TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION/INITIAL STUDY

Project Title:	Tentative Tract Map No. 20306
Assessor's Parcel No.	0441-011-01, 0441-021-11, -12, -15, -16, -17, -18, and -19
Lead Agency Name and Address:	Town of Apple Valley 14955 Dale Evans Parkway Apple Valley, CA 92307
Project Location:	Southeast corner of Corwin and Waalew Roads, Apple Valley, San Bernardino County
Project Sponsor's Name and Address:	David Evans & Associates 14297 Cajon Avenue, Suite 101 Victorville, CA 92392
General Plan Designation(s):	Single Family Residential (R-SF)
Zoning:	Equestrian Residential (R-EQ)
Contact Person:	Pam Cupp Senior Planner Town of Apple Valley (760) 240-7000, Ext. 7203/pcupp@applevalley.org
Date Prepared	July 2021

1. Description of the Project

The proposal is to subdivide approximately 100 acres into 160 single-family lots and three (3) lettered lots. All lots are single-family residential and will range in size from 18,109 to 40,555 square feet. The average lot size for the project is 21,164 square-feet. At this time, the specific housing product has not been proposed.

2. Environmental Setting and Surrounding Land Uses

The subject site is vacant and relatively undisturbed; however, numerous footpaths and dirt roads bisect the site. The site is rich with native vegetation; however, there are no species of special concern evident on the site. The area is considered highly sensitive regarding the presence of paleontological resources.

The project site is bound on the north by Corwin and Waalew Roads and a mobile home park. To the east is vacant residential land and to the south is a single-family neighborhood and vacant, residential lands. To the west is Catholic Hill which consists of single-family residential lands and open space.

3. Other public agencies whose approval is required

Recordation of a final map, issuance of building permits and completion of structures to current building code is required by the Town of Apple Valley prior to establishment of the subdivision. In addition, approval by the Mojave Water Agency, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, Apple Valley Unified School District, as well as Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company would also be required.

4. California Native American tribes

Pursuant to the requirements of Assembly Bill 52, the Town has received requests for consultation from Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians and Torrez-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. Notices were sent and the formal consultation period commenced on December 17, 2020 and ended on January 18, 2021. One (1) response was received from The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI) that indicated the project site is within the Tribe's ancestral territory; however, due to the nature and location of the proposed project, and given the CRM Department's present state of knowledge, SMBMI does not have any concerns with the project's implementation, as planned, at this time. SMBMI recommended mitigation has been incorporated into this document.

Exhibit 1 – Regional Vicinity Map

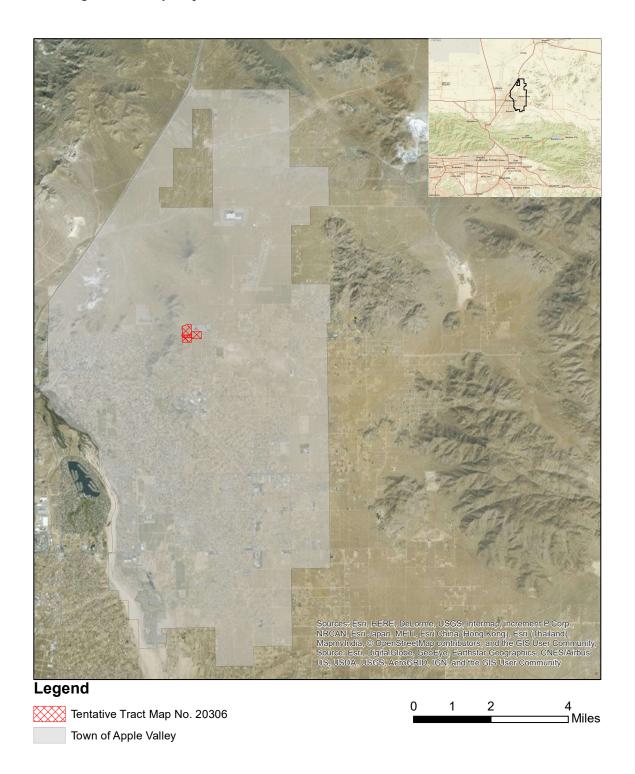


Exhibit 2 – Project Aerial



Exhibit 3 – Town of Apple Valley General Plan Land Use

Town of Apple Valley General Plan Land Use

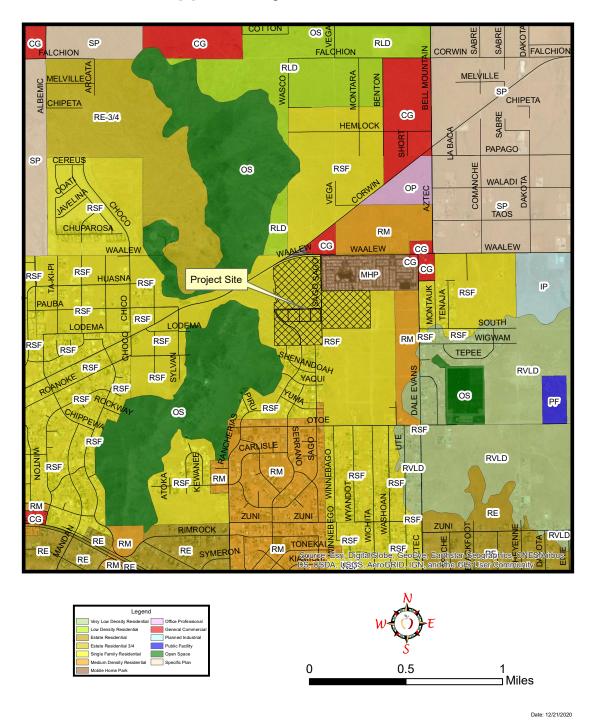
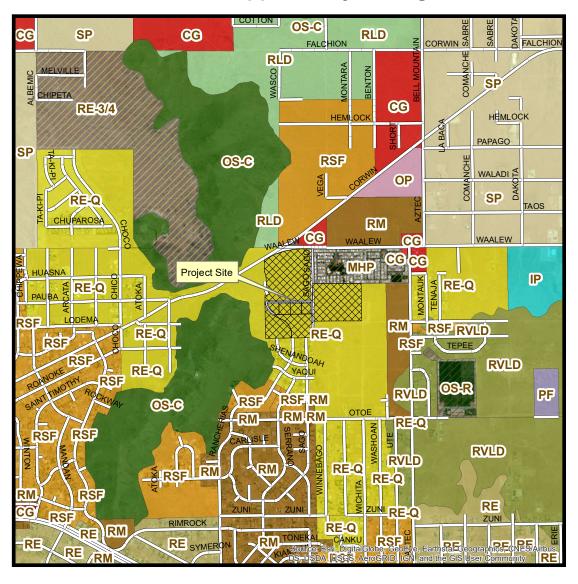
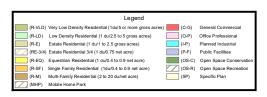
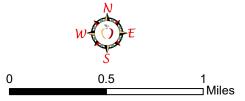


