Conservation Area shall receive Take Authorization of Covered Species Adequately Conserved through the Permits issued to the County and Cities pursuant to the MSHCP.” A formal and complete LEAP application (LEAP 2020-02) was submitted to the City on April 3, 2020 and a JPR (20-06-09-01) was completed by the RCA on September 24, 2020. Concurrence from CDFW and USFWS (collectively, the Wildlife Agencies) was received on October 12, 2020.

A small portion of the project impact footprint (approximately 1.12 acres) occurs within Criteria Cell 5131, which is in MSHCP Elsinore Area Plan, Subunit (Elsinore). The Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and MSHCP Consistency Determination for the project involved a general habitat assessment that included vegetation mapping; determination of potential burrowing owl habitat and the presence/absence of burrowing owl individuals; determination of potential jurisdictional waters/wetlands on site; determination of the presence/absence of riparian/riverine areas, vernal pools, associated species, and fairy shrimp identified in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP; and evaluation of the proposed development plans to determine if they are consistent with implementation of the MSHCP.

No special status plant species were identified during the habitat assessment. Two special status wildlife species were identified on site, including San Diego black-tailed rabbit and great egret. San Diego black-tailed rabbit is a covered species under the MSHCP and is considered adequately conserved. Great egret is not covered under the MSHCP but was not observed utilizing the site and is not expected to. No burrowing owl; occupied burrows; or evidence of recent burrowing owl, such as pellets, scat, feathers, and tracks, were observed within the study area or within a 500-foot buffer. Burrowing owl are not anticipated to occur on site based on these observations and disturbances related to ongoing commercial activities near the site, previous clearing and possible annual disking or mowing of the site, and various other disturbances and development of adjacent areas. Impacts to burrowing owl are not anticipated and the potential for impacts to occur would be further minimized through a pre-construction clearance survey for burrowing owl, as required per the MSHCP and included herein as **MM BIO-1**. Impacts to nesting birds protected under the MBTA would be avoided through implementation of **MM BIO-2** which requires pre-construction surveys to be conducted if site-preparation activities are to occur during the nesting season (between February 1 and August 31). Impacts to riparian birds are not anticipated as the riparian vegetation located approximately 80 feet west of the project site is small, scattered, and isolated and does not provide suitable habitat and is exposed to noise from the adjacent motorsports track. No jurisdictional waters/wetlands or riparian/riverine features are present on site and the project would not impact the nearby off-site MSHCP riparian/riverine habitat associated with the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District channels located approximately 80 feet from the project site’s western boundary and adjacent to the project site’s southwestern boundary.

The MSHCP calls for conservation of native grassland habitat within Criteria Cell 5131 of 30 to 40 percent. Approximately 119 out of 167 acres, or 71 percent, of Criteria Cell 5131 is still available for conservation and the project would only impact 1.12 acres of Criteria Cell 5131. Conservation within Criteria Cell 5131 is also focused within the southwestern portion of the Cell and the project site is located in the extreme northeastern portion of the cell. Further, these conservation requirements set forth have been replaced with the preservation of 770 acres of habitat in the Back Basin of Lake Elsinore through an agreement between USFWS, CDFW, RCA, and the City. Conservation with the 770 acres focuses on habitat that benefits shorebird or wetland/marsh associated species, vernal pool species, sensitive plant species, and/or Planning Species for Subunit 3 and Proposed Extension of Existing Core 3, as described in MSHCP. The project site is not located within or adjacent to this conservation area and is not identified as an area for conservation. Based on these factors, the project’s use of 1.12 acres within Criteria Cell 5131 is consistent with the goals of the MSHCP.

Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP includes guidelines that are intended to address indirect effects associated with development near MSHCP Conserved Areas. Development in proximity to MSHCP Conserved Areas may

result in “edge effects” that might adversely affect biological resources within MSHCP Conserved Area. Since at some point a portion of Criteria Cell 5131 near the project site may be conserved, the following guidelines would be implemented for the project to minimize potential “edge effects.”

**Drainage:** The proposed project would incorporate measures, including measures required through NPDES requirements, to ensure that the quantity and quality of runoff discharged from the site is not altered in an adverse way when compared with existing conditions. Measures shall be put in place to avoid discharge of untreated surface runoff from developed and paved areas into any MSHCP Conserved Area. Stormwater systems would be designed to prevent the release of toxins, chemicals, petroleum products, exotic plant materials, or other elements that might degrade or harm biological resources or ecosystem processes within MSHCP Conserved Area or state or federal jurisdictional areas downstream. This project proposes to construct a detention basin in the northernmost corner of the site that would capture stormwater runoff via a 24-inch stormwater pipeline with an inlet located in the central portion of the site; however, grass swales or mechanical trapping devices are also acceptable. The detention basin would be regularly maintained to ensure effective operation of runoff control systems.

**Toxics:** Land use in proximity to a MSHCP Conserved Area that use chemicals or generate bioproducts that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife species, habitat, or water quality are required to incorporate measures to ensure that application of such chemicals does not result in discharge into MSHCP Conserved Area or state or federal jurisdictional areas downstream. Measures such as those employed to address on-site drainage (see above) would be implemented as part of the proposed project.

**Lighting:** Night lighting within the project development area would be directed away from MSHCP Conserved Area to protect species within the area from direct night lighting. Shielding would be incorporated in project design to ensure ambient lighting in MSHCP Conserved Area is not increased.

**Noise:** Proposed noise generating land uses affecting MSHCP Conserved Area are required to incorporate setbacks, berms, and/or walls to minimize the effects of noise on MSHCP Conserved Area resources pursuant to applicable rules, regulations, and guidelines related to land use noise standards. For planning purposes, wildlife within MSHCP Conserved Area should not be subject to noise that would exceed residential noise standards. The project would generate noise during construction and operations; however, there are no MSHCP Conserved Areas adjacent to the project site that would be subject to project-generated noise. Further, as discussed in Item XIII(a), long-term operational noise generated by the project would not result in perceptible increases over existing ambient noise levels and would therefore not affect potential future MSHCP Conserved Areas in proximity to the project site.

**Invasives:** Invasive, non-native plant species included in MSHCP Table 6.2 would not be used on site.

**Barriers:** The project development area would be surrounded by a chain link fence. Fencing would prevent access to adjacent MSHCP Conserved Area. The fencing would also minimize unauthorized public access, domestic animal predation, illegal trespass, and/or dumping in MSHCP Conserved Area.

**Grading/Land Development:** Grading on site would be relatively balanced, with a net import of approximately 3,166 cy; no manufactured slopes would extend into MSHCP Conserved Area.

As discussed above, the project would be consistent with the MSHCP and would incorporate applicable design measures per MSHCP requirements to avoid “edge effects.” The Property Owner/Developer would be required to follow the Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines in Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP to minimize urban/wildlands interface issues in the nearby conservation areas as outlined in **MM BIO-3** and Construction Best Management Practices from Volume I, Appendix C of the MSHCP as outlined in **MM BIO-4**. These include measures related to indirect impacts such as water quality (drainage), use of

toxics, night lighting, indirect noise, invasive plant and wildlife species, protection of habitat areas (barriers), and grading/land development adjacent to habitat areas. Further, as a condition of project approval, the applicant would be required to pay MSHCP Local Development Mitigation fees in effect at the time of payment.

Therefore, with implementation of the recommendations in the Habitat Assessment, consistent with the MSHCP and LEMC, **MM BIO-1, MM BIO-2, MM BIO-3, and MM BIO-4**, the proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved habitat conservation plan and potential impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures: MM BIO-1, MM BIO-2, MM BIO-3, and MM BIO-4**

(Sources: Habitat Assessment, Burrowing Owl Survey, and MSHCP Consistency Determination, L&L Environmental, Inc. 2020a [Appendix B]; JPR, RCA 2020a [Appendix C]; Wildlife Agencies Review of the JPR, RCA 2020b [Appendix D]; MSHCP Local Development Mitigation Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2021, RCA 2020c).

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES**

A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment was prepared for the proposed project by L&L Environmental, Inc (2020b, Appendix E) to evaluate the potential for cultural resources within the project study area. The assessment included a historical resources records search; historical, archaeological, and geoarchaeological background research; coordination with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and local Native American tribes, organizations, and individuals; and a pedestrian survey of the site. The results and conclusions of the report are summarized herein.

**a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5? (Less than Significant Impact)**

The records search conducted for the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment indicated that eight previously recorded cultural resources have been identified within a one-mile radius of the project site. One of the resources is Lake Elsinore (33-11009), which at its closest point is less than 0.25 mile from the project site. The seven additional resources include two historical-period built features, one historic-age isolated artifact, one prehistoric archaeological site, and two prehistoric isolated artifacts. No resources have been recorded within the project site and no historical resources were observed within the project site during the pedestrian survey conducted for the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment. While no on-site resources were identified, the project site is considered to be within the sphere of influence of Lake Elsinore. Lake Elsinore is listed in the Historic Property Data File as an individual property eligible for local listing or designation, is presumed eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), and is considered a historic resource for the purposes of CEQA. Although the project site is located near past shoreline limits of Lake Elsinore and may at times have been covered by the lake, the land within the project site itself does not exhibit any characteristics of a shoreline. Furthermore, there are no known natural or cultural elements visible on the surface of the project site that may contribute to the significance of the lake. As such, the project would not have a direct impact on Lake Elsinore (33-11009). There is also little potential for the project to cause indirect visual, audible, or vibrational impacts to Lake Elsinore. Therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance if a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment, L&L Environmental, Inc. 2020b [Appendix E])

**b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

As discussed above under Item V(b), the records search conducted for the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment indicated that eight previously recorded cultural resources have been identified within a one-mile radius of the project site, including Lake Elsinore, two historical-period built features, one historic-age isolated artifact, one prehistoric archaeological site, and two prehistoric isolated artifacts. No resources have been recorded within the project site and no resources were observed within the project site during the pedestrian survey conducted for the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment. While no on-site resources were identified, there is moderate to high potential for encountering buried archaeological resources during project construction due to the cultural significance of Lake Elsinore associated with past human occupation and use of the area. As such, **MM CUL-1** through **MM CUL-5** would be implemented and would reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measures**

**MM CUL-1: *Unanticipated Resources.*** The developer/permit holder or any successor in interest shall comply with the following for the life of this permit. If during ground disturbance activities, unanticipated cultural resources are discovered, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. All ground disturbance activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resource shall be halted until a meeting is convened between the developer, the Project Archaeologist, the Native American tribal representative(s) from consulting tribes (or other appropriate ethnic/cultural group representative), and the Community Development Director or their designee to discuss the significance of the find.
2. The developer shall call the Community Development Director or their designee immediately upon discovery of the cultural resource to convene the meeting.
3. At the meeting with the aforementioned parties, the significance of the discoveries shall be discussed and a decision is to be made, with the concurrence of the Community Development Director or their designee, as to the appropriate mitigation (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) for the cultural resource.
4. Further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of the discovery until a meeting has been convened with the aforementioned parties and a decision is made, with the concurrence of the Community Development Director or their designee, as to the appropriate mitigation measures.

