

Initial Study / Negative Declaration

Firebaugh Annexation and Reorganization Project

Prepared for:



City of Firebaugh
1133 P Street
Firebaugh, CA 93622
559.659.2043
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PROJECT INFORMATION

This document is the Initial Study for the potential environmental effects of the City of Firebaugh's (City) Annexation Project (Project). The City of Firebaugh will act as the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. Copies of all materials referenced in this report are available for review in the project file during regular business hours at 1133 P Street, Firebaugh, CA 93622.

Project title

Firebaugh Annexation and Reorganization Project

Lead agency name and address

City of Firebaugh

1133 P Street

Firebaugh, CA 93622

Contact person and phone number

Ben Gallegos, City Manager: 559.659.2043

Project location

The City of Firebaugh (City) lies in the San Joaquin Valley's central-western region, along the west side of the San Joaquin River in Fresno County. The City is adjacent to State Route 33 and is approximately 30 miles west of the City of Fresno city limits (Figure 1). The Project site consists of 11 separate parcels to be annexed into the City of Firebaugh (Figure 2). The 11 parcels to be included in the Project are Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 012-020-33, -32, 007-091-18, -22ST, -23ST, -25ST, -49, -50, -37, -38, and -44 (see Figure 3). All 11 parcels are presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits. APNs 012-020-33, -32, 007-091-37, -38, and 044 are located west of Washoe Avenue. The remaining six parcels (APNs 007-091-18, -22ST, -23ST, 25ST, -49 and -50) are located east of Washoe Avenue.