Exhibit 4 – Town of Apple Valley Zoning

Town of Apple Valley Zoning

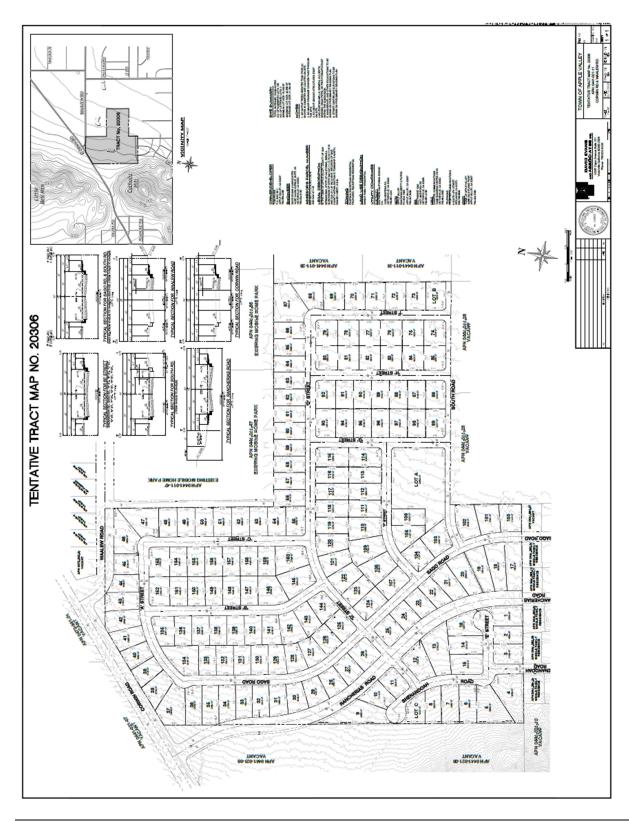






Date: 12/21/2020

Exhibit 2 – Project Site Plan



Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, as indicated by the checklist and corresponding site-specific discussion on the following pages.

	Aesthetics		Agricultural & Forestry Resources	Air Quality
	Biological Resources		Cultural Resources	Energy
\boxtimes	Geology/Soils		Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards & Hazardous Materials
	Hydrology/Water Quality		Land Use/Planning	Mineral Resources
\boxtimes	Noise		Population/Housing	Public Services
	Recreation		Transportation	Tribal Cultural Resources
	Utilities/Service Systems		Wildfires	
	Mandatory Findings of Significant	ce		

	ERMINATION: The Town of Apple Valley Planning Departual evaluation:	partment has determined, on the basis of					
	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a signEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	nificant effect on the environment, and a					
	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 signific ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	eant effect on the environment, and an					
	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 bee adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has bee addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. A 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 signiall potentially significant effects (a) have been analy NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable significant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE I mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed pro	yzed adequately in an earlier EIR or tandards, and (b) have been avoided or DECLARATION, including revisions or					
Pam	n Cupp	Date					
	ior Planner						

PURPOSE OF THIS INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study has been prepared consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, to determine if the project, as proposed, may have a significant effect upon the environment. Based upon the findings contained within this report, the Initial Study will be used in support of the preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on project-specific screening analysis).
- All answers must take into account the whole action involved, including offsite as well as onsite, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures, which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside

- document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impacts to less than significance.

I. Wo	AESTHETICS uld the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			\boxtimes	
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			\boxtimes	
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			\boxtimes	
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			\boxtimes	

- a. Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project is not located within a Scenic Corridor. However, there are views of the San Bernardino Mountains to the south and southeast provide the dominant scenic vistas from the project site. Other smaller scale mountain ranges are also visible from the project site. The development of the proposed project would result in the construction of 160 single-family dwelling units. The construction of the proposed dwelling units may obstruct views of the mountains for nearby residences located east and north of the site. However, the proposed project is of similar size and scale to the existing residential development already in the area and it would not result in a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. Therefore, impacts to scenic vistas are considered less than significant.
- b. Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project will not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway, because the site is not adjacent to a state scenic highway and there are no rock outcroppings or historic buildings on the site. The site exhibits a downward slope towards the east with approximately 100 feet of elevation differential across 100-acre site. The site is not located within a State scenic highway as identified by California Department of Transportation. There are no State designated scenic highways located within, on, adjacent to, or near the project site. Therefore, development of the project would not damage scenic resources within a State scenic highway.
- c. Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project site is heavily traversed by off-road vehicles and dumping of trash on the property. Completion of the proposed project would result in the development of residential uses on the site. The proposed project will comply with existing Development Code Section 9.31.030 Single Family Architectural Design Standards. For these reasons, the ultimate development of single-family dwellings would not result in degradation of the existing visual character of the proposed project site. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.
- d. Less Than Significant Impact. Development of the project site would introduce a new source of light and glare in the area in the form of street lighting and outdoor lighting on residential units. While implementation of the proposed project is expected to result in increased light and glare in comparison with the existing undeveloped nature of the project site, the introduction of light and glare associated with residential uses would be similar to that already occurring in the area. Additionally, the proposed project

would be required to adhere to Town standards related to development, including lighting standards contained in the Town's Development Code, Chapter 9.70 Performance Standards, Section H, Light and Glare. Compliance with Town requirements including the Development Code and the Town's design review would reduce the impact of the light sources to off-site locations to a less than significant level.

II.	AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES				
	uld the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?				\boxtimes
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				\boxtimes
c)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				\boxtimes
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?				\boxtimes

a-e *No Impact.* The proposed project will have no impact to agricultural resources, including Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance. There are no agricultural land uses within the subject property. The site does not contain forest land as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g) or timberland as defined in Gov't Code section 51104(g).

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Wo	ould the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			\boxtimes	
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?		\boxtimes		
c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			\boxtimes	
d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?				

In order to quantify the project's impacts to air quality the CalEEMOD model was used. Development of the proposed project will impact air quality during construction activities and over the long-term operation of the project. These impacts are discussed below.

a. Less Than Significant Impact. The Town of Apple Valley is subject to the jurisdiction of the MDAQMD which sets forth policies and other measures designed to help the District achieve federal and state ambient air quality standards. These rules, along with the MDAQMD CEQA and Federal Conformity Guidelines¹, are intended to satisfy the planning requirements of both the federal and state Clean Air Acts. The MDAQMD also monitors daily pollutant levels and meteorological conditions throughout the District.