**MM CUL-2: *Archaeologist/Cultural Resources Monitoring Program.*** Prior to issuance of grading permits, the applicant/developer shall provide evidence to the Community Development Department that a Secretary of Interior Standards qualified and certified Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) has been contracted to implement a Cultural Resource Monitoring Program (CRMP) that addresses the details of all activities that must be completed and procedures that must be followed regarding cultural resources associated with this project. The CRMP document shall be created in coordination with the consulting tribe(s), and provided to the Community Development Director or their designee for review and approval prior to issuance of the grading permit. The CRMP provides direction as to how the project mitigation measures will be implemented. The CRMP requires that impacts on cultural resources will not occur without procedures in place, which would reduce any

impacts to less than significant. These measures shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

Archaeological Monitor - An adequate number of qualified monitors shall be present to ensure that all earth-moving activities are observed and shall be on-site during all grading activities for areas to be monitored including off-site improvements. Inspections will vary based on the rate of excavation, the materials excavated, and the presence and abundance of artifacts and features. The frequency and location of inspections will be determined by the Project Archaeologist, in consultation with the Tribal monitor.

Cultural Sensitivity Training - The Project Archaeologist and a representative designated by the consulting Tribe(s) shall attend the pre-grading meeting with the contractors to provide Cultural Sensitivity Training for all Construction Personnel. Training will include a brief review of the cultural sensitivity of the Project and the surrounding area; what resources could potentially be identified during earthmoving activities; the requirements of the monitoring program; the protocols that apply in the event unanticipated cultural resources are identified, including who to contact and appropriate avoidance measures until the find(s) can be properly evaluated; and any other appropriate protocols. This is a mandatory training and all construction personnel must attend prior to beginning work on the project site. A sign-in sheet for attendees of this training shall be included in the Phase IV Monitoring Report.

Unanticipated Resources - In the event that previously unidentified potentially significant cultural resources are discovered, the Archaeological and/or Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to divert or temporarily halt ground disturbance operations in the area of discovery to allow evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. The Project Archaeologist, in consultation with the Tribal monitor(s) shall determine the significance of the discovered resources. The Community Development Director or their designee must concur with the evaluation before construction activities will be allowed to resume in the affected area. Before construction activities are allowed to resume in the affected area, the artifacts shall be recovered and features recorded using professional archaeological methods.

Phase IV Report - A final archaeological report shall be prepared by the Project archaeologist and submitted to the Community Development Director or their designee prior to grading final. The report shall follow County of Riverside requirements and shall include at a minimum: a discussion of the monitoring methods and techniques used; the results of the monitoring program including any artifacts recovered; an inventory of any resources recovered; updated DPR forms for all sites affected by the development; final disposition of the resources including GPS data; artifact catalog and any additional recommendations. A final copy shall be submitted to the City, Project Applicant, the Eastern Information Center (EIC), and the Tribe.

**MM CUL-3:** ***Cultural Resources Disposition.*** In the event that Native American cultural resources are discovered during the course of grading (inadvertent discoveries), the following procedures shall be carried out for final disposition of the discoveries:

One or more of the following treatments, in order of preference, shall be employed with the tribes. Evidence of such shall be provided to the Community Development Department:

1. Preservation-In-Place of the cultural resources, if feasible. Preservation in place means avoiding the resources, leaving them in the place where they were found with no development affecting the integrity of the resources.
2. Relocation of the resources on the Project property. The measures for relocation shall include, at least, the following: Measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts by means of a deed restriction or other form of protection (e.g., conservation easement) in order to demonstrate avoidance in perpetuity.

Relocation shall not occur until all legally required cataloging and basic recordation have been completed, with an exception that sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains, as they are excluded. Any reburial process shall be culturally appropriate. Listing of contents and location of the reburial shall be included in the confidential Phase IV report. The Phase IV Report shall be filed with the City under a confidential cover and not subject to Public Records Request.

3. If relocation is not agreed upon by the Consulting Tribes then the resources shall be curated in a culturally appropriate manner at a Riverside County curation facility that meets State Resources Department Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Resources, ensuring access and use pursuant to the Guidelines. The collection and associated records shall be transferred, including title, and are to be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation. Evidence of curation in the form of a letter from the curation facility stating that subject archaeological materials have been received and that all fees have been paid, shall be provided by the landowner to the City. There shall be no destructive or invasive testing on sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains. Results concerning finds of any inadvertent discoveries shall be included in the Phase IV monitoring report.

**MM CUL-4: *Tribal Monitoring.*** Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the applicant shall contact the consulting Native American Tribe(s) that have requested monitoring through consultation with the City during the AB 52 and/or the SB 18 process (“Monitoring Tribes”). The applicant shall coordinate with the Tribe(s) to develop individual Tribal Monitoring Agreement(s). A copy of the signed agreement(s) shall be provided to the City of Lake Elsinore Community Development Department, Planning Division prior to the issuance of a grading permit. The Agreement shall address the treatment of any known tribal cultural resources (TCRs) including the project’s approved mitigation measures and conditions of approval; the designation, responsibilities, and participation of professional Tribal Monitors during grading, excavation and ground disturbing activities; project grading and development scheduling; terms of compensation for the monitors; and treatment and final disposition of any cultural resources, sacred sites, and human remains/burial goods discovered on the site per the Tribe(s) customs and traditions and the City’s mitigation measures/conditions of approval. The Tribal Monitor will have the authority to stop and redirect grading in the immediate area of a find in order to evaluate the find and determine the appropriate next steps, in consultation with the Project archaeologist.

**MM CUL-5: *Phase IV Report.*** Upon completion of the implementation phase, a Phase IV Cultural Resources Monitoring Report shall be submitted that complies with the Riverside County Planning Department’s requirements for such reports for all ground disturbing activities associated with this grading permit. The report shall follow the County of Riverside Planning Department Cultural Resources (Archaeological) Investigations Standard Scopes



of Work posted on the County website. The report shall include results of any feature relocation or residue analysis required as well as evidence of the required cultural sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the required pre-grade meeting.

(Sources: Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment, L&L Environmental, Inc. 2020b [Appendix E])

**c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

The project is not located on or adjacent to a known formal or informal cemetery. No impacts to human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, are anticipated. In the unlikely event that unknown human remains are uncovered during project construction, **MM CUL-6** and **MM CUL-7**, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, would ensure that the project's impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures**

**MM CUL-6: *Discovery of Human Remains.*** In the event that human remains (or remains that may be human) are discovered at the project site during grading or earthmoving, the construction contractors, project archaeologist and/or designated Native American Monitor shall immediately stop all activities within 100 feet of the find. The project applicant shall then inform the Riverside County Coroner and the City of Lake Elsinore Community Development Department immediately, and the coroner shall be permitted to examine the remains as required by California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(b). Section 7050.5 requires that excavation be stopped in the vicinity of discovered human remains and that no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. If human remains are determined to be Native American, the applicant shall comply with the state law relating to the disposition of Native American burials that fall within the jurisdiction of the NAHC (PRC Section 5097). The coroner shall contact the NAHC within 24 hours and the NAHC will make the determination of most likely descendant. The most likely descendant shall then make recommendations and engage in consultation concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in Public Resource Code Section 5097.98. In the event that the applicant and the MLD are in disagreement regarding the disposition of the remains. State law will apply and the mediation process will occur with the NAHC, if requested (see PRC Section 5097.98(e) and 5097.94(k)).

According to the California Health and Safety Code, six or more human burial at one location constitutes a cemetery (Section 81 00), and disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony (Section 7052).

**MM CUL-7: *Non-Disclosure of Reburial Location.*** It is understood by all parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of Native American human remains or associated grave goods shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act. The Coroner, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r), parties, and Lead Agencies, will be asked to withhold public disclosure information related to such reburial, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r).

(Sources: Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment, L&L Environmental, Inc. 2020b [Appendix E])

## VI. ENERGY

This section is based on the CEQA Energy Review prepared for the proposed project by MD Acoustics, LLC (2020b, Appendix F).

**a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Energy used during construction would primarily consist of fuels in the form of diesel and gasoline for the operation of construction equipment and construction worker vehicles. While construction activities would consume petroleum-based fuels, consumption of such resources would be temporary and would cease upon the completion of construction. Construction of the proposed commercial development would require the typical use of energy resources. There are no unusual project characteristics or construction processes that would require the use of equipment that would be more energy intensive than is used for comparable activities, or equipment that would not conform to current emissions standards (and related fuel efficiencies). Equipment employed in construction of the project would therefore not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of fuel.

Energy used during project operations would primarily consist of fuel in the form of gasoline for visitor and employee vehicles traveling to and from the project site and electricity and natural gas for the proposed uses. As discussed further under Item XVII(b), the project would not result in a substantial generation of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as it would be a local-serving commercial retail development providing commercial options in proximity to residential uses, thus reducing vehicle travel and associated energy usage. It should also be noted that over the lifetime of the project, the fuel efficiency of vehicles is expected to increase. As such, the amount of gasoline consumed as a result of vehicular trips to and from the project site during operation is expected to decrease over time. As for electricity and natural gas usage, development would be subject to and required to comply with, at a minimum, the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 24, Part 6) and CALGreen (CCR Title 24, Part 11), which establish energy efficiency standards for residential and non-residential buildings constructed in California in order to reduce energy demand and consumption. Based on these considerations, the project would not result in a substantial increase in demand of local or regional energy supplies, and would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: CEQA Energy Review, MD Acoustics, LLC 2020b [Appendix F])

**b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? (Less than Significant Impact)**

The project would be built and operated in accordance with existing applicable regulations governing energy efficiency. As noted above, future development of the project site would be subject to, at a minimum, the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (CCR Title 24, Part 6) and California Green Building Standards Code (CCR Title 24, Part 11). The City has adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP), which outlines the actions necessary to achieve the City's proportional share of state GHG emission reductions to be compliant with AB 32 and Executive Order S-3-05 (City 2011c). Appendix D of the CAP includes a project-level CAP consistency worksheet used to demonstrate consistency with the CAP, including compliance with energy efficient building standards. Future development of the project site would be required to be consistent with the CAP measures for energy efficiency. Construction equipment would be maintained to

allow for continuous energy-efficient operations. Accordingly, the project would not conflict with state or local plans related to renewable energy or energy efficiency, and potential impacts associated with obstructing a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Air Quality and GHG Impact Study, MD Acoustics 2020a [Appendix A])

## **VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

A Preliminary Fault Hazard Analysis was prepared for the proposed project by Earth Strata Geotechnical Services, Inc. (2020, Appendix G) to evaluate the fault hazard potential for the project site. Portions of the following analysis are based on the findings of this report.