Figure 1 – Location Map

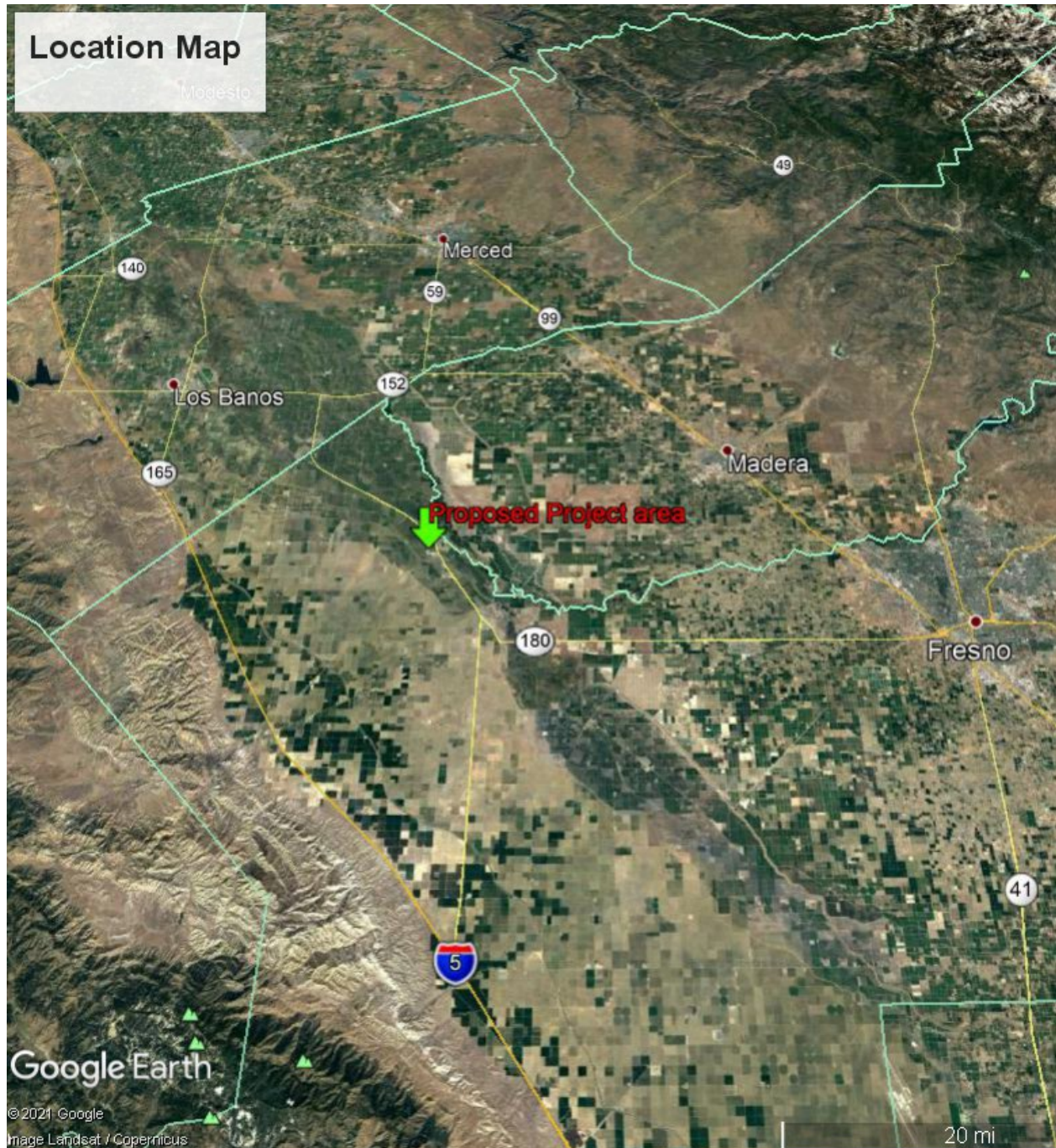


Figure 2 – Proposed Annexation Area

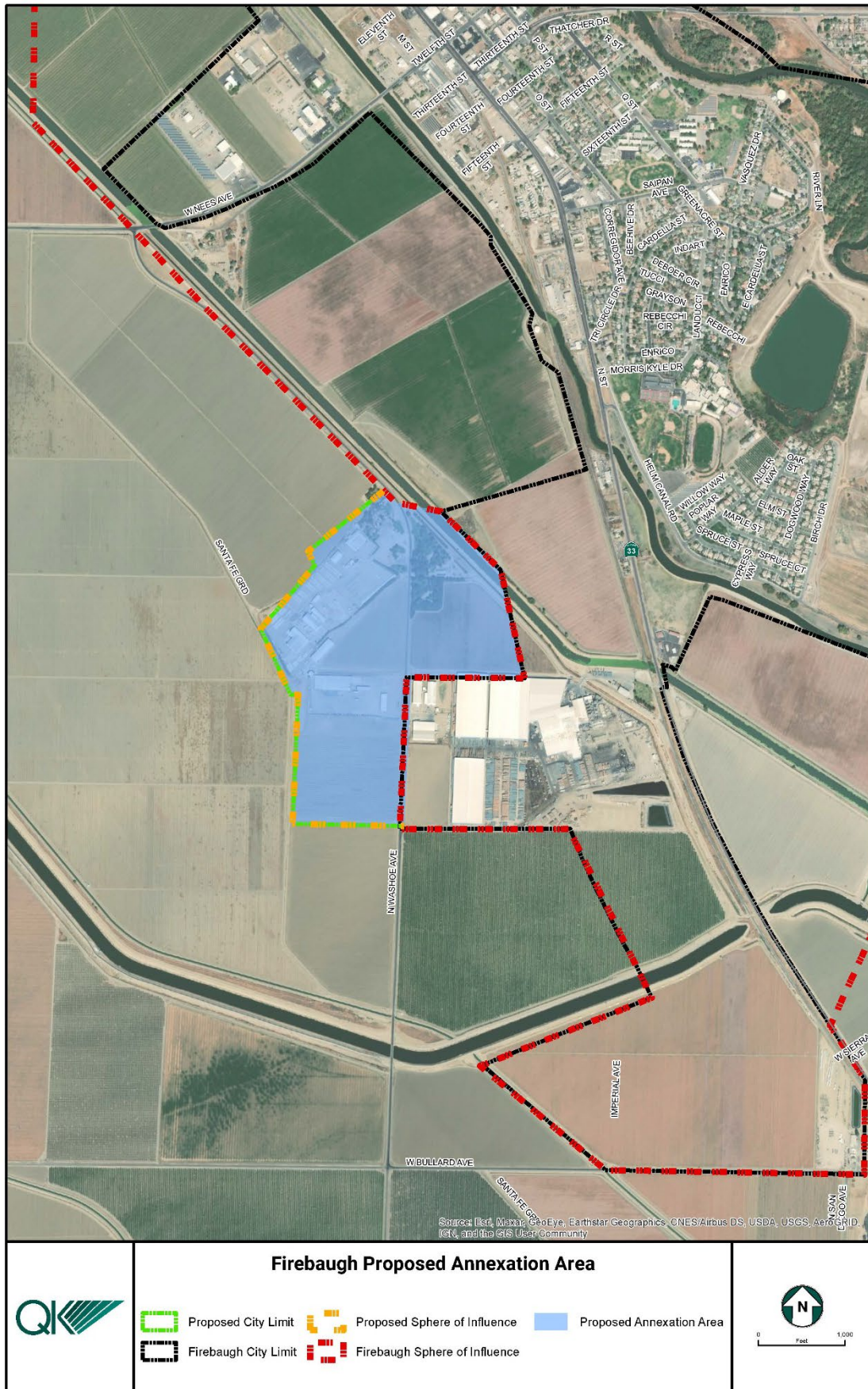
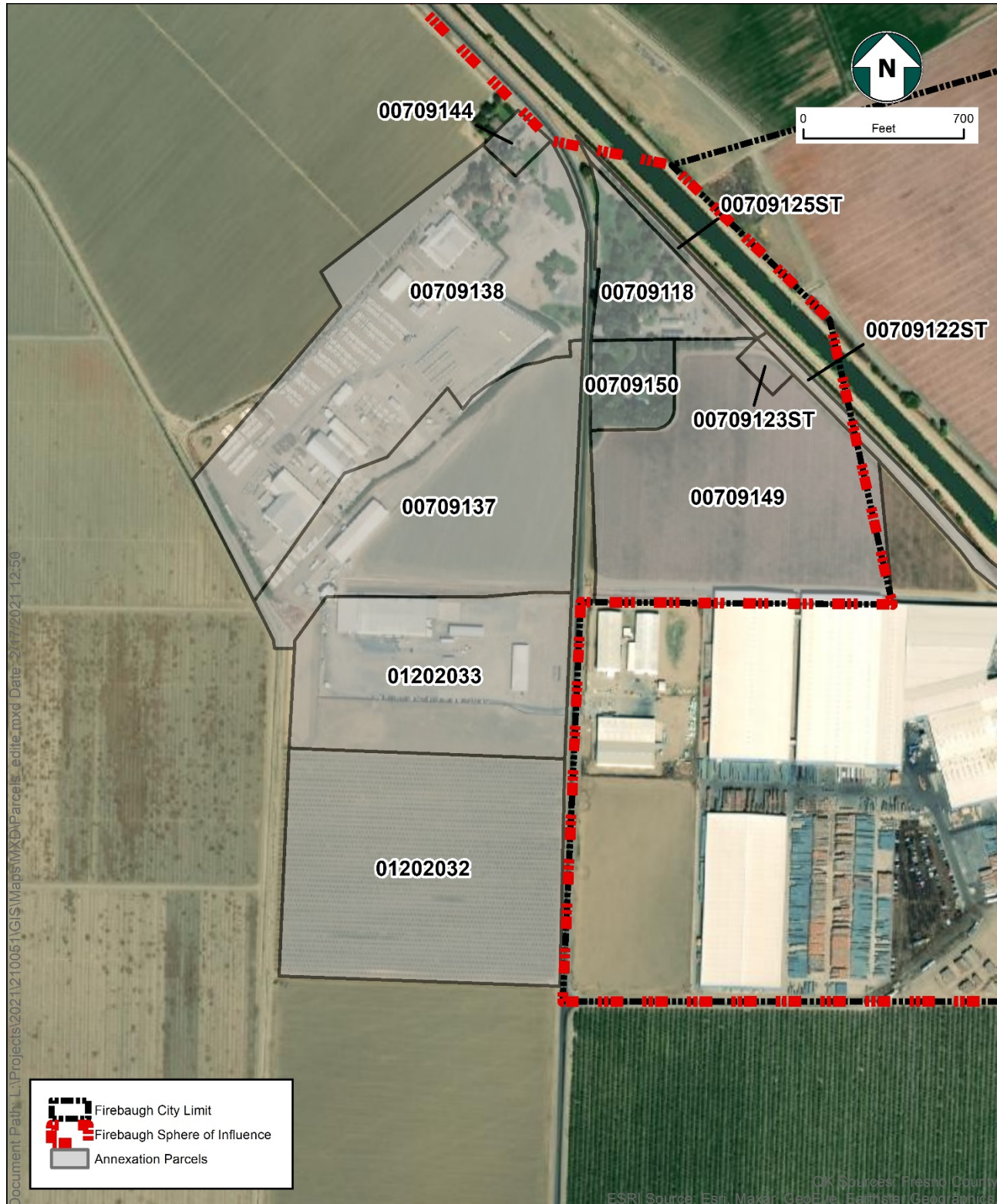


Figure 3 – Project Parcel Map



Project sponsor's name/address

City of Firebaugh
1133 P Street
Firebaugh, CA 93622

Project Description

The City of Firebaugh proposes to annex 11 parcels (approximately 140 acres, see Figure 2) into the City limits, amend the existing Sphere of Influence to include the annexed parcels with a General Plan Amendment and Prezone, and detach the parcels from the Fresno County Fire Protection District and Central California Irrigation District.

As a part of the annexation process, the City must designate each site that does not have a land use designation and prezone each site consistent with the General Plan. The proposed Project will split the land use designations and zoning west of Washoe Avenue and East of Washoe Avenue. West of Washoe Avenue will be designated as Urban Reserve (Agriculture) land use and the Urban Reserve zoning. East of Washoe will be designated as Heavy Industrial and zoned (M-2) General Manufacturing. By designating these undesignated parcels being used for agriculture and agricultural products processing as Urban Reserve (Agriculture) and prezoning these parcels Urban Reserve, only the existing uses on these sites would be allowed to continue for approximately two years. After the two years, the City may rezone some or all the parcels and evaluate the potential environmental effects of that rezone at that time. Specific development is not proposed with this Project and as such, no physical changes will occur to the environment.