The Apple Valley General Plan Land Use Plan serves as the basis for the assumptions used in the MDAQMD's planning documents for air quality maintenance and improvement. The project is consistent with the Town's General Plan, and with development already occurring in the area. Therefore, it will not exceed AQMP assumptions or criteria, or result in inconsistencies with the AQMP.

b. Less than Significant Impact: Air pollution emissions would be produced during the construction phase of the project. The Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) is in non-attainment for PM10, PM2.5, and ozone at the present time. The EPA has classified the portion of the MDAB in which the project is located as

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¹ "Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District California Environmental Quality Act and Federal Conformity Guidelines," prepared by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, August 2016.

moderate non-attainment for the 8 hour ozone standard, non-attainment for the Federal and State PM10 standards, and non-attainment for the State PM2.5 standards. The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) maintains ambient air quality monitoring stations throughout its portion of the MDAB. The air quality monitoring stations within the MDAB closest to the site are the Victorville Station and the Hesperia Station. These stations over the past three years have detected ozone levels that often exceed the State (one-hour) and Federal (8 hour standards). PM10 and PM2.5 levels never exceeded the Federal 24-hour and annual standards and rarely exceeded the State 24-hour annual standards during the past three years. CEQA defines a cumulative impact as two or more individual effects that together are considerable or that compound or increase other environmental impacts. Fugitive dust and pollutant emissions may be generated during the construction and operational phases of the proposed project and could be significant without mitigation in form of a dust control plan approved by MDAQMD.

The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) prepared for the Town's General Plan identified that potential air quality impacts resulting from implementation of the General Plan would be significant and that there is no mitigation measure available to reduce this impact to less than significant levels. Although the project related emission associated with the project would cumulatively contribute to air quality emission, the impacts would not be more significant than that which were identified in the General Plan FEIR. No new significant air quality impact related to the project will result from the development of the proposed residential uses. Source: Town of Apple Valley General Plan EIR.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure

III.1 Prior to commencing earth-moving activity, the applicant/developer shall prepare and submit a dust control plan to the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) that includes all applicable dust control measures that will be implemented as part of the project and the MDAQMD shall be notified in writing upon the commencement of construction. The dust control plan shall be completed in accordance with MDAQMD requirements and proof of an approved dust control plan shall be submitted to Building and Safety prior to the issuance of a grading permit.

- c. Less than Significant Impacts: Sensitive receptors located within the vicinity of the proposed project include single-family residences to the south and east. Phoenix Academy and Mojave Mesa E.S. are within approximately 1.5 miles of the proposed site. On-site grading and construction activities would likely generate temporarily increased levels of particulates and emissions from construction equipment. However, because those emissions created by the proposed project would not exceed State thresholds, the identified sensitive receptors would not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- d. Less than Significant Impact. During construction, the various diesel-powered vehicles and equipment in use on the site would create odors. Additionally, the application of architectural coatings and installation of asphalt may generate odors. These odors are temporary and not likely to be noticeable beyond the project boundaries. MDAQMD standards regarding the application of architectural coatings (Rule 1113) and the installation of asphalt surfaces are sufficient to reduce temporary odor impacts to a less than significant level.

Long-term objectionable odors are not expected to occur at the proposed project site. Activities conducted at the proposed project will include typical residential activities and will not generate substantial objectionable odors. Therefore, impacts related to creation of objectionable odors affecting substantial numbers of people are expected to be less than significant.

The Apple Valley General Plan Land Use Plan serves as the basis for the assumptions used in the MDAQMD's planning documents for air quality maintenance and improvement. The project is consistent with the Town's General Plan, and with development already occurring in the area. Therefore, it will not exceed AQMP assumptions or criteria, or result in inconsistencies with the AQMP.

Criteria Air Pollutants

Criteria air pollutants will be released during both the construction and operational phases of the project. The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod.2020.4.0) was used to project air quality emissions generated by the proposed project.

Construction Emissions

The FEIR fully analyzed worst-case construction emissions. (See EIR p. III-30.) Based on those worst-case assumptions, all construction emission impacts were projected to be less than significant. Nonetheless, site-specific construction emission modeling was performed for the proposed project. The construction analysis includes all aspects of project development, including site preparation, grading, building construction, paving, and application of architectural coatings. As shown in Table 1, none of the analyzed criteria pollutants will exceed regional emissions thresholds during the construction phase. Construction air quality impacts of the proposed project will be less than significant.

Table 1
Unmitigated Construction-Related Emissions Summary
Tentative Tract Map No. 20306
(tons/year)

		(tons/yea	1)				
Construction Emissions ¹	CO	NO_x	ROG	SO_2	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	
2022-2028 Max per year	3.6	4.1	2.7	8.1	2.1	0.92	
MDAQMD Thresholds	100	25	25	25	15	12	
Exceed?	No	No	No	No	No	No	
¹ Source: CalEEMod.2020.4.0 output tables generated 7/7/2021							

Operational Emissions

Operational emissions are ongoing emissions that will occur over the life of the project. Emission sources include area sources (such as consumer products and landscape equipment), energy consumption, and mobile sources.

Table 2 Unmitigated Operational Emissions Summary Tentative Tract Map No. 20306

(tons per year)

	,	(**************************************	, , ,			
	CO	NO_x	ROG	SO_2	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Operational Emissions ¹	21.7	1.8	12.5	0.04	3.8	2.2
MDAQMD Thresholds	100	25	25	25	15	12
Exceed?	No	No	No	No	No	No
1 ~						

¹ Source: CalEEMod.2020.4.0

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		\boxtimes		
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				\boxtimes
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
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?				

a. *Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation*. The analysis of the project's effect on candidate, sensitive, or special status species is based on the *General Biological Resources Assessment* dated September 19, 2019, completed by Randall C. Arnold, Jr. of RCA Associates, Inc. No federal or State listed species were observed on the site during the field investigations. Future development of the site will impact the general biological resources present on the site, and most the of the vegetation will likely be removed during future construction activities. The study concluded the loss of approximately

104 acres of desert vegetation is not expected to have a significant cumulative impact on the overall biological resources in the region given the presence of similar habitat throughout the surrounding region. No sensitive habitats (e.g. wetlands, vernal pools, critical habitats for sensitive species, riparian areas, etc.) were observed during the biologist's field investigation.

Mitigation Measures:

- BIO-1 A thirty (30)-day, pre-construction survey shall be completed by a qualified biologist If any sensitive species are observed on the property during future activities, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as applicable should be contacted to discuss specific mitigation measures which may be required for the individual species. CDFW and USFWS are the only agencies which can grant authorization for the "take" of any sensitive species and can approve the implementation of any applicable mitigation measures.
- b. *No impact*. Riparian habitat includes willows, mule fat, and other vegetation typically associated with the banks of a stream or lake shoreline. No riparian habitat exists on site. In addition, there are no other sensitive natural communities or habitats present on the project site. Therefore, no impact associated with this issue will occur.
- c. *No Impact.* The project site does not contain any drainage features under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or other Federal agencies. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project will not result in an impact associated with federally protected wetlands.
- d. *Less than Significant Impact*. The biological resources study did not identify any wildlife nurseries on the project site. The study also found that the site is not conducive to wildlife movement. Impacts associated with wildlife movement are expected to be less than significant.
- e. *No Impact.* The project site does not contain any biological resources that would conflict with any local policies or ordinances. Therefore, no impact associated with this issue will occur.
- f. Less than Significant Impact. Areas of valuable habitat that support special status species are illustrated in the Biological Resources Study of the Town's General Plan EIR. The General Plan includes policies and programs intended to ensure that habitat connectivity is preserved in the Town. In addition, a number of special survey areas in the Town's planning area are identified in the General Plan. Species for which surveys are required as part of development applications include Desert Tortoise, Mojave Ground Squirrel, Burrowing Owls, Joshua Trees, and/or Migratory/Nesting/Other Protected Birds. The proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan because no such plan has been adopted in the area of the project site. However, the Town has a draft Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, and at such time the site is to be developed, the project will be subject to the mitigation measures identified in the MSHCP.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			\boxtimes	
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				