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

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

The project site is located within the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province of California, a seismically active region where several earthquake faults are known to occur. The geologic structure of the region is dominated mainly by northwest trending faults associated with the San Andreas system, including the San Andreas Fault, San Jacinto Fault, Newport-Inglewood Fault, and Whittier-Elsinore Fault. No active faults are known to occur within the project site and the site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. The closest known active fault in the Elsinore Fault at 0.2 mile from the project site. The northeastern corner of the project site extends into the southwestern portion of the County Fault Zone established for the Glen Ivy North Fault. Based on mapping of the subject site, review of current and historical aerial imagery, lack of lineaments indicative of active faulting, and the data compiled during preparation of the Preliminary Fault Hazard Analysis, the potential for surface rupture to adversely impact the proposed structures is considered very low to remote. As such, impacts related to fault rupture would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Preliminary Fault Hazard Analysis, Earth Strata Geotechnical Services, Inc. 2020 [Appendix G])

- ii. Strong seismic ground shaking? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

As noted in Item VII(a)(i), no active faults are known to occur within the project site. The Elsinore Fault, a known active fault located 0.2 mile from the project site, is the closest fault with the potential to cause ground shaking at the project site. A seismic event from other faults within the vicinity of the project could also cause significant ground shaking at the project site. To minimize seismic ground shaking effects in the event of a major earthquake, design and construction of development within the project site would be required to comply with all seismic-safety development requirements, including the Title 24 standards of the Uniform Building Code (UBC) and the California Building Code (CBC). Mandatory compliance with all applicable seismic-safety development requirements would minimize seismic ground shaking effects in the event of a major earthquake and ensure that the potential seismic or geologic hazard impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Preliminary Fault Hazard Analysis, Earth Strata Geotechnical Services, Inc. 2020 [Appendix G])

**iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? (Less than Significant Impact)**

Liquefaction is the phenomenon that occurs during severe ground shaking whereby soils reduce greatly in strength and temporarily behave similarly to a fluid rather than a solid. Severe or extended liquefaction can result in significant effects to surface and subsurface facilities through the loss of support and/or foundation integrity. Liquefaction is restricted to certain geologic and hydrologic environments, primarily recently deposited sand and silt in areas with high groundwater levels. The borings conducted to a depth of 21.5 feet at the project site as part of the Preliminary Fault Hazard Analysis did not encounter groundwater and groundwater depth in the area averages 150 feet below ground. Therefore, the potential for liquefaction is considered negligible. The proposed project would be designed and constructed in accordance with CBC requirements, which would reduce risks associated with liquefaction. Therefore, potential impacts to people or structures from liquefaction shaking would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Preliminary Fault Hazard Analysis, Earth Strata Geotechnical Services, Inc. 2020a [Appendix G])

**iv. Landslides? (Less than Significant Impact)**

The General Plan EIR indicates that slopes of 30 percent or steeper are at risk of seismically induced slope failure. The project site and surrounding areas are characterized by level topography without slopes that would be risk of failure. As such, the project site is not at risk of landslides. Additionally, prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Property Owner/Developer of the proposed project would be required to submit grading and foundation plans to the City for review to demonstrate compliance with the City's grading requirements. The proposed project would be designed and constructed in accordance with CBC requirements, which would reduce risks associated with landslides. Therefore, potential impacts associated with landslides would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR)

**b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project has the potential to result in soil erosion during grading and construction activities where disturbed soil is exposed. Potential short-term erosion impacts from grading and construction activities would be addressed through the implementation of BMPs in accordance with the California Stormwater Quality Association's Stormwater Best Management Practices Handbook and City's Plan Preparation and Design Manual to control erosion and protect the quality of surface water runoff. Additionally, potential sedimentation and erosion impacts would be minimized or avoided with the implementation of erosion and sedimentation control measures in compliance with NPDES permit requirements. The project would be required to prepare an erosion control plan that details protective measures. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

- c) **Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

As discussed above in Items VII(a)(iii) and VII(a)(iv), the project would not be subject to landslide-related risks or liquefaction. Development of the project site would be required to incorporate measures and recommendations proposed by the UBC and the CBC to accommodate potential geologic hazards. Based on the incorporation of applicable design guidelines, potential impacts associated with a geologic unit or soil that is unstable would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Preliminary Fault Hazard Analysis, Earth Strata Geotechnical Services, Inc. 2020 [Appendix G])

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

Expansive soils are attributable to the water holding capacity of clay materials. Such behavior can adversely affect structural integrity (including underground facilities) through shifting of support materials during the shrink-swell process. If expansive soils are present/ encountered during project implementation, associated potential impacts would be addressed through conformance with regulatory/industry standards, including applicable elements of the CBC. Specifically, this may include efforts such as removal of expansive soils and replacement with engineered fill. Conformance with the described regulatory standards would reduce potential impacts related to expansive soils from project implementation to less than significant levels.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

- e) **Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? (No Impact)**

No septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems would be installed as part of the proposed project. The project would connect to the existing sewer system for the disposal of wastewater and would not use septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

- f) **Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

According to Figure 3.2-3 of the General Plan EIR, the project site is located in area of low paleontological sensitivity and is therefore not anticipated to directly or indirectly destroy paleontological resources. The project site is characterized by non-native grassland and does not include known unique geologic features. The possibility of finding buried paleontological deposits on site is very low. Therefore, potential impacts to a unique paleontological resource or unique geologic feature would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR)

## VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

This section is based on the Air Quality and GHG Impact Study prepared for the proposed project by MD Acoustics, LLC (2020a, Appendix A). The project's construction and operational emissions were calculated using CalEEMod, Version 2016.3.2. The results and conclusions of the report and calculations relative to pollutant emissions are summarized herein.

Global climate change refers to changes in average climatic conditions on Earth as a whole. GHGs contribute to an increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere by allowing solar radiation (sunlight) into the Earth's atmosphere, but preventing radiative heat from escaping. The principal GHGs include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), ozone, and water vapor. For purposes of planning and regulation, CCR Section 15364.5 defines GHGs to include CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>). GHGs are emitted by both natural processes and human activities. Fossil fuel consumption in the transportation sector (on-road motor vehicles, off-highway mobile sources, and aircraft) is the single largest source of GHG emissions, accounting for approximately half of GHG emissions globally. Industrial and commercial sources are the second largest contributors of GHG emissions with about one-fourth of total emissions. Emissions of GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are thought to be responsible for the enhancement of the greenhouse effect and contributing to what is termed "global warming," the trend of warming of the Earth's climate from anthropogenic activities.

### a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? (Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated)

The project would result in GHG emissions during construction and operation. Construction activities that would generate emissions are anticipated to include site preparation, grading, building construction, paving and architectural coating. Operational sources of emissions would include vehicular sources, energy use, landscape equipment use, consumer products, solid waste generation, and water use.

#### Construction Emissions

Off-road construction equipment and on-road vehicles would generate GHG emissions during construction. The project's estimated construction emissions are presented in Table 8, *Estimated Construction GHG Emissions*. For construction emissions, SCAQMD recommends that the emissions be amortized (i.e., averaged) over 30 years and added to operational emissions.

<b>Table 8</b> <b>ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION GHG EMISSIONS</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Total Emissions (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
Site Preparation	2
Grading	28
Building Construction	501
Paving	22
Architectural Coating	5
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>557</b>
<i>Amortized Emissions<sup>1</sup></i>	19

Source: MD Acoustics 2020a

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup> Construction emissions amortized over 30 years.

MT = metric tons; CO<sub>2</sub>e = carbon dioxide equivalent

## Operational Emissions

Once the proposed project is constructed, continuous GHG emissions would result from mobile, area, and other operational sources. Area sources, including consumer products, landscaping equipment, and other sources, would result primarily in emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. Energy utilization (i.e., electricity and natural gas) and water consumption also would result primarily in emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. Mobile sources, including vehicle trips to and from the project site, would result primarily in emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, with minor emissions of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O. Disposal of solid waste would result in emissions of CH<sub>4</sub> from the decomposition of waste at landfills, coupled with CO<sub>2</sub> emission from the handling and transport of solid waste. These sources combine to define the long-term GHG emissions for the project. Table 9, *Estimated Operational GHG Emissions*, shows the project's operational emissions.

<b>Table 9</b> <b>ESTIMATED OPERATIONAL GHG EMISSIONS</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Emissions (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
Area	0
Energy	393
Mobile	3,645
Solid Waste	86
Water	42
Amortized Construction <sup>1</sup>	19
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>4,185</b>
<i>SCAQMD Screening Threshold</i>	<i>3,000</i>
<b><i>Exceeds Threshold?</i></b>	<b><i>Yes</i></b>

Source: MD Acoustics 2020a

<sup>1</sup> Construction emissions amortized over 30 years.

MT = metric tons; CO<sub>2</sub>e = carbon dioxide equivalent

As shown in the table, emissions are estimated at 4,185 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year, which would exceed the applicable SCAQMD screening threshold of 3,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. As such, **MM GHG-1** through **MM GHG-9** would be required.

Table 10, *Estimated Mitigated Operational GHG Emissions*, shows the project's mitigated operational emissions.

<b>Table 10</b> <b>ESTIMATED MITIGATED OPERATIONAL GHG EMISSIONS</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Emissions (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
Area	0
Energy	393
Mobile	2,046
Solid Waste	21
Water	32
Amortized Construction <sup>1</sup>	19
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>2,511</b>
<i>SCAQMD Screening Threshold</i>	<i>3,000</i>
<b><i>Exceeds Threshold?</i></b>	<b><i>Yes</i></b>

Source: MD Acoustics 2020a

<sup>1</sup> Construction emissions amortized over 30 years.

MT = metric tons; CO<sub>2</sub>e = carbon dioxide equivalent

As shown in the table, with implementation of **MM GHG-1** through **MM GHG-9** emissions are estimated at 2,511 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year, which would be below the applicable SCAQMD screening threshold of 3,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. Impacts would be less than significant.