As part of the Project, the following specific Land Use Designation and Prezone changes are proposed:

APN	Current Land Use	Existing Firebaugh General Plan Land Use Designation	Proposed Firebaugh General Plan Land Use Designation	Existing County Zoning	Proposed City Prezoning
007-091-18	Rural residence	Heavy Industrial	Heavy Industrial (no change)	Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	Heavy Manufacturing (M-2)
007-091-22ST	US Govt. Roadway	Heavy Industrial	Heavy Industrial (no change)	Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	Heavy Manufacturing (M-2)

APN	Current Land Use	Existing Firebaugh General Plan Land Use Designation	Proposed Firebaugh General Plan Land Use Designation	Existing County Zoning	Proposed City Prezoning
007-091-23ST	US Govt. Roadway	Heavy Industrial	Heavy Industrial (no change)	Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	Heavy Manufacturing (M-2)
007-091-25ST	US Govt. Roadway	Heavy Industrial	Heavy Industrial (no change)	Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	Heavy Manufacturing (M-2)
007-091-49	Agriculture	Heavy Industrial	Heavy Industrial (no change)	Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	Heavy Manufacturing (M-2)
007-091-50	Rural Residence	Heavy Industrial	Heavy Industrial (no change)	Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	Heavy Manufacturing (M-2)
012-020-33	Agricultural Products Processing Facility	No designation	Urban Reserve	Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	Urban Reserve (U-R)
007-091-37	Agriculture	No designation	Urban Reserve	Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	Urban Reserve (U-R)
007-091-38	Agriculture Freight Transportation Facility	No designation	Urban Reserve	Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	Urban Reserve (U-R)
007-091-44	Rural Residence	No designation	Urban Reserve	Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	Urban Reserve (U-R)
012-020-32	Agriculture	No designation	Urban Reserve	Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	Urban Reserve (U-R)

Also as a part of the proposed Project, the City is proposing a Development Code Text Change. The Development Code Text Change intends to require Conditional Use Permits to be approved for cannabis cultivation, transportation and cannabis processing in the Urban Reserve zone. Agricultural products processing and transportation would be added as an allowed use in the Urban Reserve zone.

Currently, the following uses are permitted in the Urban Reserve (UR) district:

- Agricultural crops, greenhouses, fruit trees, nut trees, vines, nurseries, for producing trees, vines and other horticultural stock
- Bovine animals and horses, only when the lot area is 36,000 square feet or more...
- Poultry and rabbits for domestic purposes only
- Storage of petroleum products for use by the occupants of the premises, but not for resale or distribution.
- The sale of agricultural products produced upon the property.
- Home occupations, subject to standards contained in Chapter 25-53 (Special Uses).
- Employee Housing, subject to issuance of a permit by the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development...
- Accessory buildings and structures including, but not limited to, stables, barns, pens, sheds and other structures for the housing of animals and feed, equipment and tools customarily maintained in connection with permitted uses.

The following are conditional uses that may be permitted in the Urban Reserve district:

- Apiaries
- Communications equipment buildings and structures, including wireless telecommunications facilities.
- Electrical transmission and distribution substations
- Water pump stations
- One single family dwelling, not more than one dwelling per lot, subject to standards of the R-1 zone.

Allowable uses within the Heavy Industrial (M-2) district include:

- Assembling, cleaning, manufacturing, processing, repairing or testing of products, conducted within an enclosed structure, or within a screened outdoor storage area.
- Food and dairy processing
- Canneries
- Cold storage facilities
- Crop cultivation
- Grain storage and processing
- Nurseries
- Packing houses
- Veterinary services, livestock and large animals, including animal boarding
- Animal sales yards

- Agricultural exhibits, including sales, displays, large assembly of people and livestock.
- Automobile oriented uses, including auto repair, tire shops, painting, upholstery, etc.
- Concrete batch plants, processing of minerals, and aggregate and related materials, sand and gravel.
- Fuel dealer and service stations
- Farm supply stores
- Lumber yards
- Kennels
- Mini storage facilities and storage buildings
- Offices
- Retail uses conducted as part of, and incidental to an established manufacturing operation (such as a candy store on the site of a candy manufacturing operation)
- Research and development operations, including laboratories
- Recycling collection and processing facilities
- Towing services
- Trucking, transportation and distribution
- Upholstery shops
- Vehicle shops
- Warehousing and wholesaling
- Equipment rental and sales yards including farm equipment rental and sales
- Building contractor offices and yards
- Accessory uses on the site of a permitted use or conditionally permitted use
- Parking facilities on separate lots
- Private fueling stations located on-site with a permitted or conditionally permitted use
- Other uses determined to be similar in nature and intensity to those permitted in that particular zone, as determined by the City planner

Conditional uses in the Heavy Industrial district include:

- Drop forges
- Fertilizer manufacturing
- Animal processing, including slaughterhouses, reduction, rendering and glue manufacturing
- Petroleum products manufacturing, processing and storage, including oils, gasoline, natural gas, paints and tar
- Incinerators
- Metal industries (ores, reduction, refining, smelting and alloying)
- Paper and paper product manufacturing

- Textile mills
- Chemical manufacturing
- Rubber manufacturing
- Assembling, cleaning, manufacturing, processing, repairing or testing of products not listed under 1a through 1b that are conducted primarily outdoors
- Dwelling for a caretaker or security guard on the site of an approved use
- Airports, heliports/helipads
- Salvage and wrecking facilities and junk yards
- Truck stops
- Cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, processing, extraction, testing, transportation and distribution
- Communications equipment buildings and structures (including wireless telecommunications facilities), public utility service yards, gas regulator stations, pumping stations, storm drainage reservoirs, public water wells, electric distribution substations and transmission line structures
- Other uses determined to be similar in nature and intensity to those conditionally permitted in that particular zone, as determined by the city planner.

Surrounding Land Uses/Existing Conditions

The proposed Project site is located in the central-western portion of the San Joaquin Valley of California. The valley is a large, nearly flat alluvial plain bordered by the Sierra Nevada to the east, the Tehachapi Mountains to the south, the California coast ranges to the west, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to the north.

Like most of California, the central/southern San Joaquin Valley experiences a Mediterranean climate. Warm dry summers are followed by cool moist winters. Summer temperatures commonly exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and the relative humidity is generally very low. Winter temperatures rarely exceed 70 degrees Fahrenheit, with daytime highs often below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. According to the Western Regional Climate Center, annual precipitation in the vicinity of the project sites is about 12 inches, about 85% of which falls between the months of October and March. Nearly all precipitation falls in the form of rain.

The City of Firebaugh lies at an elevation of approximately 140 feet on the southwest side of the San Joaquin River. Surrounding terrain is nearly flat with drainage toward the river. The Friant Dam at Millerton controls the San Joaquin River's flow, creating scenic and recreation resources as well as providing drainage and irrigation. According to the Custom Soil Resource Report for Fresno County, California, Western Part published by the United States Department of

Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, the most prevalent soil series in the area are Westhaven loam, Westhaven clay loam, Cerini sandy loam, and Excelsior sandy loam, all of which are sandy with relatively high permeability.

Land uses in the project vicinity include agricultural fields, two rural residences, and industrial facilities.

Other Public Agencies Involved

- County of Fresno
- Fresno Local Agency Formation Committee
- Fresno County Fire Protection District
- Central California Irrigation District.

Tribal Consultation

The City of Firebaugh has not received any project-specific requests from any Tribes in the geographic area with which it is traditionally and culturally affiliated with or otherwise to be notified about projects in the City of Firebaugh. See Section 3.18 – Tribal Cultural Resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

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

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION 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.