- a-b. Less than Significant Impact. A cultural resources assessment of the proposed project site was completed by Duke CRM, September 2020. A field survey of the site was performed on August 13 and 24, 2019. There were no cultural resources of any kind discovered during the field survey. Therefore, development of the site would be considered a less than significant impact and no mitigation is necessary. The study found no prehistoric resources or previous cultural resource studies within the project area, but nine (9) cultural studies have been conducted within a on-mile radius of the project area. The results of these studies also indicated that there are no cultural resources located within the project area. One cultural resource was located within one mile of the project and consists of a historic built environment resource between 0.25-0.5 miles away. During the AB 52 consultation process, correspondence was received by San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI), Cultural Resource Management Department, which does not believe any cultural resources will be impacted as a result of the project. However, SMBMI requested language for Conditions of Approval in the event cultural resources are discovered during project activities.
- Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project site is not known to have been utilized for c. religious or sacred purposes. No evidence is in place to suggest the project site has been used for human burials. During the AB 52 consultation process, correspondence was received by San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI) Cultural Resource Management Department, which does not believe any cultural resources will be impacted as a result of the project. However, SMBMI requested language for Conditions of Approval in the event cultural resources are discovered during project activities. If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 24 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials. As adherence to State regulations is required for all development, no mitigation is required

in the unlikely event human remains are discovered on-site. Impacts associated with this issue are considered less than significant.

VI. ENERGY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significan t 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?				
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			\boxtimes	

Discussion of Impacts

- a) Construction of the 160 single-family residential homes would require the typical use of energy resources. Energy would be consumed during site clearing, excavation, grading and construction. The construction process would be typical. No site conditions or project features would require an inefficient or unnecessary consumption of energy. The project has been designed in compliance with California's Energy Efficiency Standards and 2019 CALGreen Standards. These measures include:
- Stormwater drainage and retention during construction (BMPs);
- Water conserving plumbing fixtures and fittings;
- Compliance with the Town's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (Development Code Chapter 9.75)
- Construction Waste Diversion
- All other mandatory CALGreen requirements for residential development.

Operation of the proposed residential units would involve the use of energy for heating, cooling, and equipment operation. These facilities would comply with all applicable California Energy Efficiency Standards and 2019 CALGreen Standards.

Neither the construction or operation of the Project would result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy or wasteful use of energy resources. Therefore, impacts related to wasteful energy use would be less than significant, directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

b) The project has been designed in compliance with California's Energy Efficiency Standards and 2019 CALGreen Standards as noted above. The Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency; therefore, impacts would be less than significant, directly, indirectly, or cumulatively.

VI	I. GEOLOGY AND SOILS		Less Than		
	ould the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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.				\boxtimes
	ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				
	iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
	iv) Landslides?				
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			\boxtimes	
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?			\boxtimes	
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				\boxtimes
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				
f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		\boxtimes		

- a (i). No Impact. The sites are not located within the boundaries of an earthquake fault zone for fault-rupture hazard as defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. No known active or potentially active faults traverse the site as shown on the California Geologic Survey Map (2002). Therefore, no impact associated with the rupture of a known earthquake fault would occur. Source: Town of Apple Valley, General Plan EIR
- a(ii) Less than Significant Impact. Like all of southern California, the Mojave Desert is a seismically active region. According to the geotechnical investigation prepared for the project, the faults most likely to affect the project site are the North Frontal (9 mi SSE), Helendale-Lockhart Lenwood-Lockhart (6.1 mi NE), San Andreas (24 mi SSW), Cleghorn (17 mi SSW), and Lockhart-Old Woman Springs (20 mi ENE) fault zones. The proposed project site is located in a seismically active area and, therefore, will continue to be subject to ground shaking resulting from activity on local and regional faults.
- a(iii) *Less Than Significant Impact.* Liquefaction occurs when groundwater is located near the surface (within 50 feet), and mixes with surface soils during an earthquake. The Geotechnical Study prepared by Landmark Geo-Engineers and Geologist, August 17, 2005, indicates the site is not included within any geologic hazard map as being located within an area with a liquefaction hazard and is not considered a hazard due to the depth to groundwater being in excess of 50 feet. Impacts associated with liquefaction are less than significant.
- a (iv). *Less than Significant Impact.* No ancient landslides are shown on geologic maps of the region and no indications of landslides were observed during the site visit performed by Landmark Geo-Engineers and Geologist. There is the possibility of rockfalls from loose rocks on the Catholic Hills during strong seismic events or heavy rains. The site is not located within an area that could be susceptible to any landslides.
- b. Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project will require the excavation, stockpiling, and movement of on-site soils to create the residential pads and proposed new roadways. Currently, construction projects resulting in the disturbance of 1.0 acre or more are required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The project's construction contractor will be required to prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that identifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) to limit the soil erosion during project constructions. Adherence during construction to provisions of the NPDES permit and applicable BMPs contained in the SWPPP will ensure that potential impacts related to this issue are less than significant.
- c. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation. As discussed above, the proposed project site is considered to have a low potential for liquefaction. Based on testing performed during the geotechnical investigation, the potential for hydro-collapse at the project site is negligible. Subsidence is generally associated with large decreases or withdrawals of water from the underlying aquifer. The proposed project does not include wells or other uses that will withdraw groundwater. Subsidence of older alluvial materials at the project site is estimated to be 0.05 foot. Additionally, the artificial fill and windblown sand of older alluvium at the site (generally the upper one to three feet and locally up to seven to ten feet) are considered unsuitable to support pavement, fill, structures, walls, or other improvements in their current state. As such, the proposed project site could result in significant impacts related to unstable soil. The implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-2 and GEO-3, and adherence to the UBC, CBC, and Town design and engineering standards would ensure impacts associated with unstable soil remain less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

- GEO-1 The design and construction of the proposed on-site uses shall adhere to the recommendations identified in the geotechnical investigation prepared for the proposed project site, or as determined appropriate by the Town, the standards and requirements established in the UBC.
- GEO-2 The requirements and recommendations for earthwork, grading and seismic parameters included within the Landmark Geo-Engineers & Geologist Geotechnical Engineering dated August 17, 2005, shall be incorporated into the proposed project.
- d. *No Impact.* As identified in the geotechnical study, the soils within the project site are not expansive. The study confirmed that expansive soils do not occur on the site. No impact is anticipated.
- e. *No Impact*. The proposed project will connect to the existing sanitary sewer system. Because septic or alternative waste disposal systems will not be utilized, no impact related to this issue will occur.
- f. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation. The project site is located in an area identified as highly sensitive for paleontological resources as shown in Exhibit III-5 of the General Plan FEIR. The unearthing and damage of these resources would represent a potentially significant impact, without mitigation.