### **Mitigation Measures**

**MM GHG-1: *Pedestrian Infrastructure.*** The applicant shall incorporate into the project site plan and design documentation sidewalks or pedestrian paths along all new streets as well as internal sidewalks that link all internal uses. Prior to final site plan approval, the City shall verify that pedestrian improvements meeting the requirements of CAP Measure T-1.2 are incorporated into the project site plan and design documentation.

**MM GHG-2: *Bike Lanes.*** The applicant shall incorporate into the project site plan and design documentation a bike lane along the project site boundary with Corydon Street and Mission Trail to connect to the Class II bikeways currently located on Corydon Street and Mission Trail. Prior to final site plan approval, the City shall verify that bike lane improvements meeting the requirements of CAP Measure T-1.4 are incorporated into the project site plan and design documentation.

**MM GHG-3: *Indoor Water Conservation.*** The project applicant shall demonstrate, in the project building plans or other design documentation, faucets, toilets, and showers installed within the proposed uses that utilize low-flow fixtures that would reduce indoor water demand by 30 percent per CALGreen Standards. Prior to final site plan approval, the City shall verify that low-flow fixtures meeting the requirements of CAP Measure E-4 are incorporated into the project site plan and design documentation.

**MM GHG-4: *Landscaping.*** The applicant shall incorporate into the project landscape plan one 15-gallon non-deciduous umbrella form tree per 30 linear feet of boundary length. The landscape plan shall be designed to be consistent with the requirements of AB 1881. Prior to final site plan approval, the City shall verify that the landscaping meeting the requirements of CAP Measures E-1.1 and E-4.1 are incorporated into the project site plan and design documentation.

**MM GHG-5: *Construction Waste Management Plan.*** The applicant shall provide a Construction Waste Management Plan which demonstrates how the project would recycle and/or salvage for reuse a minimum of 65 percent of nonhazardous construction and demolition waste. Prior to issuing a demolition, grading, building, or other construction permit, the City shall verify that a Construction Waste Management Plan is in place meeting the requirements of CAP Measure S-1.4.

**MM GHG-6: *Bicycle Parking.*** The project applicant shall incorporate into the project site plan and design documentation, a permanently anchored bicycle racks within 200 feet of the visitor entrance and readily visible to passers-by for at least five percent of visitor motorized vehicle parking capacity. Prior to final site plan approval, the City shall verify that bicycle parking improvements meeting the requirements of CAP measure T-1.5 are incorporated into the project site plan and design documentation.

**MM GHG-7: *Parking for Fuel-Efficient Vehicles.*** The applicant shall designate, through signage and/or pavement marking, at a minimum, 10 percent of the total project employee and visitor parking spaces for Clean Air Vehicles. Parking spaces for Clean Air Vehicles may be any combination of low-emitting, fuel-efficient, and carpool/vanpool vehicles. Prior to issuing



an occupancy permit, the City shall verify that a minimum of 10 percent of parking spaces are designated for Clean Air Vehicles (e.g., through signage and/or pavement marking), meeting the requirements of CAP Measure T-2.1.

**MM GHG-8: *Cool Roof Requirements.*** The applicant shall specify in the building plans or design documentation, roofing materials that have a thermal emittance or Solar Reflectance Index 3 per CALGreen Tier 1 values. Prior to final building plan approval, the City shall verify that cool roof improvements meeting the requirements of CAP Measure E-1.2 are incorporated into the project site plan and design documentation.

**MM GHG-9: *Solid Waste Reduction.*** The applicant shall require recycling programs that reduce the project's operational waste to landfill be a minimum of 75 percent, per AB 341.

(Sources: Air Quality and GHG Impact Study, MD Acoustics 2020a [Appendix A])

**b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

The City has adopted a CAP that outlines the actions for City to undertake to achieve its proportional share of state GHG emission reductions to be compliant with AB 32 and Executive Order S-3-05 (City 2011c). Appendix D of the CAP includes a project-level consistency worksheet used to help demonstrate consistency with the General Plan growth potential and CAP. If the project is consistent with the land use designation, population and employment projections, and incorporates applicable CAP measures in the project design, then the project would be deemed consistent with the General Plan and CAP. The worksheet considers the following three questions to determine if a project is consistent with the General Plan growth potential and CAP (City 2011c):

1. Is the project consistent with the General Plan land use designation?
2. Is the project consistent with the General Plan population and employment projections for the site, upon which the CAP modeling is based?
3. Does the project incorporate the following CAP measures as binding and enforceable components of the project? Until these measures have been formally adopted by the City and incorporated in to applicable codes, the requirements must be incorporated as mitigation measures applicable to the project (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15183.5(b)(2)).

The project site has a General Plan land use designation of Specific Plan (East Lake Specific Plan – Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation land use designation). As discussed in further detail in Item IX(b), the project, as a commercial development, would be consistent with the applicable underlying land use designation of Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation, and would therefore be consistent with the General Plan land use designation. Because the project would be consistent with the General Plan land use designation, it would also be consistent with the General Plan population and employment projections for the site, which have anticipated the site to be developed with commercial uses. The project would be required to implement the applicable measures from the CAP worksheet, presented above at **MM GHG-1** through **MM GHG-9**, as well as CAP Measure E-1.3, which involves compliance with the mandatory California Energy Code. Implementation of these project-specific mitigation measures and compliance with applicable regulations would ensure that the project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures: MM GHG-1 through MM GHG-9.**

(Sources: Air Quality and GHG Impact Study, MD Acoustics 2020a [Appendix A]; CAP)

**IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was prepared for the proposed project by Earth Strata Geotechnical Services, Inc. (2019, Appendix H) to identify recognized environmental conditions (RECs) within the project site and vicinity. The ESA included a review of the hydrogeologic setting; a review of historical records to assess historical land use and indications of potential contamination or sources of contamination within the project site; an environmental database search to identify documented “hazardous waste” facilities within proximity to the project site; and site reconnaissance. The results and conclusions of the ESA are summarized herein.

- a) **Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? (Less Than Significant Impact)**
- b) **Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

As a commercial development, the proposed project would not conflict with hazardous materials regulations or create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or through potential accident conditions during operation. The transport of fuel and tank filling operations associated with the gas station would be conducted in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements. Other potentially hazardous materials associated with the gas station, car wash, and tire shop would be used and stored at the project site in accordance with regulatory requirements. During construction, the proposed project would involve the use and/or generation of materials including fuels (gasoline and diesel), equipment fluids (oils and antifreeze), concrete, cleaning solutions, solvents, and adhesives. While the potential exists for indirect impacts to human health and the environment from accidental spills of small amounts of hazardous materials, the proposed project would follow existing federal and state standards that regulate the handling, storage, and transport of these materials. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

- c) **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

One school, Jean Hayman Elementary School, is located approximately 0.25 mile east of the project site. As discussed above in Items IX(a-b), as a commercial development the project would not involve a high usage of hazardous materials. Future development within the project site would be required to comply with federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to the transport, use, disposal, handling, and storage of hazardous wastes during construction and operations. As such, impacts related to handling or emissions of hazardous materials near a school would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

- 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? (Less Than Significant)**

According to the evaluation conducted for the project's Phase I ESA, no listed sites or RECs that would result in significant hazard to the public or the environment are located within the project site or vicinity. No evidence was observed that the project site has been adversely impacted by contamination and no evidence of recognized environmental conditions exist on the project site. Therefore, potential impacts associated with hazardous materials sites would be less than significant

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Phase I ESA, Earth Strata Geotechnical Services, Inc. 2019 [Appendix H])

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

According to Figure 2.7 of the General Plan, the project site is within the Influence Area of Skylark Airport, which is approximately 0.3 mile southwest of the project site. The project would comply with the applicable requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding encroachment into the airport's navigable airspace in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 77. Compliance with FAA regulations would ensure that the project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan; General Plan EIR)

- f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The City contracts with the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) for fire protection and emergency management services. Project construction would involve off-site improvements within Mission Trail and Corydon Street that could temporarily affect access for emergency vehicles; however, construction would not result in the full closure of the roadways and emergency access would be maintained. Compliance with the County of Riverside's Emergency Operations Plan would be required during construction to ensure adequate emergency access. Following construction, the project would not interfere with emergency access to surrounding areas. Fire lanes with appropriate fire truck turning radii would be provided on site to allow for adequate emergency access to the project's proposed uses. As such, implementation of the project would not impair an emergency response or evacuation plan, and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan, County of Riverside's Emergency Operations Plan)

**g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

According to Figure 3.10-2 of the General Plan EIR, which is based on CalFire's fire hazard severity zone mapping, the project site is not located in an area mapped as a moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zone. As such, the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The proposed project would be subject to the plan check process and would undergo a fire, life, and safety review by the Fire Department to determine the specific fire requirements applicable to ensure compliance with Fire Department requirements. Therefore, potential impacts associated with wildland fires would be less than significant..

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR)

**X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

**a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project site is located within the San Jacinto River Basin Sub-Watershed of the Santa Ana Watershed region of Riverside County. The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQCB) sets water quality standards for all ground and surface waters within this region. Water quality standards are defined under the Clean Water Act to include both the beneficial uses of specific water bodies and the levels of water quality that must be met and maintained to protect those uses (water quality objectives).

Construction of the proposed project would include site clearing, grading, excavation, installation of subsurface infrastructure, and other earthmoving activities that would have the potential to cause erosion that could degrade surface or ground water quality and/or violate water quality standards. The use of heavy construction equipment could result in the accidental release of hazardous materials (e.g., oils, fuels, and other water quality pollutants) that also could potentially affect surface and/or ground water quality. As required by the Clean Water Act, the project would comply with the Santa Ana Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) NPDES Permit. The NPDES MS4 Permit Program, which is administered in the project area by Riverside County and is issued by the SARWQCB, regulates storm water and urban runoff discharges from developments to natural and constructed storm drain systems in the City. Since the proposed project would disturb one or more acres of soil, construction activities would be subject to the CGP (NPDES General Permit No. CAS000002, Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, adopted September 2, 2009 and effective as of July 2, 2010) issued by SWRCB. The CGP requires implementation of a SWPPP for site clearing, grading, and disturbances such as excavation. The SWPPP would generally contain a site map showing the construction perimeter, proposed buildings, storm water collection and discharge points, general pre- and post-construction topography, drainage patterns across the site, and adjacent roadways.