Ben Gallegos

City of Firebaugh

2-22-21

Date

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Firebaugh (City) lies in the San Joaquin Valley's central-western region, along the west side of the San Joaquin River in Fresno County. The City is adjacent to State Route 33 and is approximately 30 miles west of the City of Fresno city limits. The Project includes 11 parcels for annexation, which are presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits. APNs 012-020-33, -32, 007-091-37, -38, and 044 are located west of Washoe Avenue. The remaining six parcels (APNs 007-091-18, -22ST, -23ST, 25ST, -49 and -50) are located east of Washoe Avenue. In addition to annexation, the Project would require a General Plan Amendment (GPA) to designate the parcels, a Prezone, and a

Development Code Text Change to allow agricultural processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation. No physical changes or land disturbances would occur as a result of Project implementation.

Other land uses in the project vicinity include agricultural fields, two rural residences, and industrial facilities. There are no scenic resources or scenic vistas in the area. State Routes (SR) in the proposed Project vicinity include SR 33.

RESPONSES

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

No Impact. The City of Firebaugh and Fresno County General Plans do not identify any scenic vistas within the Project area; however, the foothills to the west could be considered scenic. A scenic vista is generally considered a view of an area that has remarkable scenery or a resource that is indigenous to the area. The annexation, GPA, Prezone and Development Code Text Change will not impact the environment as there will be no physical change implemented. There will be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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

No Impact. There are no state designated scenic highways within the immediate proximity to the Project site. California Department of Transportation Scenic Highway Mapping System identifies SR 198 west of Interstate 5 as an Eligible State Scenic Highway. This is the closest scenic highway, located approximately 42 miles south of the Project site; however, the Project site is both physically and visually separated from SR 198 by intervening land uses. In addition, no scenic highways or roadways are listed within the Project area in the City of Firebaugh's General Plan or Fresno County's General Plan. The proposed Project would not damage any trees, rock outcroppings or historic buildings within a State scenic highway corridor as there will be no change to the environment. There will be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible

vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and regulations governing scenic quality?

No Impact. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits. No physical changes will occur as a result of Project implementation. As such, the proposed Project will not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the area or its surroundings. There will be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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

No Impact. Primary sources of light in the Project area are from the vehicles traveling along surrounding roads and security lights at the existing industrial facilities and residences. No lighting is proposed as part of the Project. Accordingly, the proposed Project would not create new sources of light or glare. There will be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed Project site is located in an area outside of the City considered Urban and Built-Up Land and Farmland of Statewide Importance by the State Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP).¹ None of the 11 parcels to be annexed are under a Williamson Act contract. Other land uses in the project vicinity include agricultural fields, two rural residences, and industrial facilities. There is no forest land in the vicinity of Firebaugh.

RESPONSES

- a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?
- c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?
- d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?
- e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. Approximately 75 acres of the approximate 145 acre Project site are considered Urban and Built-Up Land by the FMMP while the remaining 70 acres are considered Farmland of Statewide Importance. The parcels east of Washoe are currently designated as Heavy Industrial and as such, potential agricultural conversion has been analyzed in the 2030 Firebaugh General Plan EIR (SCH 2007121136). The parcels west of Washoe currently have no designation and with the annexation, the parcels will be designated and prezoned as Urban Reserve. The Urban Reserve land use designation is applied to land in agricultural areas that contain developed agriculturally-related uses, such as packing houses, cold storage operations, or agriculturally-related businesses. The purpose of this designation is

¹ California Department of Conservation. California Important Farmland Finder. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFE/>. Accessed February 2021.

to protect agriculture from urban encroachment, maintain land in agriculture until the time is appropriate for conversion to urban uses, and to ensure that conflicts do not arise between agriculture and urban uses. The existing land uses on the five parcels west of Washoe include residential, agricultural, and two agriculture-related businesses (an agricultural products processing facility and an agricultural freight transportation facility), all of which are allowable uses within the Urban Reserve land use designation and zone district. There is no land development associated with this Project and any future site development will be environmentally analyzed at that time.

As described in the environmental setting, there is no forest land in the vicinity of the City of Firebaugh, and none of the 11 parcels that make up the Project site are under a Williamson Act contract. Project implementation will not result in the conversion of agriculture or forest resources. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

III. AIR QUALITY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors or adversely affecting a substantial number of people)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The climate of the City of Firebaugh and the San Joaquin Valley is characterized by long, hot summers and stagnant, foggy winters. Precipitation is low and temperature inversions are common. These characteristics are conducive to the formation and retention of air pollutants and are in part influenced by the surrounding mountains which intercept precipitation and act as a barrier to the passage of cold air and air pollutants.

The proposed Project lies within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, which is managed by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD or Air District). National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) have been established for the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O₃), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), and lead (Pb). The CAAQS also set standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility.

Air quality plans or attainment plans are used to bring the applicable air basin into attainment with all state and federal ambient air quality standards designed to protect the health and safety of residents

within that air basin. Areas are classified under the Federal Clean Air Act as either “attainment”, “non-attainment”, or “extreme non-attainment” areas for each criteria pollutant based on whether the NAAQS have been achieved or not. Attainment relative to the State standards is determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The San Joaquin Valley is designated as a State and Federal extreme non-attainment area for O₃, a State and Federal non-attainment area for PM_{2.5}, a State non-attainment area for PM₁₀, and Federal and State attainment area for CO, SO₂, NO₂, and Pb.

Standards and attainment status for listed pollutants in the Air District can be found in Table 1. Note that both state and federal standards are presented.

Table 1 - Standards and Attainment Status for Listed Pollutants in the Air District

	Federal Standard	California Standard
Ozone	0.075 ppm (8-hr avg)	0.07 ppm (8-hr avg) 0.09 ppm (1-hr avg)
Carbon Monoxide	9.0 ppm (8-hr avg) 35.0 ppm (1-hr avg)	9.0 ppm (8-hr avg) 20.0 ppm (1-hr avg)
Nitrogen Dioxide	0.053 ppm (annual avg)	0.30 ppm (annual avg) 0.18 ppm (1-hr avg)
Sulfur Dioxide	0.03 ppm (annual avg) 0.14 ppm (24-hr avg) 0.5 ppm (3-hr avg)	0.04 ppm (24-hr avg) 0.25 ppm (1-hr avg)
Lead	1.5 µg/m ³ (calendar quarter) 0.15 µg/m ³ (rolling 3-month avg)	1.5 µg/m ³ (30-day avg)
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	150 µg/m ³ (24-hr avg)	20 µg/m ³ (annual avg) 50 µg/m ³ (24-hr avg)
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	15 µg/m ³ (annual avg)	35 µg/m ³ (24-hr avg) 12 µg/m ³ (annual avg)

µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter

Additional State regulations include:

CARB Portable Equipment Registration Program – This program was designed to allow owners and operators of portable engines and other common construction or farming equipment to register their equipment under a statewide program so they may operate it statewide without the need to obtain a permit from the local air district.

U.S. EPA/CARB Off-Road Mobile Sources Emission Reduction Program – The California Clean Air Act (CCAA) requires CARB to achieve a maximum degree of emissions reductions from off-road mobile sources to attain State Ambient Air Quality Standards (SAAQS); off-road mobile sources include most construction equipment. Tier 1 standards for large compression-ignition engines used in off-road mobile sources went into effect in California in 1996. These standards, along with ongoing rulemaking, address emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOX) and toxic particulate matter from diesel engines. CARB is currently developing a control measure to reduce diesel PM and NOX emissions from existing off-road diesel equipment throughout the state.