Mitigation Measures:

- GEO-3 A qualified paleontological monitor shall be on site at the pre-construction meeting to discuss monitoring protocols.
- GEO-4 Paleontological monitoring shall start at full-time. If no paleontological resources are observed after half of the ground disturbance has occurred, monitoring can be reduced to part-time or spot-checking. The monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect grading efforts if paleontological resources are discovered.
- GEO-5. In the event of a paleontological discovery the monitor shall flag the area and notify the construction crew immediately. No further disturbance in the flagged area shall occur until the project paleontologist has cleared the area. In consultation with the project paleontologist the paleontological monitor shall quickly assess the nature and significance of the find. If the specimen is not significant it shall be quickly removed, and the area shall be cleared.
- GEO-6. If the discovery is significant the paleontologist shall notify the developer and the Town immediately.
- GEO-7. In consultation with the applicant, the qualified paleontologist shall develop a plan of mitigation which will likely include salvage excavation and removal of the fine, removal of sediment from around the specimen (in the laboratory), research to identify and categorize the find, curation of the find in a local qualified repository, and preparation of a report summarizing the find.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significan t Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have significant impact on the environment?			\boxtimes	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			\boxtimes	

a-b. **Less Than Significant Impact.** Both construction and operation of the project will generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Construction emissions will be generated by a variety of sources, including the operation of construction equipment and energy usage. Construction impacts will be temporary and will end once the project is complete. Typically, they can be minimized by limiting idling times, proper maintenance of heavy machinery, and efficient scheduling of construction activities. Long-term operation of the project will generate GHG emissions from area sources, energy and water usage, mobile sources, and waste disposal.

The project will not exceed the threshold for GHG emissions. Statewide programs and standards, including new fuel-efficient standards for cars and expanding the use of renewable energies, will help reduce GHG emissions over the long-term. The project will be required to comply with standards and regulations for reducing GHG emissions, including the Town's Climate Action Plan and other GHG reducing strategies, including high efficiency HVAC and high efficiency fans. The proposed project will also be required to comply with Title 24 of the California Building Code. These standard requirements and Town initiatives will ensure that GHG emissions from the project are less than significant.

The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod.2020.4.0) was used to estimate greenhouse gases emitted by the project. The results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3
GHG Emissions from Construction and Operation
Tentative Tract Map 20306
(Metric Tons/Year)

	CO2e	Threshold	Exceeds?
Construction Activities	714.3	100,000	No
Operational Activities	2576.1	100,000	No

CalEEMod model, version 2020.4.0 Values shown represent the total annual, unmitigated GHG emission projections for construction and operation of the proposed project.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?					
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?				\boxtimes	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				\boxtimes	
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?					
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?				\boxtimes	
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency 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.					
a,b <i>No Impact.</i> The proposed project consists of the construction of residential properties. This land use will not involve the production, storage, or distribution of hazardous substances except normally occurring household hazardous wastes (such as cleaning products and paints). The range of land use activities proposed on the project site would not allow for the use, storage, disposal, or					

transport of large volumes of toxic, flammable, explosive, or otherwise hazardous materials that could cause serious environmental damage in the event of an accident. No impact anticipated.

- c. **No Impact.** As the proposed development includes only residential dwelling units, which do not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, no impacts associated with this issue are anticipated.
- d. **No Impact**. This project is not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, this project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. No impact is anticipated.
- e *No Impact*. The subject areas are not located in the vicinity of a designated airport land use, nor within a two-mile radius of a public airport; therefore, no hazards are known to impact public safety.
- f. Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the proposed project will increase the number of residential dwelling units within the Town. Development of the proposed project will generate an increase in the amount and volume of traffic on local and regional networks. The developers of the proposed project will be required to design and construct applicable roadways to comply with applicable local, regional, State and/or Federal requirements related to emergency access and evacuation plans. Construction activities, which may temporarily restrict vehicular traffic, will be required to implement measures to facilitate the passage of persons and vehicles through/around any required road closures. Adherence to these measures will reduce potential impacts related to this issue to a less than significant level.
- g. Less than Significant Impact. The magnitude and severity of a wildfire event is measured by calculating the number of acres burned in a specific wildfire event. CAL Fire adopted a Fire Hazard Severity Zone map for the local responsible agencies in 2008, which is found within the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2017. The Fire Severity Zones are identified as Very High, High, and Moderate through the County of San Bernardino. Apple Valley has nothing higher than moderate fire hazard severity. The project area is located within a Fire Hazard Area that is mapped as "Moderate", as are most lands within Apple Valley. The project is not within an area mapped as a high fire danger and it does not directly interface with wildlands; therefore, there will be a less than significant impact.

X.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY uld the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?				
b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?				
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would				
(i)	Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;			\boxtimes	
(ii)	substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;			\boxtimes	
(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?				\boxtimes
d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seich zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				
e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			\boxtimes	

a. Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project will be required to connect to the Town's domestic water and sanitary sewer systems. Liberty Utilities provides water service to the site, and the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority provides sanitary sewage treatment for the site. Both these agencies are required to comply with the requirements of the State Regional Water Quality Control Board relating to water quality standards and wastewater discharge requirements. Furthermore, as a development project with a disturbance area of greater than 1 acre, and a significant

Town of Apple Valley July 2021 increase in impervious surfaces, the Applicant will be required to obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Construction General Permit and be consistent with the General Permit for Waste Discharge Requirements for Storm Water Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems.

The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP), which would include and specify water quality best management practices (BMPs) designed to prevent pollutants from contacting stormwater and keep all products of erosion from moving off site into receiving waters. Routine inspection of all BMPs is required under the provisions of the Construction General Permit, and the SWPPP must be prepared and implemented by qualified individuals as defined by the SWRCB. The project applicant must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the SWRCB to be covered by a NPDES permit and prepare the SWPPP prior to the beginning of construction. The applicant will be required to provide the Town of Apple Valley with its waste discharge identification number (WDID) as evidence that it has met the requirements of the Construction General Permit prior to beginning construction activities.

SWRCB permits require through a combination of specific plan design standards, drainage impact fees, and general Mitigation Measures. As compliance with these permits would be required as a condition to receive authorization to construct, no impact is expected.