Development of the currently vacant project site would result in an increase in impervious surfaces associated with roadways, parking lots, sidewalks, buildings, and other hardscape features. This increase in on-site impervious surfaces would allow less water to percolate into the ground and would therefore generate more surface water during rainfall events. Impervious surfaces would collect dust, soil, and other impurities that would then be assimilated into surface runoff. The project proposes an on-site bio-retention basin that would capture runoff generated by the impervious surfaces within the project site. The site has been designed such that stormwater not captured within on-site landscaped areas would enter a storm drain inlet located in the approximate center of the site and be transmitted via a 24-inch storm drain to the

proposed bio-retention basin. The bio-retention basin would serve as a stormwater BMP to collect and treat stormwater captured on site. Treatment would occur via an inlet filter that would be installed in the bio-retention basin and would capture fine to coarse sediments, floatable trash, debris, total suspended solids, nutrients, metals, and hydrocarbons conveyed in the stormwater. The treated stormwater would then be diverted into the adjacent Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District channel that eventually leads into Lake Elsinore. With the proposed bio-retention basin and landscaped areas, stormwater would be captured and treated on site such that polluted sources of runoff would not be released off site. The project's various uses that have the potential to result in additional discharges would also incorporate source control BMPs to restrict certain discharges from being transported into the proposed storm drain system and bio-retention basin. Specifically, the carwash wastewater would be collected into a sanitary sewer drain, instead of the storm drain, for disposal. The gas station would include quick-shutoff fuel dispensing nozzles and would use the floor around the fuel dispensing area as a containment system. Implementation of these BMPs, along with regulatory compliance, would preclude violations of applicable standards and discharge regulations. The project would not otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: WQMP, KWC Engineers 2020 [Appendix I])

**b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project site is located within the Elsinore Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ). Since the City has a large amount of vacant land, substantial changes to recharge systems could occur from development of the vacant parcels. Soil testing performed for the project's Preliminary WQMP indicated that natural infiltration on the site is poor. The increase in impervious surfaces that would occur for the project, as discussed above in Item X(a), would result in further decreased on-site percolation capabilities. The project proposes pervious surfaces including on-site landscaping and a bio-retention basin that would collect stormwater runoff from the project site. Water collected in the bio-retention basin would be treated and then diverted into the adjacent Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District channel for output into Lake Elsinore, where infiltration and groundwater recharge occur. This would be consistent with the City's requirement that treated stormwater be directed to Lake Elsinore and not infiltrated on site. Therefore, implementation of the project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge or impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: WQMP, KWC Engineers 2020 [Appendix I])

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

**i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The existing on-site drainage pattern is generally from east to west across the site. While the project would maintain this same general drainage direction, impervious surfaces would be constructed on currently vacant land, which would increase the amount and change the drainage pattern of on-site runoff. The project

would incorporate on-site drainage infrastructure, such as curbs, gutters, and storm drains, which would collect on-site runoff and convey it to the proposed on-site bio-retention basin in the western corner of the site. With these features, storm water runoff generated during project operation would be adequately captured on site and would not result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site. There is a potential for erosion and siltation to occur during project construction, specifically during site clearing, grading, and other earthmoving activities. Grading activities would be conducted in accordance with the City of Lake Elsinore Grading Ordinance Nos. 636, 801, and 882, and the standards outlined in the City's Plan Preparation and Design Manual (City 2005). Implementation of the NPDES permit requirements and an erosion control plan would reduce potential erosion, siltation, and water quality impacts to receiving water bodies and adjacent property. Therefore, potential impacts associated with erosion or siltation would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: WQMP, KWC Engineers 2020 [Appendix I]; Plan Preparation; and Design Manual Site Plan)

**ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

As discussed above in Item X(c)(i), implementation of the project would alter the drainage pattern of the site through an increase in impervious surfaces, which would result in an increase in surface runoff; however, proposed drainage infrastructure and the on-site bio-retention basin would be designed to adequately accommodate runoff. Therefore, the project would not result in on- or off-site flooding and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Site Plan)

**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; (Less Than Significant Impact)**

As discussed above in Item X(c)(i), implementation of the project would alter the drainage pattern of the site through an increase in impervious surfaces, which would result in an increase in surface runoff; however, proposed drainage infrastructure and the on-site bio-retention basin would be designed to adequately accommodate runoff. Therefore, the project would 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 runoff. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Site Plan)

**iv. Impede or redirect flood flows? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project site is located within two types of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood Zone "X." The western portion is within a Zone "X" defined as areas of 0.2 percent annual chance flood hazard, areas of 1 percent annual chance flood with average depth of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile. The eastern portion of the site is within a Zone "X" defined as areas determined to be outside of the 0.2 percent annual chance floodplain. No portion of the site is mapped within a special

flood hazard area subject to inundation by the 1 percent annual chance flood. As such, the risk of flooding at the site is low and the project is not anticipated to substantially impede or redirect flood flows. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: FEMA Flood Map Service Center)

**d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Based on distance to the Pacific Ocean (approximately 24 miles) and to Lake Elsinore (approximately 2.4 miles), there is no potential for a tsunami or seiche to inundate the project site. As discussed above in Item X(c)(iv), the project site is not within a special flood hazard area and the risk of inundation by flood at the project site is low. During construction, the project would implement a SWPPP to minimize the release of sediments and other pollutants off site. Following construction, the project site would not include vacant land with exposed soils that could result in erosion and sedimentation in the instance of a flood event. In addition, other potential pollutant sources that may be present on site, such as fuels at the proposed gas station, would be stored in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project site is located within the Santa Ana River watershed, which is regulated by the SARWQCB. The SARWQCB has developed a “Water Quality Control Plan” for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan establishes water quality standards for the ground and surface waters of the region. The Basin Plan includes an implementation plan describing the actions by the SARWQCB and others that are necessary to achieve and maintain the water quality standards. The SARWQCB regulates waste discharges to minimize and control their effects on the quality of the region’s ground and surface water. Permits are issued under several programs and authorities. The terms and conditions of these discharge permits are enforced through a variety of technical, administrative, and legal means. The SARWQCB ensures compliance with the Basin Plan through its issuance of NPDES Permits, issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR), and Water Quality Certifications pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. In conformance with these requirements, the project applicant has prepared a WQMP, which demonstrates that the proposed project’s drainage plan would meet all applicable requirements of the Basin Plan, including requirements and conditions of approval associated with NPDES permits, issuance of WDRs, and Water Quality Certifications. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the Basin Plan, and potential impacts associated with implementation of a water quality control plan would be less than significant.

As discussed above in Item X(a), the project site is located within the Elsinore Groundwater Management Zone GMZ. Since the City has a large amount of vacant land, substantial changes to recharge systems could occur from development of the vacant parcels. In order to reduce pollutants, the City has implemented policies to minimize pollutants in the local and regional waterways, which includes water that percolates into the groundwater through Water Resources Policies 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3. Water Resources Policies 4.1 and 4.2 require development projects to acquire a NPDES permit and implement BMPs to reduce pollutants. Water Resources Policy 4.3 requires the City to review future development project’s beneficial uses during the environmental review stage. As described in Items X(a) and X(b), above, the project would not

substantially interfere with groundwater recharge or result in adverse impacts associated with release of pollutants into groundwater. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with applicable sustainable groundwater management plans, and potential impacts associated with implementation of a groundwater management plan would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: WQMP, KWC Engineers 2020 [Appendix I] and General Plan EIR)

## **XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING**

### **a) Physically divide an established community? (No Impact)**

A significant impact would occur if the proposed project were sufficiently large or configured in such a way that it would create a physical barrier within an established community. The proposed project is surrounded by vacant land to the north, light industrial uses to the south, commercial and residential uses to the east across Mission Trail, and the Lake Elsinore Motorsports Parkway to the west. The project site is not currently used for access between existing uses and implementation of the project would not create a physical barrier that would divide an established community. Moreover, project implementation would not provide for infrastructure systems such as new roadways that would divide or disrupt existing neighborhoods or other established community elements in a previously developed and urbanized area. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

### **b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project site is zoned Specific Plan (SP) and has a General Plan land use designation of Specific Plan (East Lake Specific Plan – Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation land use designation). The proposed drive-through restaurant, convenience store, and flex-condos are permitted uses in the Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation land use designation. The proposed gas station, car wash, and tire shop are permitted uses subject to a Conditional Use Permit. Therefore, the project would not conflict with the site's land use designation under the East Lake Specific Plan. Further, the proposed project has been designed to meet the development standards as identified in the East Lake Specific Plan and LEMC, including but not limited to setbacks, building heights, parking spaces, drive aisles, and floor area ratio, and to be consistent with the applicable land use policies and regulations of the East Lake Specific Plan and General Plan.

As discussed in Item IV(f), above, the project would not conflict with the MSHCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans. Land-use related impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: East Lake Specific Plan, MSHCP)



## **XII. MINERAL RESOURCES**

### **a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? (Less than Significant Impact)**

Substantial mineral resources have been identified within the City and are noted within the City's General Plan, in particular aggregate type mineral resources. These resource areas are primarily designated within Mineral Resource Zone 2 (MRZ-2) pursuant to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) and California Mineral Land Classification System Diagram based on available geological information. The designation of MRZ-2 indicates the area is underlain by mineral deposits where geologic data shows that significant measured or indicated resources are present. According to Figure 3.12-1 of the General Plan EIR, the project site is located within the Mineral Resource Zone 3 Area (MRZ-3), or areas containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data. The project site is not located within an area that has been classified or designated as a mineral resource area by the State Board of Mining and Geology, nor has mineral extraction been documented to occur on site. The project site has a land use designation of Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation and is not planned for mineral extraction use. Further, given the location of the site in relation to surrounding development, it is highly unlikely that surface mining or mineral recovery operations could occur on site. Therefore, potential impacts associated with the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR)

### **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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

As discussed in Item XII(a), the project is located in an area designated as MRZ-3, considered to have moderate potential for the discovery of economic mineral deposits; however, because the project site is not located within one of the designated locally-important mineral resource areas within the City. Therefore, potential impacts associated with loss of a mineral resource recovery site would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** (List mitigation measures. No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR)

## **XIII. NOISE**

A Noise Impact Study was prepared for the proposed project by MD Acoustics, LLC (2020c, Appendix J) to assess the project's potential noise-related impacts. Portions of the following analysis incorporate information from the study.

### **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 other applicable standards of other agencies? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

#### **Construction Noise**

LEMC Section 17.176.080 prohibits the generation construction noise between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the next day, on weekends, and on holidays. Section 17.176.080 also provides construction

noise level limits at affected properties, “where technically and economically feasible” to achieve. Properties to the east and southeast of the project site are within the city of Wildomar; the proposed project is not subject to the regulations of the City of Wildomar and these properties are therefore not considered for the project’s noise impact analysis. These properties are also separated from the project site by Mission Trail and Corydon Street, which would provide distance between the project’s construction activities and potential noise receptors located at the properties. Properties to the north (vacant) and west (motor sports track) do not include sensitive receptors and are also not considered for the project’s noise impact analysis. The property to the southwest includes an industrial use. While this use is not considered a sensitive receptor, LEMC Section 17.176.080 indicates a construction noise level limit of 85 A-weighted decibels (dBA) for mobile equipment at business properties.