California Global Warming Solutions Act – Established in 2006, Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) requires that California’s GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. This will be implemented through a statewide cap on GHG emissions, which was phased in beginning in 2012. AB 32 requires CARB to develop regulations and a mandatory reporting system to monitor global warming emissions levels.

RESPONSES

- a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
- 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?
- c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. The proposed Project lies within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). At the Federal level, the SJVAB is designated as extreme nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard, attainment for PM₁₀ and CO, and nonattainment for PM_{2.5}. At the State level, the SJVAB is designated as nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} standards. Although the Federal 1-hour ozone standard was revoked in 2005, areas must still attain this standard, and the SJVAPCD recently requested an EPA finding that the SJVAB has attained the standard based on 2011-2013 data². To meet Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements, the SJVAPCD has multiple air quality attainment plan (AQAP) documents, including:

² San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Guide to Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts. March 19, 2015. Page 28. http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI_3-19-15.pdf. Accessed February 2021.

- Extreme Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan (EOADP) for attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard (2004);
- 2008 Ozone Plan for attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard;
- 2007 PM₁₀ Maintenance Plan and Request for Redesignation; and
- 2018 PM_{2.5} Plan.

Because of the region's non-attainment status for ozone, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀, if the project-generated emissions of either of the ozone precursor pollutants (ROG or NO_x), PM₁₀, or PM_{2.5} were to exceed the SJVAPCD's significance thresholds, then the project uses would be considered to conflict with the attainment plans. In addition, if the project uses were to result in a change in land use and corresponding increases in vehicle miles traveled, they may result in an increase in vehicle miles traveled that is unaccounted for in regional emissions inventories contained in regional air quality control plans.

The annual significance thresholds to be used for the Project for construction and operational emissions are as follows³:

- 10 tons per year ROG;
- 10 tons per year NO_x;
- 15 tons per year PM₁₀; and
- 15 tons per year PM_{2.5}.

As described above, there are three pollutants of concern for this impact; PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀ and ROG.

The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits, and would include a GPA to designate the parcels, a Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation. There are no physical changes proposed as part of the Project and as such, emissions estimates are not necessary.

The proposed Project would not conflict with emissions inventories contained in regional air quality attainment plans and would not result in a significant contribution to the region's air quality non-attainment status⁴. Likewise, the Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant within the SJVAPCD jurisdiction. Finally, the Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations as substantial pollutant concentrations will not be

³ San Joaquin Valley Air Control District – Air Quality Threshold of Significance – Criteria Pollutants. <http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/0714-GAMAQI-Criteria-Pollutant-Thresholds-of-Significance.pdf>. Accessed February 2021.

⁴ San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Guide to Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts. March 19, 2015. Page 65. http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI_3-19-15.pdf. Accessed February 2021.

generated. It will not cumulatively increase any criteria pollutant and will not result in substantial pollutant concentrations.

Lastly, the proposed Project is not expected to produce any offensive odors that would result in frequent odor complaints. No development is proposed for the additional parcels included in the Project.

Therefore, there would be *no impacts* related to air resources.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed Project site is located in a portion of the central San Joaquin Valley that has, for decades, experienced intensive agricultural and urban disturbances. Current agricultural endeavors in the region include groves and row crops. Like most of California, Firebaugh and the Central San Joaquin Valley experiences a Mediterranean climate. Long, hot summers are followed by stagnant, foggy winters. Summer temperatures usually exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and the relative humidity is generally very low. Winter temperatures rarely raise much above 70 degrees Fahrenheit, with daytime highs often below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Nearly all precipitation falls in the form of rain and storm-water readily infiltrates the soils of the surrounding the sites.

Native plant and animal species once abundant in the region have become locally extirpated or have experienced large reductions in their populations due to conversion of upland, riparian, and aquatic habitats to agricultural and urban uses. Remaining native habitats, such as land bordering the San Joaquin River, are particularly valuable to native wildlife species, including special status species that still persist in the region. The City of Firebaugh is surrounded by agricultural land use, rural residences and small ranches.

The Project site's surrounding lands consist primarily of agricultural fields, two rural residences, and industrial facilities.

No aquatic or wetland features occur on the proposed Project areas; therefore, jurisdictional waters are considered absent from the site.

RESPONSES

- 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?
- 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?
- c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?
- d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

No Impact. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits and would include a GPA, Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation. No physical changes to the environment are proposed with Project implementation.

The immediate vicinity consists of land developed for agriculture, residences, industrial facilities and roadways. Scattered landscaping trees are within and surrounding the Project site and there are no riparian or wetland habitats on-site. No habitat modifications will take place and there will be no interference with the movement of native resident or wildlife species as a result of the proposed Project as there is no development proposed. Project implementation will have *no impact* on biological resources.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

- e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance, or with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?
- f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. The proposed Project site is not within an area set aside for the conservation of habitat or sensitive plant or animal species pursuant to a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. There are no local policies or ordinances protecting wildlife species within the area of the proposed Project. Additionally, there will be no construction, demolition or other land-disturbing activities. As such, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Prior to the coming of European settlers and agricultural development of the area, approximately half of the Firebaugh area was under water for at least part of the year, during the cooler climatic intervals. A wide expanse of land on both sides of the present San Joaquin River and Fresno Slough was once a vast swamp, fed by winter rains and spring-summer runoff from the Sierra Nevada snowpack. In some places the tule growth alone was twenty miles in width. The edges of the marshlands and the nearby grasslands were ideal hunting grounds for the Native Indian people who lived in the San Joaquin Valley approximately 8,000 years ago.

The archaeological record indicates that there was a dry climatic interval between A.D. 1000 and 1500 followed by a more favorable climatic period in which the bow-and-arrow came into use and acorns became the staple of the diet. A large number of Late Prehistoric sites, identified with the Yokuts language family, indicate a population expansion after about A.D. 1500 in the southern and western portions of the San Joaquin Valley.⁵

⁵ 2030 Firebaugh General Plan. Chapter 1: Human Environment. Page 1-1. <https://firebaugh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/human-environment.pdf>. Accessed February 2021.

RESPONSES

- a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?
- b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?
- c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

No Impact. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits and would include a GPA, Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation. No physical changes to the environment are proposed with Project implementation. As such, the proposed Project would not cause a substantial change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource. Additionally, Project implementation would not disturb any human remains. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

California's total energy consumption is second-highest in the nation, but, in 2016, the state's per capita energy consumption ranked 48th, due in part to its mild climate and its energy efficiency programs. In 2017, California ranked second in the nation in conventional hydroelectric generation and first as a producer of electricity from solar, geothermal, and biomass resources while also in 2017, solar PV and solar thermal installations provided about 16% of California's net electricity generation.⁶

Energy usage is typically quantified using the British thermal unit (BTU). As a point of reference, the approximately amounts of energy contained in common energy sources are as follows:

Energy Source	BTUs ⁷
Gasoline	120,429 per gallon
Natural Gas	1,037 per cubic foot
Electricity	3,412 per kilowatt-hour

⁶ U.S. Energy Information Administration. Independent Statistics and Analysis. California Profile Overview. <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CA#tabs-1>. Accessed February 2021.