- b. *Less than Significant Impact.* The project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level because the project will be served by an existing water purveyor that has indicated that there is currently sufficient capacity in the existing water system to serve the anticipated needs of the project.
- c. Less than Significant Impact. The existing surface drainage on the site follows the surface contours that drain to the southwest via sheet flow. The project will include on-site water conveyance lots and one lot for water retention. All drainage facilities must be improved which will result in a less than significant impact.
- d: *No Impact.* The proposed project is not located in a flood zone, and does not propose residential development. The proposed project will have no impact on 100 year flood plain hazards.
- e. Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project will be required to connect to the Town's sanitary sewer systems. Golden State Water will provide water service to the site, and the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority provides sanitary sewage treatment for the site. Both these agencies are required to comply with the requirements of the State Regional Water Quality Control Board relating to water quality standards and wastewater discharge requirements. Furthermore, as a development project with a disturbance area of greater than 1 acre, and a significant increase in impervious surfaces, the Applicant will be required to obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Construction General Permit (SWRCB Order 2010-0014-DWQ) and be consistent with the General Permit for Waste Discharge Requirements for Storm Water Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (SWRCB Order 2013-0001 DWQ, or Small MS4 Permit). Each of these permits are described below:

The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP), which would include and specify water quality best management practices (BMPs) designed to prevent pollutants from contacting stormwater and keep

all products of erosion from moving off site into receiving waters. Routine inspection of all BMPs is required under the provisions of the Construction General Permit, and the SWPPP must be prepared and implemented by qualified individuals as defined by the SWRCB. The project applicant must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the SWRCB to be covered by a NPDES permit and prepare the SWPPP prior to the beginning of construction. The applicant will be required to provide the Town of Apple Valley with its waste discharge identification number (WDID) as evidence that it has met the requirements of the Construction General Permit prior to beginning construction activities.

Furthermore, the SWRCB has designated the Town of Apple Valley as a Traditional Small MS4. As part of Phase II regulations promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the SWRCB adopted the Small MS4 Permit, which requires MS4s serving populations of 100,000 people or less to develop and implement a stormwater management plan with the goal of reducing the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent possible. As a permittee under the Small MS4 Permit, the Town of Apple Valley is required to condition development projects to be compliant with the standards contained in Section E.12 of the Small MS4 Permit. All development projects (that create or replace more than 5,000 square feet of impervious surfaces) seeking approvals from the Town are required integrate source control BMPs and low impact development (LID) designs into the proposed project to the maximum extent feasible to reduce the potential for pollutants to enter stormwater runoff. This includes site design best management practices (as applicable), such as minimizing impervious areas, maximizing permeability, minimizing directly connected impervious areas, creating reduced or "zero discharge" areas, incorporating trees and landscaping, and conserving natural areas. Facilities must be designed to evapotranspire, infiltrate, harvest/use, and/or biotreat storm water to meet at least one of the hydraulic sizing design criteria contained in the Phase II Small MS4 Permit.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				
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?				\boxtimes

a,b: *No Impact*. The project proposes development on vacant land adjacent to existing residential developments on the south and east. The project represents a continuation of the surrounding residential uses. Development of the site will not divide an existing neighborhood, nor would it introduce a barrier between residential uses. Therefore, no impacts associated with physically dividing an established neighborhood are anticipated.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?				
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?				\boxtimes

- a. *No Impact.* The sites are not designated as a State Aggregate Resource Area according to the General Plan FEIR; therefore, there is no impact.
- b. *No Impact.* The sites are not designated by the General Plan as a Mineral Resource Zone; therefore, there is no impact.

XIII. NOISE Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?				
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				\boxtimes

a. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation. Sensitive receptors within the project vicinity that may be affected by increased noise levels associated with the proposed project include single-family residences to the south and east. These sensitive land uses may be potentially affected by noise generated during construction and operation of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to cause noise levels to exceed the standards within the Town Code during construction and operational phases. Short-term noise increases from the proposed project would be generated during grading and construction activities. These activities would be short-term and would be subject to the construction activity restrictions in the Town Code. With implementation of the identified mitigation measures, potential short-term construction and long-term operational noise impacts would be reduced to below a level of significance.

Mitigation Measures

Short-Term Construction-Related Impacts. The following measures would reduce short-term construction-related noise impacts associated with the proposed project:

- *N-1* The construction contractor shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers consistent with manufacturers' standards.
- *N-2* The construction contractor shall place all stationary construction equipment so that emitted noise is directed away from sensitive receptors to the west of the site.
- **N-3** The construction contractor shall locate equipment staging in areas that will create the greatest distance between construction-related noise sources and noise-sensitive receptors to the west of the site during all project construction.
- N-4 All construction, maintenance, or demolition activities within the Town's boundary shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. of any working day Monday through Friday, and all construction, maintenance, or demolition activities shall be prohibited on Saturdays, Sundays and

holidays. Exceptions to these standards may be granted by the Town Council. Sundays and holidays. Exceptions to these standards may be granted by the Town Council.

- b. *Less than Significant Impact*. Construction of and operation of the uses associated with this type of project do not induce substantial groundborne vibrations. As such, a less than significant impact is anticipated.
- c. *No Impact*. The subject areas are not located in the vicinity of a designated airport land use, private airstrip, or within two-mile radius of a public airport; therefore, no impact is anticipated.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			\boxtimes	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				

a. Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project site consists of the construction of 160 dwelling units. These new dwelling units would induce population growth to the area. The proposed project site is currently designated as residential use in the General Plan. The proposed residential uses meet the Town's goal of providing housing opportunities for the increasing population within the Town of Apple Valley. As the proposed project is consistent with and has been anticipated by the Town's General Plan, a less than significant growth inducing impact would be associated with development of the project site.

Source: Apple Valley General Plan, Housing Element.

b: *No Impact*. The proposed project site is currently vacant and, therefore, no displacement of housing or residents will occur. Replacement housing will not be required and no impact associated with this issue will occur.

XV.	PUBLIC SERVICES I the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:					
a)	Fire protection?			\boxtimes	
b)	Police protection?				
c)	Schools?				
d)	Parks?				
e)	Other public facilities?				

- a. Less than Significant Impact. Fire service would be provided to the project uses by the Apple Valley Fire Protection District. The proposed project is located approximately three (3) miles from Station No. 332 located at 18857 Highway 18. Due to the close proximity of the fire station, the proposed project would be within the standard respond times of the Fire Protection District. However, as with any new development, the proposed project would increase the need for fire protection services within the Town. As a result, the applicant for the construction of the new dwelling units will be required to pay applicable fire service fees prior to occupancy. The payment of fees satisfies the requirements for development impacts on fire services. With the payment of the fire service fee, potential impacts related to the provision of fire services would be reduced to a less than significant level.
 - Source: Town of Apple Valley, General Plan EIR
- b. Less than Significant Impact. The Town of Apple Valley provides law enforcement services for residents and businesses within the Town limits via a contract with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff station is located at 14931 Dale Evans Parkway. Based on the projected increase in population at build-out, the project does not warrant an additional police officer. Further, the construction of new dwelling units will be required to pay applicable law enforcement facilities fee prior to occupancy. The payment of fees satisfies the requirements for development impacts on police facilities. With the payment of the law enforcement facilities fees, potential impacts related to the provision of police services would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Source: Town of Apple Valley, General Plan EIR and Building & Safety Impact Fee Schedule

c. Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the proposed project will lead to the construction of 160 residential dwelling units that would house school-aged children. The Apple Valley Unified School District would serve the project site. The nearest schools to the proposed project include Phoenix Academy, Sycamore Rocks E.S. and Granite Hills HS. Section 65995 of the California Government Code requires developers to pay a onetime fee for school capital acquisitions and improvements and prohibits state or local agencies from imposing school impact mitigation fees, dedications or other requirements in excess of those provided in the statute. As such, the applicant for the construction of the new dwelling units proposed in the project is required to pay applicable school fees prior to occupancy. The payment of sessool impact mitigation fees, potential impacts related to the provision of schools would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Source: Town of Apple Valley, General Plan EIR

- d. *Less than Significant Impact*. The proposed development of 160 dwelling units would increase the current population by approximately 458 persons. The increase in population would result in increased demand for and use of local parks. In order to reduce potential impacts upon local parks, the proposed project shall be required to pay its fair share for park facilities. Through the development impact fees, the impact upon park facilities would be reduced to less than significant.
- e. *Less than Significant Impact.* The development will not exceed demand that has been previously considered in The Town's General Plan EIR.