The project would result in temporary increases in noise levels during its various construction phases, primarily from the use of heavy off-road construction equipment. The use of equipment would be transitory and sporadic across the relatively large project site. The highest noise levels would likely occur during the project’s grading phase, which is conservatively assumed to include the simultaneous use of one grader, one dozer, two excavators, two scrapers, and two backhoes. When considered to operate simultaneously at a single location, these pieces of equipment would together generate a noise level of 90 dBA noise equivalent level ( $L_{EQ}$ ) at 50 feet. Due their individual size and nature of activity, however, these pieces of equipment would not all operate at the same location at the same time but would rather be dispersed across the project site. Therefore, noise levels generated by the project’s construction activities are not anticipated to exceed 85 dBA at the nearby industrial property. Project construction would also occur within the permissible construction hours. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

### **Operational Stationary Source Noise**

LEMC Section 17.176.060 establishes daytime (7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) and nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) exterior noise level limits for properties receiving noise generated by operation of a project. Although the project’s proposed 7-Eleven use would operate 24 hours a day, it would not generate substantial noise. The project’s primary noise-generating uses (the car wash and tire shop) would operate during daytime hours. As such, noise generated by the proposed project’s operations would be considered significant if it exceeds to 70 dBA (anytime) light industrial noise level limit at the property to the southwest or the 65 dBA (daytime) commercial noise level at all other adjacent properties.

Stationary noise sources associated with operation of the project include dryers/blowers (with silencers) and vacuums at the proposed car wash use, tire store activities, drive-thru speakers at the proposed fast food restaurant, delivery trucks loading and unloading, and on-site vehicles. To provide a conservative estimate of the project’s operational noise generation, all noise sources were assumed to operate simultaneously, when in reality noise source activities would be intermittent and sporadic. In the noise model, receivers were placed at property lines adjacent to the project site. Noise levels were modeled to range from 35.6 dBA (at the adjacent property line to the west) to 52.4 dBA (at the adjacent property line to the north). Project generated noise levels would be below the applicable 65 dBA and 70 dBA noise level limits, and impacts would be less than significant.

To further evaluate the project’s potential to result in operational noise impacts, the project’s modeled operational noise levels were combined with existing ambient noise levels to estimate the project-caused increase in noise levels. Ambient noise levels were determined through noise measurements conducted as part of the project’s Noise Impact Study (MD Acoustics, LLC 2020c) and were found to range between 57.7 dBA  $L_{EQ}$  in the western portion of the site to 72.7 dBA  $L_{EQ}$  in the eastern portion of the site. When combined with existing ambient noise levels, it was calculated that the project would not result in an increase in noise levels over ambient levels and would therefore be less than significant.

## Operational Traffic Noise

For operational traffic-related noise, impacts are considered significant in areas where noise levels are above the limits for what the City General Plan Noise Element considers “clearly compatible,” and if implementation of the project would result in an increase of the ambient noise level by 3 CNEL or more (where the CNEL is the Community Noise Equivalent Level, a 24-hour average where noise levels during the evening hours of 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. have a 5 dBA weighting and during the nighttime hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. have an added 10 dBA weighting). A 3 CNEL increase is considered a perceptible increase in noise levels. Project generated traffic is estimated to result in a 0.3-CNEL increase along Corydon Street and a 0.4 CNEL increase along Mission Trail. As such, the project’s operational traffic noise impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Noise Impact Study, MD Acoustics 2020c [Appendix J])

### **b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Groundborne vibration can result in a range of impacts, from minor annoyances to people to major shaking that damages buildings. The most prominent vibration-generating construction activities are typically pile driving and rock blasting; the proposed project would not include either of these activities. The primary source of vibration during construction would likely be a bulldozer. A large bulldozer could generate a vibration level of 0.042 inches per second (in/sec) peak particle velocity (PPV) at 50 feet, which might be slightly perceptible at the nearest occupied property to the southwest of the project site; however, this would not exceed the 0.1 in/sec PPV vibration annoyance potential criteria for human receptors or the 0.5 in/sec PPV potential criteria for architectural damage to normal dwelling structures. Further, a bulldozer would not continuously operate adjacent to the nearest off-site use but would be mobile across the project site. Therefore, construction-related vibration impacts would be less than significant.

As a commercial development, the proposed project would not generate substantial vibration during operations and no impacts associated with groundborne vibration or noise levels would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Noise Impact Study, MD Acoustics 2020c [Appendix J])

### **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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The closest public use airport to the project site is the Perris Valley Airport, located approximately 9.5 miles to the northeast. The closest private airstrip to the project site is the Skylark Airport, located approximately 0.3 mile to the southwest. Skylark Airport provides glider and skydiving opportunities, but due to its private use restrictions and gravel/sand runway surface, it generally does not provide optimal conditions for frequent and convenient airport operations (City 2011b). Therefore, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels from airport operations and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR)

#### **XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING**

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

Population growth is a complex interaction between immigration, emigration, birth, deaths, and economic factors. The U.S. Census Bureau indicated that the City had a population of 28,930 in 2000 and 51,821 as of 2010, which would represent an approximately 79 percent increase. The SCAG RTP/SCS estimated a 2008 population for Lake Elsinore of 50,200 and projected an estimated population of 70,500 and 93,800 by 2020 and 2035, respectively. SCAG released an updated RTP/SCS Growth Forecast in 2016, which estimated the population of Lake Elsinore to be 54,100 in 2012 and projected an estimated population of 63,000 and 103,200 by 2020 and 2035, respectively (SCAG 2016). It should be noted that while this is the most recent population growth forecast released by SCAG, it was released several years prior to the most recent Profile Report for Lake Elsinore, which estimated that between the years 2000 and 2018, the City's population increased from 28,930 to 63,365; an increase of 34,435 people, or 119 percent (SCAG 2019).

The project entails the development of a commercial center expected to serve the existing population. No residential uses or other land uses associated with directly impacting population growth are included with the project. Although the project would result in an increase in temporary construction jobs and permanent commercial jobs, these jobs are expected to be filled by members of the existing population of the area. Additionally, the extension of Lemon Street would allow access to the project site but would not result in indirect population growth through the extension of infrastructure. Therefore, the project would not induce substantial direct or indirect population growth and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, SCAG RTP/SCS, LEMC)

- b) **Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? (No Impact)**

The proposed project site is currently vacant. No existing people or housing would be displaced upon implementation of the project. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

#### **XV. 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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The City Fire Department is comprised of contracted fire services with RCFD and CalFire. The RCFD operates 93 fire stations in 17 battalions, providing fire suppression, emergency medical, rescue, and fire prevention services throughout Riverside County. Equipment used by RCFD has the ability to respond to both urban and wildland emergency conditions. Specifically, Battalion 2 in the Southwest Division of RCFD services the City. The nearest fire station is Station No. 11, located approximately three miles west of the project site.

Future development of the project site would be subject to the City's policies and ordinances for hazard mitigation and fire prevention. The project would be required to comply with all applicable fire code requirements for construction and access to the site and as such, will be reviewed by the City Fire Department to determine the specific fire requirements applicable to ensure compliance with these requirements. Chapter 16.74 of the LEMC establishes a program for the adoption and administration of development impact fees by the City for the benefit of the citizens whereby as a condition to the issuance of a building permit or certificate of occupancy by the City, the property owner or land developer is required to pay development impact fees or provide other consideration to the City for the purpose of defraying the costs of public expenditures for capital improvements (and operational services to the extent allowed by law) which will benefit such new development. Section 16.74.049 includes a "fire facilities fee" to mitigate the additional burdens created by new development for City fire facilities. Since the proposed project does not propose new housing, potential impacts would be considered incremental and can be offset through the payment of the appropriate development impact fees. As such, the project would not require new or altered fire facilities and would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts related to fire protection. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan, LEMC)

**b) Police protection? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

As a contract service to the City provided by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, the Lake Elsinore Police Department is responsible for police protection within the City, including enforcement of local, state, and federal statutes; public safety; traffic enforcement; and maintaining public order. The California Highway Patrol provides traffic enforcement to the County with additional support from the local County Sheriff's Department. The Lake Elsinore Police Department/Sheriff's Station is located at 333 Limited Avenue, approximately 3.2 miles northwest of the project site. Chapter 16.74 of the LEMC establishes a program for the adoption and administration of development impact fees by the City for the purpose of defraying the costs of public expenditures for capital improvements (and operational services to the extent allowed by law) which would benefit such new development. The proposed project would participate in this development impact fee program to mitigate potential impacts to police protection resources. Additionally, the project would be required to comply with applicable law enforcement requirements and standards to ensure adequate law enforcement protection is available to serve the project site. Potential impacts would be considered incremental and can be offset through the payment of the development impact fee and compliance with regulatory requirements. As such, the project would not require new or altered police facilities and would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts related to police protection. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan, LEMC)

**c) Schools? (No Impact)**

The Lake Elsinore Unified School District (LEUSD) covers a 144-square mile area within the City of Lake Elsinore, City of Canyon Lake, City of Wildomar, and a portion of the unincorporated County of Riverside. LEUSD is composed of 25 schools including 13 elementary schools, 2 K-8 schools, 4 middle schools, 3 comprehensive high schools, a continuation school, and 2 alternative education centers. The proposed project would not generate new housing and the additional jobs provided by the project are anticipated to be filled by the local workforce. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in population growth or require expanded school facilities, and no impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: LEMC, LEUSD Website)

**d) Parks? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The City includes 19 parks with hundreds of acres of active and passive recreation opportunities. The proposed project does not include residential uses; thus, while there may be minimal use of parks by the project's commercial employees, a direct increase in park uses is not expected as a result of project implementation. Section 16.34.060 in Chapter 16.34 (Required Improvements) for the LEMC requires that prior to the issuance of a building permit, the property owner or developer must pay fees for the purposes set forth in that section. Paragraph D of Section 16.34.060 describes the City's Park Capital Improvement Fund and describes that the City Council has the option to request dedication for park purposes or, in lieu thereof, request that the property owner or developer pay a fee for the purpose of purchasing the land and developing and maintaining the City park system.