⁷ U.S. Energy Information Administration. Energy Units and Calculators Explained. https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.php?page=about_energy_units. Accessed February 2021.

California electrical consumption in 2016 was 7,830.8 trillion BTU⁸, as provided in Table 2, while total electrical consumption by Fresno County in 2018 was 26.109 trillion BTU.⁹

Table 2 – 2016 California Energy Consumption¹⁰

End User	BTU of energy consumed (in trillions)	Percentage of total consumption
Residential	1,384.4	17.7
Commercial	1,477.2	18.9
Industrial	1,854.3	23.7
Transportation	3,114.9	39.8
Total	7,830.8	--

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) reports that approximately 25.1 million automobiles, 5.7 million trucks, and 889,024 motorcycles were registered in the state in 2017, resulting in a total estimated 339.8 billion vehicles miles traveled (VMT).¹¹

RESPONSES

- a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?
- b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No Impact. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits, and would include a GPA to designate the parcels, a Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation. No development is proposed with Project implementation and as such, there will be no energy consumption associated with the Project.

Therefore, there will be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

⁸ U.S. Energy Information Administration. Independent Statistics and Analysis. California Profile Overview. <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CA#tabs-1>. Accessed February 2021.

⁹ California Energy Commission. Electricity Consumption by County. <http://ecdms.energy.ca.gov/elecbycounty.aspx>. Accessed February 2021.

¹⁰ U.S. Energy Information Administration. Independent Statistics and Analysis. California Profile Overview. <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CA#tabs-1>. Accessed February 2021.

¹¹ Caltrans. 2017. California Transportation Quick Facts. <http://www.dot.ca.gov/drsi/library/qf/qf2017.pdf>. Accessed February 2021.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 most recently adopted Uniform Building Code creating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Firebaugh is located in the west center of the Great Valley of California, a nearly flat northwest-southeast trending basin approximately 450 miles long by 50 miles wide. The basin is bordered by Mesozoic platonic, volcanic, and metamorphic rocks of the Sierra Nevada mountains on the east and by the Mesozoic and Cenozoic metamorphic and sedimentary rocks of the Coast Ranges on the west.

The Firebaugh area is subject to ground shaking from earthquakes generated by California's numerous faults. The closest significant fault is located near Coalinga and Panoche and is designated as the Alquist-Priolo Fault Line, approximately 50 miles west Firebaugh.

RESPONSES

- a-i. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving 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.
- a-ii. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?
- a-iii. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
- a-iv. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project site is not located in an earthquake fault zone as delineated by the 1972 Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map Act. The nearest known potentially active fault is the San Andreas Fault, located over fifty miles west of the site. No active faults have been mapped within the Project boundaries, so there is no potential for fault rupture. It is anticipated that the proposed Project site would be subject to some ground acceleration and ground shaking associated with seismic activity during its design life.

The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits, and would include a GPA to designate the parcels, Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation. As no construction or structural modifications will occur as a result of Project implementation, there will be no seismically induced hazards associated with the Project. Earthquake resistant design requirements contained in the latest edition of the California Building Code (CBC) for seismic zone II, as well as Title 24 of the California Administrative Code, have already been implemented for the existing structures and buildings within the Project area. The Project site has a generally flat topography and is not at risk of landslide. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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

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?

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

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project site has a generally flat topography, and the lack of development associated with the Project precludes the risk of soil erosion or topsoil loss, on- or off- site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

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

No Impact. The Project does not include the construction, replacement, or disturbance of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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

No Impact. There are no known unique geologic features in the Project vicinity or in the Project area. Additionally, there is no site development involved in Project implementation. As such, there is no potential to directly or indirectly destroy an unknown paleontological resource. There would be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Various gases in the earth's atmosphere play an important role in moderating the earth's surface temperature. Solar radiation enters earth's atmosphere from space and a portion of the radiation is absorbed by the earth's surface. The earth emits this radiation back toward space, but the properties of the radiation change from high-frequency solar radiation to lower-frequency infrared radiation. GHGs are transparent to solar radiation but are effective in absorbing infrared radiation. Consequently, radiation that would otherwise escape back into space is retained, resulting in a warming of the earth's atmosphere. This phenomenon is known as the greenhouse effect. Scientific research to date indicates that some of the observed climate change is a result of increased GHG emissions associated with human activity. Among the GHGs contributing to the greenhouse effect are water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), ozone, Nitrous Oxide (NO_x), and chlorofluorocarbons. Human-caused emissions of these GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are considered responsible for enhancing the greenhouse effect. GHG emissions contributing to global climate change are attributable, in large part, to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors. In California, the transportation sector is the largest emitter of GHGs, followed by electricity generation. Global climate change is, indeed, a global issue. GHGs are global pollutants, unlike criteria pollutants and TACs (which are pollutants of regional and/or local concern). Global climate change, if it occurs, could potentially affect water resources in California. Rising temperatures could be anticipated to result in sea-level rise (as polar ice caps melt) and possibly change the timing and amount of precipitation, which could alter water quality. According to some, climate change could result in more extreme weather patterns; both heavier precipitation that could lead to flooding, as well as more

extended drought periods. There is uncertainty regarding the timing, magnitude, and nature of the potential changes to water resources as a result of climate change; however, several trends are evident.

Snowpack and snowmelt may also be affected by climate change. Much of California's precipitation falls as snow in the Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades, and snowpack represents approximately 35 percent of the state's useable annual water supply. The snowmelt typically occurs from April through July; it provides natural water flow to streams and reservoirs after the annual rainy season has ended. As air temperatures increase due to climate change, the water stored in California's snowpack could be affected by increasing temperatures resulting in: (1) decreased snowfall, and (2) earlier snowmelt.

RESPONSES

- a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?
- b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits, and would include a GPA to designate the parcels, Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation. As there is no development associated with Project implementation, the proposed Project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions or conflict with an applicable plan, policy or greenhouse gas regulation. There would be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

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

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed Project site consists of 11 separate parcels to be annexed into the City of Firebaugh (Figure 2). The 11 parcels to be included in the Project are Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 012-020-33, -32, 007-091-18, -22ST, -23ST, -25ST, -49, -50, -37, -38, and -44. All 11 parcels are presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits. APNs 012-020-33, -32, 007-091-37, -38, and 044 are located west of Washoe Avenue. The remaining six parcels (APNs 007-091-18, -22ST, -23ST, 25ST, -49 and -50) are located east of Washoe Avenue. The nearest sensitive receptors are two rural residential houses located on the east side of Washoe Avenue. Firebaugh Municipal Airport is a general aviation airport owned and operated by the City of Firebaugh approximately 1.4 miles to the northwest of the Project area. The airport facility is primarily used by agricultural spraying services and also houses several private aircrafts.

RESPONSES

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

No Impact. This impact is associated with hazards caused by the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. There is no construction or development associated with proposed Project implementation. Therefore, the proposed Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment and there would be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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

No Impact. There are no school located within one-quarter mile of the Project area. Firebaugh High School is located approximately 0.9 miles northeast of the Project site; however, there is no construction or development associated with Project implementation. Thus, proposed Project activities will not emit hazardous emissions or hazardous materials, substances, or waste. There would be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None 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?