XVI. RECREATION Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				
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?				\boxtimes

- a. Less than Significant Impact. The project proposes development of 160 dwelling units, which would increase the current population. This population increase may result in impacts to local and regional park facilities. The project site is located in close proximity to many regional recreational opportunities. There is a total of thirteen (13) local parks within the Town's jurisdictional boundaries. Three (3) of the thirteen (13) parks are located approximately three (3) miles from the project site and would be used by residents within the proposed project. These parks include Thunderbird Park, Lenny Brewster Sports Complex and Civic Center Park. This is a request to subdivide approximately 100 acres into 160 single-family residential lots in the Equestrian Residential (R-EQ) zoning designation for future residential development. This will increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. Per the Town Code, the Park Development fee will be assessed per dwelling unit.
- b. **No Impact.** The proposed project does not include recreational facilities and would not induce the need for any construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impact is anticipated.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?			\boxtimes	
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?				
c) 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?				

- a. **Less than Significant Impact** Access to the site will be provided via Corwin Road and Rancherias Road or Sago Road. Regional access to the site is provided by Interstate 15 via an interchange on Dale Evans Parkway. The proposed project would increase the existing traffic load along these roadways as well as impact others within the vicinity of the project site. The roadway adjacent to the development will be required to be improved to the Town's road standards and is consistent with the Circulation Map. The project requires payment of traffic impact fees to reduce regional traffic impacts. There is an existing Victor Valley Transit adjacent to the project site along Corwin Road. Therefore, there will be a less than significant impact.
- b. *Less than Significant.* The project site is located along a major transit stop. A Traffic Impact Analysis was completed by David Evans and Associates and included Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) Screening, which determined that the project is in a designated Low VMT-generating area in both its opening year (2023) and under cumulative 2040 conditions. The project is consistent with the Town of Apple Valley's General Plan land use and zoning code. The traffic study also measured Level of Service (LOS) and found that the project will not cause any intersection to exceed the Town's level of service policy of LOS D, and recommended no off-site mitigation.
- c. **No Impact.** The project does not include the construction of any sharp curves. The new intersections to be created as part of the project mostly align with existing roadways. As the project does not include the construction of any structure or feature that will create a substantial increase in hazards due to a design feature, no impacts are anticipated.
- d. *No Impact.* The project will be designed to provide access for all emergency vehicles and, therefore, will not create inadequate emergency access. Primary access would be provided via Corwin Road and Rancherias Road. Secondary access routes would be Waalew and Sago Roads. The Town of Apple Valley has not developed a formal evacuation plan; however, the Apple Valley Fire Protection District will review the TTM for adequate emergency access and development requirements as conditions of approval. No impacts are anticipated.

XVIII. TRIBAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.				

a) i-ii. Less than Significant Impact A cultural resources assessment of the proposed project site was completed Duke CRM in September 2020. A records search was performed and field survey of the site was performed August 19, 2019. Aside from domestic refuse, there were no significant cultural resources of any kind discovered during the field survey. Therefore, development of the site would be considered a less than significant impact and no mitigation is necessary. The study found no prehistoric resources on the project site, but identified nine additional studies conducted within a one-mile radius of the project site. During the Town's AB 52 consultation process, correspondence was received by San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI). Its Cultural Resource Management Department does not believe any cultural resources will be impacted as a result of the project. However, SMBMI requested language for Conditions of Approval in the event cultural resources are discovered during project activities.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?			\boxtimes	
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?			\boxtimes	
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?			\boxtimes	

- a. *Less than Significant Impact.* There are existing utilities in the area to serve the project site. The construction of 160 single-family homes will require the extension of existing service lines; however, the construction of new facilities or the relocation of existing facilities will not be required.
- b. *Less than Significant Impact*. Liberty Utilities will provide domestic water services to the subject property. The project is required to construct new domestic waterlines to serve the site.
- c. Less than Significant Impact. Wastewater treatment services to the project would be provided by the VVWRA. The VVWRA is a California Joint Powers Authority that owns and operates regional wastewater collection and treatment facilities which services the Victor Valley. For the construction of the new dwelling units, the project is required to satisfy RWQCB and VVWRA payment of fees. The payment of fees satisfies the requirements for the development impact on wastewater treatment facilities. For these reasons, impacts to wastewater treatment facilities would be less than significant. The proposed project water services are provided by Liberty Utility.

d-e. Less than Significant Impact. The Town contracts for solid waste disposal with Burrtec Waste Industries. Solid waste is hauled to the Victorville landfill, which is a County operated facility. The proposed project will generate solid waste consistent with that analyzed in the Town's General Plan EIR. Impacts associated with solid waste generation are expected to be less than significant.

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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 Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				\boxtimes
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?				\boxtimes

a. Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the proposed project will increase the number of residential dwelling units within the Town. Development of the proposed project will generate an increase in the amount and volume of traffic on local and regional networks. The developers of the proposed project will be required to design and construct applicable roadways to comply with applicable local, regional, State and/or Federal requirements related to emergency access and evacuation plans. Construction activities, which may temporarily restrict vehicular traffic, will be required to implement measures to facilitate the passage of persons and vehicles through/around any required road closures. Adherence to these measures will reduce potential impacts related to this issue to a less than significant level.

- b. Less than Significant Impact. The magnitude and severity of a wildfire event is measured by calculating the number of acres burned in a specific wildfire event. CAL Fire adopted a Fire Hazard Severity Zone map for the local responsible agencies in 2008, which is found within the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2017. The Fire Severity Zones are identified as Very High, High, and Moderate through the County of San Bernardino. Apple Valley has nothing higher than moderate fire hazard severity. The project area is located within a Fire Hazard Area that is mapped as "Moderate", as are most lands located in Apple Valley. The project is not within an area mapped as a high fire danger and it does not directly interface with wildlands; therefore, there will be a less than significant impact.
- c. **No Impact.** The project will not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that would exacerbate fire risk, or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment and as such will have a no impact, directly, indirectly, or cumulatively.
- d. *No Impact.* The project is not located within an area susceptible to downslope or downstream flooding or landslides due to post-fire slope instability or drainage changes.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Does the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				
b) 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)?				
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				