The project would be required to pay park fees to the City for the purpose of establishing, improving, and maintaining park land within the City. Since the proposed project does not propose new housing, potential impacts would be considered incremental and can be offset through the payment of the appropriate park fees. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in substantial adverse physical effects related to parks, and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: LEMC)

**e) Other public services/facilities? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The City is part of the Riverside County Library System. The closest library to the project site is the Wildomar Branch Library at 34303 Mission Trail, approximately 0.6 mile south of the project site. Section 16.34.060 in Chapter 16.34 (Required Improvements) of the LEMC requires that prior to the issuance of a building permit, the property owner or developer must pay fees for the purposes set forth in that section. Paragraph B of Section 16.34.060 describes the City's Library Mitigation Fee and states that an in-lieu fee for future construction of library improvements shall be paid to the City to assure the necessary library facilities are provided the community. Since the proposed project does not propose new housing, potential impacts would be considered incremental and can be offset through the payment of the appropriate library mitigation fees. Therefore, potential impacts associated with libraries would be less than significant.

Chapter 16.74 of the LEMC establishes a program for the adoption and administration of development impact fees by the City for the purpose of defraying the costs of public expenditures for capital improvements (and operational services to the extent allowed by law) which would benefit such new

development. Section 16.74.048 includes an “Animal shelter facilities fee” to mitigate the additional burdens created by new development for animal facilities. In addition, the property owner would be required to pay City Hall & Public Works fees, Community Center Fees, and Marina Facilities Fees prior to the issuance of building permits. Therefore, potential impacts associated with other public services and facilities would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: LEMC)

## **XVI. 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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The City’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2008 – 2030 (adopted July 14, 2009) establishes a goal of providing five acres of park space per 1,000 residents. The proposed project does not propose residential or other uses that would result in substantial increased demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities. Indirect impacts to park facilities from the proposed project would be limited to the occasional use of a park by the project’s commercial employees. As described in Item XV(d), the project applicant would be required to pay park fees to the City for the purpose of establishing, improving, and maintaining parkland within the City. Since the proposed project does not propose new housing, potential impacts would be considered incremental and can be offset through the payment of the appropriate park fees. The proposed project would not 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. Therefore, potential impacts associated with parks or recreational facilities would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, LEMC)

**b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? (No Impact)**

The proposed project does not include recreational facilities, nor, as discussed in Item XVI(a), would it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

## **XVII. TRANSPORTATION**

A Traffic Impact Analysis and a VMT Evaluation were prepared for the proposed project by Trames Solutions, Inc. (2020a, Appendix K, and 2020b, Appendix L) to assess the project’s potential to affect the circulation system and to generate VMT. Portions of the following analysis are based on the findings of these reports.

**a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The proposed project consists of a convenience store and gas station, tunnel car wash, fast food restaurant, flex-tech condos, and tire store, which would generate vehicle trips to and from the currently vacant site and would increase vehicular traffic volumes on nearby roadways compared to existing conditions. The increased traffic volumes could generate impacts to the existing roadways and intersections, that could potentially result in conflicts with an adopted plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system. The Traffic Impact Analysis prepared for the project (Trames Solutions, Inc. 2020a) assessed the project's potential to affect the circulation system and provided recommendations for improvements to the roadway system. The project would incorporate these recommendations, which include widening the portions of Mission Trail and Corydon Street adjacent to the project site, modifying the existing traffic signal at the intersection of Mission Trail and Lemon Street to accommodate the proposed Lemon Street extension and project's northern access, and providing stop sign controls at the project's central and southern access points. The project would also provide sidewalks and bicycle lanes along Mission Trail and Corydon Street where none currently exist, thus improving the pedestrian and bicycle circulation systems. As such, the project would not conflict with an adopted plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system with implementation of proposed design features, and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Traffic Impact Analysis, Trames Solutions, Inc. 2020a [Appendix K])

**b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.3 subdivision (b) sets forth specific criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts as related to VMT. In accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.3 subdivision (b) and Senate Bill (SB) 743, the City recently updated their Traffic Impact Analysis Preparation Guide to include VMT analysis methodology. Land use projects that have the potential to increase the average VMT per service population (compared to the City's baseline threshold) are evaluated for potential impacts.

Per the City's VMT analysis methodology, if a project can demonstrate consistency with one of the following three screening process steps, a project-level assessment is not required, and the project would be considered to result in a less-than-significant impact related to VMT. The three screening steps include:

- Step 1: Transit Priority Area (TPA) Screening
- Step 2: Low VMT Area Screening
- Step 3: Project Type Screening

The project would be consistent with screening process Step 3. Step 3 (Project Type Screening) indicates that local-serving retail projects less than 50,000 sf may be presumed to have a less-than-significant impact absent substantial evidence to the contrary. Local-serving retail generally involves the convenience of shopping use close to home and has the effect of reducing vehicle travel. The proposed project would have a building area of 38,395 sf, which falls below the 50,000-sf threshold. Further, the types of uses proposed for the project are not anticipated to draw customers from outside the area but rather provide convenience to the local community. Therefore, the project's impacts related to VMT would be less than significant.



**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: VMT evaluation, Trames Solutions, Inc. 2020b [Appendix L])

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

The proposed project is compatible with surrounding land uses and would not increase hazards due to design features or incompatible uses. The project does not propose a dangerous design feature, nor would the proposed access driveways connect to existing roadways in such a way that would pose a danger to increased traffic. Sight distance and project access would be reviewed by the City Engineer prior to issuance of building permits to ensure that project circulation and access has been designed per City regulations. Therefore, impacts associated with hazardous geometric design features would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**d) Result in inadequate emergency access? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Refer to Item IX(f). Potential impacts to emergency access would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan, County of Riverside's Emergency Operations Plan, Site Plan)

## **XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

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

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

As discussed in Item V, the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment indicated that eight previously recorded cultural resources have been identified within a one-mile radius of the project site, including Lake Elsinore, two historical-period built features, one historic-age isolated artifact, one prehistoric archaeological site, and two prehistoric isolated artifacts. Some of these resources may be considered TCRs. No resources have been recorded within the project site and no resources were observed within the project site during the pedestrian survey conducted for the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment. A search of the NAHC Sacred Lands Files indicated that no sacred Native American sites have been recorded within the immediate project area; however, NAHC noted that the absence of specific site information does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in a project area and that other resources should be consulted to obtain information regarding known and previously recorded sites. An information scoping process was then undertaken as part of the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment in which 24 tribes and individuals named by the NAHC were contacted. Five responses were provided from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI), the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and the Pala Band of Mission Indians. Only one response, from the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, identified potential concern regarding resources of Native American cultural value. The response

indicated that the project area lies within the territory of the Luiseño people and is of historic interest to the Rincon Band. Specifically, the response identified the City of Lake Elsinore as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) and Traditional Cultural Landscape (TCL) of the Rincon Band that is associated with the Luiseño Creation Story and traditional practices. The Rincon Band knows of several Luiseño named places within the city; however, none are in the project area.

AB 52, signed into law in 2014, amended CEQA and established new requirements for tribal notification and consultation. AB 52 applies to all projects for which a notice of preparation or notice of intent to adopt a negative declaration/mitigated negative declaration is issued after July 1, 2015. AB 52 also broadly defines a new resource category of tribal cultural resources and establishes a more robust process for meaningful consultation that includes:

- Prescribed notification and response timelines;
- Consultation on alternatives, resource identification, significance determinations, impact evaluation, and mitigation measures; and
- Documentation of all consultation efforts to support CEQA findings.

A tribe must submit a written request to the relevant lead agency if it wishes to be notified of projects within its traditionally and culturally affiliated area. The lead agency must provide written, formal notification to the tribes that have requested it within 14 days of determining that a project application is complete or deciding to undertake a project. The tribe must respond to the lead agency within 30 days of receipt of the notification if it wishes to engage in consultation on the project, and the lead agency must begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving the request for consultation. Consultation concludes when either (1) the parties agree to mitigation measures to avoid a significant effect, if one exists, on a tribal cultural resource, or (2) a party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. AB 52 also addresses confidentiality during tribal consultation per Public Resources Code Section 21082.3(c).

On May 1, 2020, the City provided written notification of the project in accordance with AB 52 to six (6) Native American tribes that requested to receive such notification from the City. Of the tribes notified, the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians requested formal government-to-government consultation under AB 52. As a result, the following consultations occurred:

- Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians: The City held a consultation meeting with the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians on June 17, 2020. As part of the consultation, the Rincon and of Luiseño Indians did not identify potential TCRs within the project's potential impact limits. However, the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians did indicate a concern over the potential for uncovering TCRs or other tribal-affiliated resources during construction of the project. In response, City Planning staff provided the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians with recommended mitigation measures for review to address the potential for subsurface TCRs on the project site. The mitigation measures agreed to by the various tribes that were consulted are provided in **MM CUL-1** through **MM CUL-7** in Item V. The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians indicated that they were in agreement with the identified mitigation measures, and the AB 52 consultation process was concluded on June 17, 2020.
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians: The City held a consultation meeting with the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians on June 25, 2020. As part of the consultation, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians did not identify potential TCRs within the project's potential impact limits. However, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians did indicate a concern over the potential for uncovering TCRs or other

tribal-affiliated resources during construction of the project. In response, City Planning staff provided the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians with recommended mitigation measures for review to address the potential for subsurface TCRs on the project site. The mitigation measures agreed to by the various tribes that were consulted are provided in **MM CUL-1** through **MM CUL-7** in Item V. The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians indicated that they were in agreement with the identified mitigation measures, and the AB 52 consultation process was concluded on October 20, 2020.

- **Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians:** The City held an initial consultation meeting with the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians on July 9, 2020. As part of the consultation, the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians did not identify potential TCRs within the project's potential impact limits. However, the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians did indicate a concern over the potential for uncovering TCRs or other tribal affiliated resources during construction of the project. In response, City Planning staff provided the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians with recommended mitigation measures for review to address the potential for subsurface TCRs on the project site. The mitigation measures agreed to by the various tribes that were consulted are provided in **MM CUL-1** through **MM CUL-7** in Item V. The AB 52 consultation process was concluded on October 26, 2020.

Based on the absence of recorded resources within or adjacent to the project site, no adverse changes in the significance of TCRs are anticipated; however, it is possible that unknown TCRs may be discovered during grading and other ground-disturbing activities. Therefore, **MM CUL-1** through **MM CUL-7** identified in Items V(b) and V(c), above, would be implemented to ensure that potential impacts to TCRs pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1 would be less than significant.