No Impact. The proposed Project site is not located on a list of hazardous materials sites complied pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The nearest Department of Toxic Substances Control listed site is Tri-Air Incorporated located at 915 Tenth Street, approximately 1.3 miles north of the proposed Project site¹². There are no hazardous materials sites that impact the Project area. As such, *no impacts* would occur that would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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

No Impact. The Firebaugh Municipal Airport is located approximately 1.4 miles northwest of the Project site, while the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport is the closest regional airport, approximately 40 miles east. There are no structures associated with the Project that would impede or impact airport functions. The Project will have *no impact* to airport operations.

¹² California Department of Toxic Substance Control. EnviroStor.
https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=10070021. Accessed January 2021.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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

No Impact. The Project will not interfere with any adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. Emergency access will be maintained at all times during construction and operation of the Project. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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

No Impact. There are no wildlands on or near the Project site. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off- site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Like most of California, the southern San Joaquin Valley experiences a Mediterranean climate. Long, hot summers are followed by stagnant, foggy winters. Summer temperatures commonly exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and the relative humidity is generally very low. Winter temperatures rarely exceed 70 degrees Fahrenheit, with daytime highs often below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. According to the Western Regional Climate Center, annual precipitation in the vicinity of the project sites is about 12 inches, about 85% of which falls between the months of October and March. Nearly all precipitation falls in the form of rain.

The City of Firebaugh is located in the Delta-Mendota subbasin (subbasin 5-22.07) within the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. The Delta-Mendota subbasin is located between the Coastal Ranges, and on the north by the Stanislaus/San Joaquin county line. The geologic units that comprise the groundwater reservoir in the Delta-Mendota subbasin consist of the Tulare Formation, terrace deposits, alluvium, and flood-basin deposits. Groundwater in the subbasin occurs in three water-bearing zones. These include: the lower zone, which contains confined fresh water in the lower section of the Tulare Formation; an upper zone which contains confined, semi-confined, and unconfined water in the upper section of the Tulare Formation and younger deposits; and a shallow zone which contains unconfined water within about 25 feet of the land surface.

The principal drainage of the Project vicinity is the San Joaquin River, which is located approximately 1.3 miles northeast of the Project area. The San Joaquin River initiates near the crest of the Sierra Nevada from three major tributaries, the Middle Fork, North Fork, and South Fork. From its headwaters, it flows generally south through the Sierra foothills, passing four hydroelectric dams along the way. Below Friant

Dam, it enters the San Joaquin Valley. At this point, much of its water is diverted into aqueducts, such that the river is sporadically dry along the 150-mile reach between Friant Dam and the Merced River confluence. This reach of the river is the subject of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP), a collaborative effort between several state and federal agencies to restore flows and native fish populations. Water releases from the Friant Dam under the SJRRP have been ongoing since 2009. Downstream of the Merced River confluence, the San Joaquin River flows generally north before entering the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the San Francisco Bay, and ultimately the Pacific Ocean.

RESPONSES

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

No Impact. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits, and would include a GPA to designate the parcels, Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation.

A water channel, called the Outside Channel, is located along the northeastern boundaries of the proposed Project area. However, there are no construction, demolition or other land-disturbing activities associated with proposed Project implementation. The Project would not violate any water quality standard or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade water quality. Therefore, there would be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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

No Impact. No groundwater supplies would be used or impacted by the Project and as such, there is *no impact* on groundwater supplies. The Project would not impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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 offsite;

ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;

iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

iv. impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh’s Sphere of Influence and city limits, and would include a GPA to designate the parcels, Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation. There are no construction, demolition or other land-disturbing activities; as such, the Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or offsite. Therefore, there would be *no impacts*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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

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

No Impact. There are no inland water bodies that could be potentially susceptible to a seiche in the Project vicinity. This precludes the possibility of a seiche inundating the Project site. The Project site is more than 100 miles from the Pacific Ocean, a condition that precludes the possibility of inundation by tsunami. There are no steep slopes that would be susceptible to a mudflow in the Project vicinity, nor are there any volcanically active features that could produce a mudflow in the City of Firebaugh. This precludes the possibility of a mudflow inundating the Project site. *No impacts* would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project site consists of 11 separate parcels to be annexed into the City of Firebaugh (see Figures 2 and 3). The 11 parcels to be included in the Project are Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 012-020-33, -32, 007-091-18, -22ST, -23ST, -25ST, -49, -50, -37, -38, and -44. All 11 parcels are presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits. APNs 012-020-33, -32, 007-091-37, -38, and 044 are located west of Washoe Avenue and have no Firebaugh land use designation. The remaining six parcels (APNs 007-091-18, -22ST, -23ST, 25ST, -49 and -50) are located east of Washoe Avenue and are designated Heavy Industrial by the city of Firebaugh. The Project areas are currently zoned AE-20 by Fresno County.

RESPONSES

a. Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits, and would include a GPA to designate the parcels, Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation.

As a part of the annexation process, the City must designate each site that does not have a land use designation and prezone each site consistent with the General Plan. The proposed Project will split the land use designations and zoning west of Washoe Avenue and East of Washoe Avenue. West of Washoe

Avenue will be designated as Urban Reserve (Agriculture) land use and the Urban Reserve zoning. East of Washoe will be designated as Heavy Industrial and zoned (M-2) General Manufacturing. By designating these undesignated parcels being used for agriculture and agricultural products processing as Urban Reserve (Agriculture) and rezoning these parcels Urban Reserve, only the existing uses on these sites would be allowed to continue for approximately two years. After the two years, the City may rezone some or all the parcels and evaluate the potential environmental effects of that rezone at that time. Specific development is not proposed with this Project and as such, no physical changes will occur to the environment. Therefore, while the Project would require land use changes, it would not divide an established community. *No impacts* would occur as a result of Project implementation.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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

No Impact. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits, and would include a GPA to designate the parcels, Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation. Upon approval, the proposed Project would not conflict with any existing land use plans, policies or regulations. There are *no impacts*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Fresno County has been a leading producer of minerals because of the abundance and wide variety of mineral resources that are present in the County. Extracted resources include aggregate products (sand and gravel), fossil fuels (oil and coal), metals (chromite, copper, gold, mercury, and tungsten), and other minerals used in construction or industrial applications (asbestos, high-grade clay, diatomite, granite, gypsum, and limestone). Aggregate and petroleum are considered the County's most significant extractive mineral resources. No mineral resource locations are within the vicinity of the City of Firebaugh.¹³

RESPONSES

- 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?
- 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?

¹³ Fresno County General Plan Background Report. Adopted 2000. Page 7-66. Accessed February 2021.
<http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/viewdocument.aspx?id=5696>

No Impact. The proposed Project area is not included in a State classified mineral resource zone and is not delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan as having importance regarding mineral resources. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XIII. NOISE

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Noise is most often described as unwanted sound. Although sound can be easily measured, the perception of noise and the physical response to sound complicate the analysis of its impact on people. The City of Firebaugh is impacted by a multitude of noise sources. Mobile sources of noise, especially cars and trucks, are the most common and significant sources of noise in most communities, and they are predominant sources of noise in the City. Commercial, industrial, and institutional land uses throughout the City (i.e., schools, fire stations, utilities) also generate stationary-source noise. All 11 parcels in the proposed Project area are presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits. APNs 012-020-33, -32, 007-091-37, -38, and 044 are located west of Washoe Avenue. The remaining six parcels (APNs 007-091-18, -22ST, -23ST, 25ST, -49 and -50) are located east of Washoe Avenue. Other land uses in the project vicinity include agricultural fields, two rural residences, and industrial facilities. The predominant noise sources in the Project area include traffic on local roadways and noise associated with nearby industrial businesses.