- a. Less than Significant Impact. The site is not within designated or proposed critical habitat for threatened or endangered species. Additionally, the proposed project site does not contain any wetlands, or riparian habitat. The proposed project site was identified as not containing suitable habitat for nesting birds, raptors, and burrowing owls due to previous activities. The project area has the potential to contain significant paleontological resources. Implementation of Mitigation Measures would reduce potential impacts to paleontological resources to a less than significant level. Adherence to standard Town and State measures related to the discovery, recovery, and/or recordation of cultural resources and/or human remains during construction activities would ensure a less than significant impact to cultural resources would result from the implementation of the proposed project.
- b. *Less than Significant Impact*. With implementation of mitigation contained in this Initial Study, environmental impacts associated with the project will be reduced to a less than significant level; therefore, the proposed project does not have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- c. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation. The proposed project site is located within an area designated by the Town for residential uses. While development of the proposed project would generate fugitive dust and pollutant emissions during construction, it would not result in any significant operational air quality impacts. Thus, it is not anticipated that these additional emissions would result in significant cumulative air quality impacts. Impacts related to biological resources, cultural resources,

geology and soils, hazards, noise, public services, traffic and utilities and services are similarly reduced to a less than significant level through the implementation of mitigation measures and the adherence to established Town-mandated standards. There are no projects that, in combination with the proposed project would create a cumulatively considerable impact over and above those identified in this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. The potential cumulative impacts associated with development of the proposed project are, therefore, less than significant.

d. Less than Significant Impact. As identified in this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, it was determined that the significance of environmental impacts associated with new development resulting from the proposed project were either no impact, less than significant impact, or less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. For all topics, the project would not produce a significant effect on the environment. Correspondingly, the project would not produce an adverse impact on humans for those environmental topics that relate directly to humans such as aesthetics, air quality, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous material, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, and utilities and service systems.

REFERENCES

California Department of Water Resources, Bulletin #118 (Critical Regional Aquifers), 1975 County of San Bernardino, Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, March 1995

Town of Apple Valley General Plan, 2009

Town of Apple Valley Climate Action Plan (CAP), 2013

Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Town of Apple Valley General Plan, 2009

Town of Apple Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2017

County of San Bernardino Identified Hazardous Materials Waste Sites List, April 1998

Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map and Flood Boundary Map 06071C5840H.

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, <u>Mojave Desert Planning Area – Federal Particulate Matter (PM10)</u> Attainment Plan,

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, Rule 403.2: Fugitive Dust Control Planning Area,

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District CEQA & Federal Conformity Guidelines August 2016

South Coast Air Quality Management District, CEQA Air Quality Handbook,

Landmark Geo-Engineers & Geologist Geotechnical Investigation August 17, 2005

RCA General Biological Resource Assessment September 19, 2019

DUKE CRM Cultural and Paleontological Resources Assessment September 2020

David Evans and Associates Traffic Impact Analysis June 2, 2021

TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY MONITORING PROGRAM FOR CEQA COMPLIANCE

DATE:	July 21, 2021	ASSESSORS PARCEL NO.:	0441-011-01, 0441-021-11, -12, -15, -
			16, -17, -18, and -19
CASE NO.:	Tentative Tract Map No. 20306	PROJECT LOCATION: Southeast corr	ner of Corwin and Waalew Roads
EA/EIR NO:	N/A	APPROVAL DATE: TBD	
APPLICANT:	David Evans & Associates		

THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS THE CITY'S MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE ABOVE CASE NUMBER.

SUMMARY MITIGATION MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING	TIMING	CRITERIA	COMPLIANCE CHECKED BY	DATE
III. AIR QUALITY					
III.1 Prior to commencing earth-moving activity, the applicant/developer shall prepare and submit a dust control plan to the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) that includes all applicable dust control measures that will be implemented as part of the project and the MDAQMD shall be notified in writing upon the commencement of construction. The dust control plan shall be completed in accordance with MDAQMD requirements and proof of an approved dust control plan shall be submitted to Building and Safety prior to the issuance of a grading permit.	Planning Division	Prior to ground disturbance	Approved dust control plan.		
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES					
IV.1 A thirty (30)-day, pre-construction survey shall be completed by a qualified biologist If any sensitive species are observed on the property during future activities, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as applicable should be contacted to discuss specific mitigation measures which may be required for the individual species. CDFW and USFWS are the only agencies which can grant authorization for the "take" of any sensitive species and can approve the implementation of any applicable mitigation measures.	Planning Division	Prior to ground disturbance	No endangered or species of special concern are present.		
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS					
VII.1 The design and construction of the proposed on-site uses shall adhere to the recommendations identified in the geotechnical investigation prepared for the proposed project site, or as determined appropriate by the Town, the standards and requirements established in the UBC.	Building and Safety	Prior to permit issuance			

VII.2 The requirements and recommendations for earthwork, grading and seismic parameters included within the Landmark Geo-Engineers & Geologist Geotechnical Engineering dated August 17, 2005, shall be incorporated into the proposed project.	Building and Safety	Prior to permit issuance		
VII.3A qualified paleontological monitor shall be on site at the pre-construction meeting to discuss monitoring protocols.	Planning Department	Receipt of agreement prior to issuance of grading permit and on site inspections.		
VII.4 Paleontological monitoring shall start at full-time. If no paleontological resources are observed after half of the ground disturbance has occurred, monitoring can be reduced to part-time or spot-checking. The monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect grading efforts if paleontological resources are discovered.	Planning Department	Within 30 days of completion of monitoring, the monitor shall prepare, and deliver to the Town, a report of his/her findings.		
VII.3 In the event of a paleontological discovery the monitor shall flag the area and notify the construction crew immediately. No further disturbance in the flagged area shall occur until the project paleontologist has cleared the area. In consultation with the project paleontologist the paleontological monitor shall quickly assess the nature and significance of the find. If the specimen is not significant it shall be quickly removed, and the area shall be cleared.				

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION/INITIAL STUDY

VII.4 If the discovery is significant the paleontologist shall notify the developer and the Town immediately.			
VII.5 In consultation with the applicant, the qualified paleontologist shall develop a plan of mitigation which will likely include salvage excavation and removal of the fine, removal of sediment from around the specimen (in the laboratory), research to identify and categorize the find, curation of the find in a local qualified repository, and preparation of a report summarizing the find.			
XIII. NOISE			

XIII.1 The construction contractor shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers consistent with manufacturers' standards.	Building and Safety	Ongoing		
XIII.2 The construction contractor shall place all stationary construction equipment so that emitted noise is directed away from sensitive receptors to the west of the site.	Building and Safety	Ongoing		
XIII.3 The construction contractor shall locate equipment staging in areas that will create the greatest distance between construction-related noise sources and noise-sensitive receptors to the west of the site during all project construction.	Building and Safety	Ongoing		
XIII.4 All construction, maintenance, or demolition activities within the Town's boundary shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. of any working day Monday through Friday, and all construction, maintenance, or demolition activities shall be prohibited on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Exceptions to these standards may be granted by the Town Council. Sundays and holidays. Exceptions to these standards may be granted by the Town Council.	Building and Safety	Ongoing		