#### **Mitigation Measures: MM CUL-1 through MM CUL-7**

(Sources: Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment, L&L Environmental, Inc. 2020b [Appendix E])

### **XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

- 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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project would require the installation of new utility infrastructure. The project would install new water and wastewater lines that would connect to existing Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) water and wastewater lines located within Mission Trail and Corydon Street. Although these connections would occur off site, the impacts associated with the connections are considered together with the overall project impacts and are analyzed throughout this IS. Additional off-site water or wastewater facility improvements, such as new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities, would not be required for the project. Off-site stormwater infrastructure improvements would not be required for the project as the project would include on-site infrastructure that would convey stormwater to an on-site detention basin. The project would connect to existing SCE electrical lines and SoCalGas natural gas lines, as well as existing telecommunications lines, and would not require the construction or expansion of new off-site facilities. Based on these considerations, potential impacts associated with the relocation or construction of new or expanded utility infrastructure would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Domestic water is provided to the project site by EVMWD. EVMWD obtains its potable water supplies from imported water from The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, local surface water from Canyon Lake, and local groundwater from the Elsinore Basin. According to EVMWD's Urban Water Management Plan, EVMWD has determined that its current and anticipated future supplies are sufficient to meet the projected dry-year and multiple dry-year demand for its service area. Thus, there are sufficient water supplies as well as water shortage contingency plans to protect existing and future water needs within the EVMWD service area.

The project would result in an incremental increase in demand for water during construction (e.g., minimal use of water for dust control during grading activities) and operation (e.g., potable water use for proposed commercial uses). The proposed project is consistent with the land use and zoning designation for the property, and thus, anticipated water use has been considered in the water supply planning for future water supplies in the EVMWD service area. The anticipated demand would be an amount that the existing entitlements under EVMWD would be able to supply. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: EVMWD Urban Water Management Plan)

**c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

EVMWD would provide wastewater service to the proposed project site. Wastewater generated by the proposed commercial uses would be typical of commercial sources and would not result in a significant demand for wastewater treatment beyond that provided by existing facilities. Wastewater flows from the project site would be collected and conveyed to the existing sewer line via an 8-inch sewer line and connect to an existing 18-inch sewer line within Corydon Street near the project site's southern access. Construction of new lines or expansion of existing lines is not proposed, as there is sufficient capacity to convey wastewater from the proposed project. The Regional Reclamation Facility operated by EVMWD has sufficient capacity to treat wastewater generated at the proposed project site. Additionally, the project would be required to pay utility rates and development impact fees for wastewater service. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Riverside County Waste Management facilitates solid waste disposal services for Riverside County, and the City contracts with CR&R, Inc. Environmental Services for trash pickup. Lake Elsinore is served three landfills, including El Sobrante Landfill, Badlands Landfill, and Lamb Canyon Landfill. El Sobrante Landfill is expected to reach capacity by 2045. Badlands Landfill is expected to reach capacity by 2024 and Lamb Canyon Landfill by 2021. Both Badlands and Lamb Canyon Landfills have the potential to expand their facilities and capacity.

Solid waste disposal is managed at the regional level; therefore, generation of solid waste within the City, including by the proposed project, is one part of a regional issue. The project would be required to comply with applicable State and local regulations, including Section 40050 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code, to reduce the volume of solid waste entering landfills. Chapter 14.12 of the LEMC requires that project construction divert a minimum of 50 percent of construction and demolition debris. The project is anticipated to meet or exceed this requirement during construction. The amount of solid waste generated by the proposed project is anticipated to be accommodated by the existing landfills, and recycling and green waste collection would reduce the overall solid waste generated. Therefore, potential impacts associated with solid waste disposal would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR, LEMC)

**e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, Sher, Chapter 1095, Statutes of 1989 as amended [IWMA]) under the Public Resource Code requires that local jurisdictions divert at least 50 percent of all solid waste generated by January 1, 2000, and 50 percent diversion each year following. This is achieved at the city-wide level. Chapter 14.12 of the LEMC requires that project applicants divert a minimum of 50 percent of construction and demolition debris; the project would meet or exceed this requirement. The project would also comply with AB 341 which establishes mandatory commercial recycling and requires businesses that generate four or more cy of trash per week to arrange recycling services. The proposed project would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, impacts associated with solid waste would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR, LEMC, Public Resources Code)

## **XX. WILDFIRE**

**If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:**

**a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Refer to Item IX(f). Potential impacts to emergency response or evacuation plans would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan, County of Riverside's Emergency Operations Plan)

**b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

- c) **Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? (Less Than Significant Impact)**
- 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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

According to Figure 3.10-2 (City of Lake Elsinore Wildfire Susceptibility) of the General Plan EIR, which is based on CalFire's fire hazard severity zone mapping, the project site and surroundings areas are not located in areas mapped as a moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zone. Therefore, the project would not exacerbate wildfire risks, including through the installation of the proposed Lemon Street extension. In addition, due the level topography of the project site and surrounding areas, the project would not expose people or structures to significant risks related to downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. Impacts related to wildfire would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR)

## V. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following are Mandatory Findings of Significance in accordance with Section 21083 of CEQA and Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines.

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

Potentially significant impacts to the environment resulting from the proposed project have been identified for biological resources, cultural resources, GHG emissions, and TCRs. All potentially significant impacts to biological resources related to adjacent MSHCP Conservation Areas, burrowing owl, and nesting birds would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-4**. The project is not expected to impact resources related to major period of California history or prehistory. Based on the cultural sensitivity of the area, however, the project would have the potential to impact unknown subsurface cultural resources or TCRs. Potential impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of **MM CUL-1** through **MM CUL-7**. Implementation of **MM GHG-1** through **MM GHG-9** would reduce potential impacts associated with GHG emissions to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, the project would not 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.

**Mitigation Measures:** **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-4**, **MM CUL-1** through **MM CUL-7**, **MM GHG-1** through **MM GHG-9**.

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

Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual project effects that, when considered together or in concert with other projects, combine to result in a significant impact (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). As demonstrated in this Initial Study, the proposed project would result in potentially significant project-specific impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, GHG emissions, and TCRs; however, project-related effects either would be avoided by incorporation of project design measures or mitigated to levels below significance.

As described in Item IV, project construction could result in potentially significant direct and/or indirect impacts to burrowing owl, nesting birds and raptors, and migratory birds and their habitat, as well as nearby MSHCP Conservation Areas. Potentially significant impacts would be reduced to a level of less than significant through compliance with applicable permits (pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, MBTA, federal Endangered Species Act, and California Endangered Species Act) and implementation of **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-4**. Other development in the project area also would be required to comply with applicable environmental laws and mitigation requirements. The Western Riverside County MSHCP, which has been adopted by local jurisdictions and approved by the wildlife agencies, is largely designed to



address potential cumulative impacts to sensitive biological resources resulting from development in the western portion of the County through assembly of a comprehensive reserve system. Based on the project-specific mitigation measures that would be implemented and on the existence of an approved region-wide conservation plan, the proposed project would not incrementally contribute to a significant cumulative biological resources impact.

As discussed in Items V and XVIII, the proposed project would not adversely affect known cultural resources. Potentially significant impacts could occur if archaeological resources, TCRs, and/or human remains are disturbed during ground-disturbing activities associated with project construction. While it is possible that unknown cultural resources or TCRs may be encountered during construction, mitigation measures **MM CUL-1** through **MM CUL-7** have been included that would reduce impacts to these resources to below a level of significance. Accordingly, the proposed project would not incrementally contribute to a significant cumulative cultural resources impact.

The Air Quality and GHG Impact Study and Traffic Impact Analysis prepared for the project considered cumulative impacts in their respective analyses. The project would be consistent with local and regional plans, and the project's air quality emissions would not exceed established thresholds of significance; therefore, no cumulatively considerable impacts related to air quality would occur. Implementation of **MM GHG-1** through **MM GHG-9** would ensure that the project would be consistent with the CAP, and thus, would not result in cumulatively considerable environmental impacts relative to GHG emissions.

Fourteen cumulative projects were identified in the traffic analysis prepared for the project:

1. TAG Property – 50,000-sf automotive sales development
2. LE Sport Complex – 525,000-sf soccer complex
3. Diamond Specific Plan – 114-unit multi-family housing development, 150-room hotel, 425,000-sf office development, and 472,000-sf shopping center
4. Artisan Alley – 95-unit multi-family residential development
5. The Colony/TAG Property/John Laing Homes – variety of residential developments
6. Triangle (The Point Commercial) – 3,524-sf car wash and shopping center
7. Store America Self Storage – 588-unit self-storage
8. Wildomar Shooting Academy – shooting Range
9. Subway – 10,500-sf fast food restaurant
10. Bundy Canyon Plaza – 36,990-sf shopping center
11. Retail Building – 194,000-sf shopping center
12. Village at Monte Vista – 80-unit single-family residential development and 136,000-sf business park
13. KB/Summerhill – 70-unit single-family residential development
14. Darling/Bundy Canyon – 140-unit multi-family residential development

These 14 projects, in combination with the proposed project, would generate vehicular traffic on Mission Trail and Corydon Street. As discussed in Item XVII(a), the project would incorporate recommendations provided in the Traffic Impact Analysis to ensure adequate circulation to accommodate long-term traffic volumes. Associated impacts would be less than significant.

The proposed project is consistent with the East Lake Specific Plan – Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation land use designation and with the existing underlying zoning. Therefore, incremental increases in impacts to the environment would be within the thresholds set by the General Plan, East Lake Specific Plan, and supporting planning and regulatory documents. When considering all potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, including impacts identified as less than significant in the Initial Study, together with the impacts of other present, past, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, there would not be a cumulatively considerable impact on the environment.

**Mitigation Measures: MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-4, MM CUL-1 through MM CUL-7, MM GHG-1 through MM GHG-9**

(Sources: Air Quality and GHG Impact Study and Traffic Impact Analysis)

**c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Construction and operation of the project would not cause environmental effects that would significantly directly or indirectly impact human beings. The proposed project would adhere to regulatory codes, ordinances, regulations, standards, and guidelines applicable to each of the environmental issue areas analyzed herein. For project-related construction activities that have the potential to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings (sound, traffic, dust), the project is required to meet all LEMC grading and construction requirements and BMPs, which would be implemented during project construction to reduce these effects to below a level of significance.

As evidenced by the Initial Study, no other substantial adverse effects on human beings, either indirectly or directly, would occur as a result of project implementation. Impacts would be less than significant.

## **VI. PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED**

This section identifies those persons who prepared or contributed to the preparation of this document. This section is prepared in accordance with Section 15129 of the CEQA Guidelines.

### HELIX Environmental Planning

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### City of Lake Elsinore

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## VII. REFERENCES

The following documents were used as information sources during preparation of this document. Except as noted, they are available for public review at the City of Lake Elsinore, Community Development Department, 130 South Main Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530, ph. (951) 674-3124.

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