RESPONSES

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

No Impact. The nearest sensitive receptors are two rural residences located within northernmost portion of the Project area. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits. The proposed Project will not generate new sources of noise and once implemented, as the Project will not require construction, demolition or other development. As such, noise levels in the area will remain at existing levels and there would be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

- b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

No Impact. Typical outdoor sources of perceptible ground borne vibration are construction equipment, steel-wheeled trains, and traffic on rough roads. Construction vibrations can be transient, random, or continuous. Construction associated with the proposed Project is largely earthmoving activities associated with creating levees and reinforcing riverbanks.

The approximate threshold of vibration perception is 65 VdB, while 85 VdB is the vibration acceptable only if there are an infrequent number of events per day¹⁴.

As there is no construction, demolition, or other physical activities proposed with Project implementation, there will be no vibration generation. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

¹⁴ Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual. FTA Report No 0123. prepared for the U.S. Federal Transit Administration by John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in September 2018. Page 113.
https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/research-innovation/118131/transit-noise-and-vibration-impact-assessment-manual-fta-report-no-0123_0.pdf. Accessed September 2020.

- 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?

No Impact. The proposed Project does not include construction, demolition or other development. Thus, the Project will not expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels. There would be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Firebaugh's primary industry is agriculture, but there is sufficient labor force in the area to support many other types of industries, including manufacturing. According to the U.S. Census, as of July 1, 2015, the population of the City of Firebaugh was approximately 8,330.

RESPONSES

- Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?
- Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. There are no new homes or other construction associated with the proposed Project. The proposed Project will not affect any regional population, housing, or employment projections anticipated by City policy documents. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- a. 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:

Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Firebaugh Police Department and Fire Department provides services to the City of Firebaugh, including the Project area. Firebaugh High School is approximately 0.9 miles to the northeast.

RESPONSES

- a. 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:

Fire protection?

No Impact. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits, and would include a GPA to designate the parcels, a Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation. The proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth and thus would not require additional fire protection services. There is *no impact*.

Police Protection?

No Impact. The proposed Project will continue to be served by the City of Firebaugh police department and the City's Fire Department. No additional police personnel or equipment is anticipated. There is *no impact*.

Schools, Parks, Other Public Facilities?

No Impact. The proposed Project would not increase the number of residents in the City, as the Project does not include residential units. Because the demand for schools, parks, and other public facilities is driven by population, the proposed Project would not increase demand for those services. As such, the proposed Project would result in *no impacts*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

There are several parks within the City of Firebaugh that are managed by the City. There are no parks impacted by the proposed Project.

RESPONSES

- 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?
- 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 the construction of residential uses and would not directly or indirectly induce population growth. Therefore, the proposed Project would not cause physical deterioration of existing recreational facilities from increased usage or result in the need for new or expanded recreational facilities. The Project would have *no impact* to existing recreational facilities.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION/ TRAFFIC

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

State Route 33 is the main highway through the City. The Firebaugh Airport is located on the western edge of the City, approximately 1.2 miles north of the Project site, while the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport is the closest regional airport, approximately 40 miles west.

RESPONSES

- Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?
- Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?
- Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

d. Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. The proposed Project would not cause a substantial increase in traffic, reduce the existing level of service, or create any additional congestion at any intersections. There is no construction or other development associated with Project implementation. As such, neither level of service or vehicle miles traveled standards would be exceeded and the proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. Existing traffic within the Project area is not expected to increase as a result of Project implementation. No roadway design features are associated with this proposed Project that would result in an increase in hazards due to a design feature or be an incompatible use. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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

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RESPONSES

- a). Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
- i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or
 - ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Less than Significant Impact. A Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR) is defined under Public Resources Code section 21074 as a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of size and scope, sacred place, and object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either included and that is listed or eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historic Resources or in a local register of historical resources, or if the City of Firebaugh, acting as the Lead Agency, supported by substantial evidence, chooses at its discretion to treat the resource as a TCR.

The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted for a list of tribes in the geographic area with which it is traditionally and culturally affiliated with to contact regarding the proposed Project. Those identified tribes were contacted and the City of Firebaugh has not received any project-specific requests from any Tribes that were notified. Any impacts to TCR's would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures: No additional measures are required.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proponent for the proposed Project is the City of Firebaugh that has responsibility for providing water and wastewater services for the community. The proposed Project would not involve any construction or changes to stormwater drainage or solid waste management.

RESPONSES

- 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?
- b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?
- 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?
- 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?
- e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. The proposed Project involves annexation of 11 parcels presently outside the bounds of the City of Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence and city limits, and would include a GPA to designate the parcels, a Prezone, and a Development Code Text Change to allow cannabis processing facilities within an Urban Reserve land designation. The proposed Project would not require additional service for sewage disposal, water, or solid waste disposal, beyond the current services in use by the existing residences and facilities within the Project area as . The City of Firebaugh's utilities and service systems would not be affected by the Project, as there is no construction or other development in the Project plan. There would be *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XX. WILDFIRE

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Firebaugh is characterized by both the urbanized portions of Firebaugh and surrounding agricultural fields. The City is served by the Firebaugh Fire Department, whose station is located at

Firebaugh City Hall on the corner of P and 11th Streets. The City is not located in or near a state responsibility area¹⁵ nor is it on or near lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones.¹⁶

RESPONSES

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

No Impact. The City is not located in or near a state responsibility area¹⁷ nor is it on or near lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones.¹⁸ As such, there are *no impacts* resulting from wildfire risk.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

¹⁵ State of California. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/2136/facilities_sra_map.pdf. Accessed February 2021.

¹⁶ California State GeoPortal. California Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer. <https://gis.data.ca.gov/datasets/789d5286736248f69c4515c04f58f414>. Accessed February 2021.

¹⁷ State of California. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/2136/facilities_sra_map.pdf. Accessed February 2021.

¹⁸ California State GeoPortal. California Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer. <https://gis.data.ca.gov/datasets/789d5286736248f69c4515c04f58f414>. Accessed February 2021.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

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

RESPONSES

- a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining

levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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?

No Impact. The analyses of environmental issues contained in this Initial Study indicate that the proposed Project is not expected to have substantial impact on the environment or on any resources identified in the Initial Study. There is *no impact*.

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)?

No Impact. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(i) states that a Lead Agency shall consider whether the cumulative impact of a project is significant and whether the effects of the project are cumulatively considerable. The assessment of the significance of the cumulative effects of a project must, therefore, be conducted in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects. Due to the nature of the Project and the lack of physical development, there are no impacts that are cumulatively considerable. The proposed Project would not contribute substantially to adverse cumulative conditions, or create any substantial indirect impacts (i.e., increase in population could lead to an increase need for housing, increase in traffic, air pollutants, etc.). There is *no impact*.

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

Less than Significant Impact With Mitigation. The analyses of environmental issues contained in this Initial Study indicate that the project is not expected to have substantial impact on human beings, either directly or indirectly. No development is proposed with Project development and as such, there is *no impact* to human beings, directly or indirectly.

LIST OF PREPARERS

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- Travis Crawford, AICP, Principal Environmental Planner

City of Firebaugh

- Steve Brandt, Contract Planner
- Karl Schoettler, Contract City Planner
- Ben Gallegos, City Manager