

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Tentative Tract Map No.20471 NEC of Chamberlaine Way and Koala Road



Lead Agency

City of Adelanto
Development Services – Planning Division
11600 Air Expressway
Adelanto, CA 92301

Applicant:

Joshua Tree Fund, LLC
410 Patti Ann Woods Drive
Henderson, NV 89002

Prepared By



11801 Pierce Street, Ste. 200
Riverside, CA 92505

July 14, 2022

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1.0 Background Information

1. Project Title: Tentative Tract Map (TTM) No. 20471.

2. Lead Agency Name, Address, and Telephone Number: Development Services-Planning Division, 11600 Air Expressway, Adelanto, CA 92301.

3. Description of Project: Subdivide approximately 42.44 gross acres into 171 single family residential lots with a minimum lot size of 7,200 square feet. (See Section 3.0, *Project Description*, for additional details).

4. Project Location: The Project site is bordered by Vintage Road on the north, Chamberlaine Way on the south, Muskrat Avenue on the east, and Koala Avenue on the west. The Project site is also identified by the following Assessor Parcel Number: 0459-014-13.

5. General Plan and Zoning Designation: Single Family Residential (R-S1). The proposed density is 4.0 du/ac.

6. Other public agency whose approval is required: Recordation of a final map, issuance of a building permits and completion of structures to current building code is required by the City prior to establishment of the subdivision. Additionally, approvals from the following agencies are required:

- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit and Report of Waste Discharge).
- Mohave Desert Air Quality Management District (Authority to Construct).

7. Native American Tribal Consultation: The City commenced the AB 52 process by sending out consultation invitation letters on May 12, 2022, to tribes previously requesting notification pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1. The Project site is located within Serrano ancestral territory and, therefore, may be of interest tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the area. Mitigation Measures TCR-1 through TCR-2 are included in the project/permit/plan conditions.

SIGNIFICANT OR POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

The following environmental factors have been evaluated in this Initial Study to determine if development of the Project will result in a Significant or Potentially Significant impact(s) to the environment that cannot be mitigated to a level of insignificance, thus requiring that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be prepared.

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

Because none of the environmental factors above have been identified as resulting in a Significant or Potentially Significant Impact (s), adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration is recommended.

DETERMINATION

Based on this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed use COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be recommended for adoption.

☐

I find that although the proposal 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 Applicant. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be recommended for adoption.

☒

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

☐

I find that the proposal MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets if the effect is a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated." An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐

I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effect (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, pursuant to all applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.

☐

James Hirsch

City of Adelanto

Signature

Lead Agency

James Hirsch, Contract Planner

July 14, 2022

Printed Name/Title

Date

2.0-Introduction

2.1-Purpose of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

An Initial Study is a preliminary analysis to determine whether a Negative Declaration (ND), Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), or an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required for a Project. Based on the Initial Study prepared for the Project, it is recommended that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be adopted. A Mitigated Negative Declaration is a statement by the City of Adelanto that the Initial Study has identified that no significant or potentially significant impacts on the environment with incorporation of the mitigation measures identified in this Initial Study and summarized in Table 2.1, *Summary of Environmental Impacts Requiring Mitigation* below.

2.2- Environmental Impacts Requiring Mitigation

Table 2-1 identifies the environmental impacts that require mitigation. All other topics either have “No Impact” or a “Less than Significant Impact” as identified throughout this Initial Study.

Table 2.1 Summary of Environmental Impacts Requiring Mitigation

Environmental Topic Section	Description of Impact	Mitigation Measure
4.4 (b) Biological Resources	Biological resources maybe impacted by ground disturbing activities.	BIO-1. Western Joshua Tree Incidental Take Permit. BIO-2. Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Survey, BIO-3. Burrowing Owl Avoidance/Relocation, BIO-4. Mojave Ground Squirrel Pre-Construction Survey, BIO-5. Desert Tortoise Pre-Construction Survey, BIO-6. Nesting Bird Pre-Construction Survey.
4.5 (b) Cultural Resources	Sub-surface archaeological resources may be encountered during ground disturbance/.	CR-1: Stop work within 50 feet of the find and contact a qualified archaeologist to evaluate the discovery.
4.7 (f) Geology and Soils	Sub-surface paleontological resources may be encountered during ground disturbance.	GEO-1: Stop work and resource to be evaluated by a paleontologist. GEO-2: If resource significant, a paleontological treatment plan is required.
4.18 (b) Tribal Cultural Resources	Sub-surface tribal cultural resources may be encountered during ground disturbance.	TCR-1 through TCR-2 requires stop work and resource to be evaluated by an archaeologist. If human remains are encountered and determined to be Native

Environmental Topic Section	Description of Impact	Mitigation Measure
		American work will stop within 100 feet and the MLD will be contacted to evaluate the find.
4.19 (a) Utilities and Service Systems	Undergrounding of utilities and service systems may impact Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources.	Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-6, CR-1, CR-2, GEO-1, GEO-2 and TCR 1 through TCR-2 are required.

3.0-Project Description/Environmental Setting

3.1 – Project Location

The Project site consists of approximately 42.44 gross acres located on the northwest corner of Koala Road and Chamberlaine Way. The Project site is identified by the following Assessor Parcel Number: 0459-014-13. (See Figure 3.1- *Location Map and Aerial Photo*).

3.2 -Project Description

The Project proposes a tentative tract map to subdivide approximately 42.44 gross acres into 171 lots for single-family detached residential development with a minimum lot size of 7,200 square feet. The Project includes two (2) lettered lots for proposed storm drain basins.

3.3-Proposed Improvements

Development of the Project will impact approximately 42.44 acres of undeveloped land, currently covered with desert scrub vegetation, into a residential housing community consisting of 171 lots and two (2) drainage basin lots. Project activities include site preparation (ground clearing and removal of all vegetation); grading of the entire Project site and installation of building footings, utility lines, and underground infrastructure, construction (construction of new houses), paving, landscaping, and finishing (paving of streets, installation of perimeter fencing, installation of landscaping, and finishing of the homes).

Street Improvements and Access**Chamberlaine Way (Crippen Avenue) and Koala Road**

The ultimate right-of-way is 100-feet. The Project will construct pavement for three travel lanes, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and an asphalt shoulder within a 50-foot-wide portion of the right-of-way.

Vintage Road

The ultimate right-of-way is 60-feet. The Project will construct pavement for three travel lanes, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and an asphalt shoulder within a 60-foot-wide portion of the right-of-way.

Muskrat Avenue

The ultimate right-of-way is 60-feet. The proposed alignment for Muskrat Avenue runs slightly west of the existing dirt road, and is depicted on the Project's Tentative Tract Map. The Project will construct pavement for three travel lanes, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and an asphalt shoulder within a 60-foot-wide portion of the right-of-way.

Internal Streets

Proposed internal streets will be public roads improved with pavement, curb, gutter, sidewalk, driveway approaches on both sides of each street within a 60-foot-wide right-of-way.

Water and Sewer Improvements**Water Service and Sewer Service**

The Project will connect to the existing water and sewer lines adjacent to the site (e.g., Vintage Road and Muskrat Avenue).

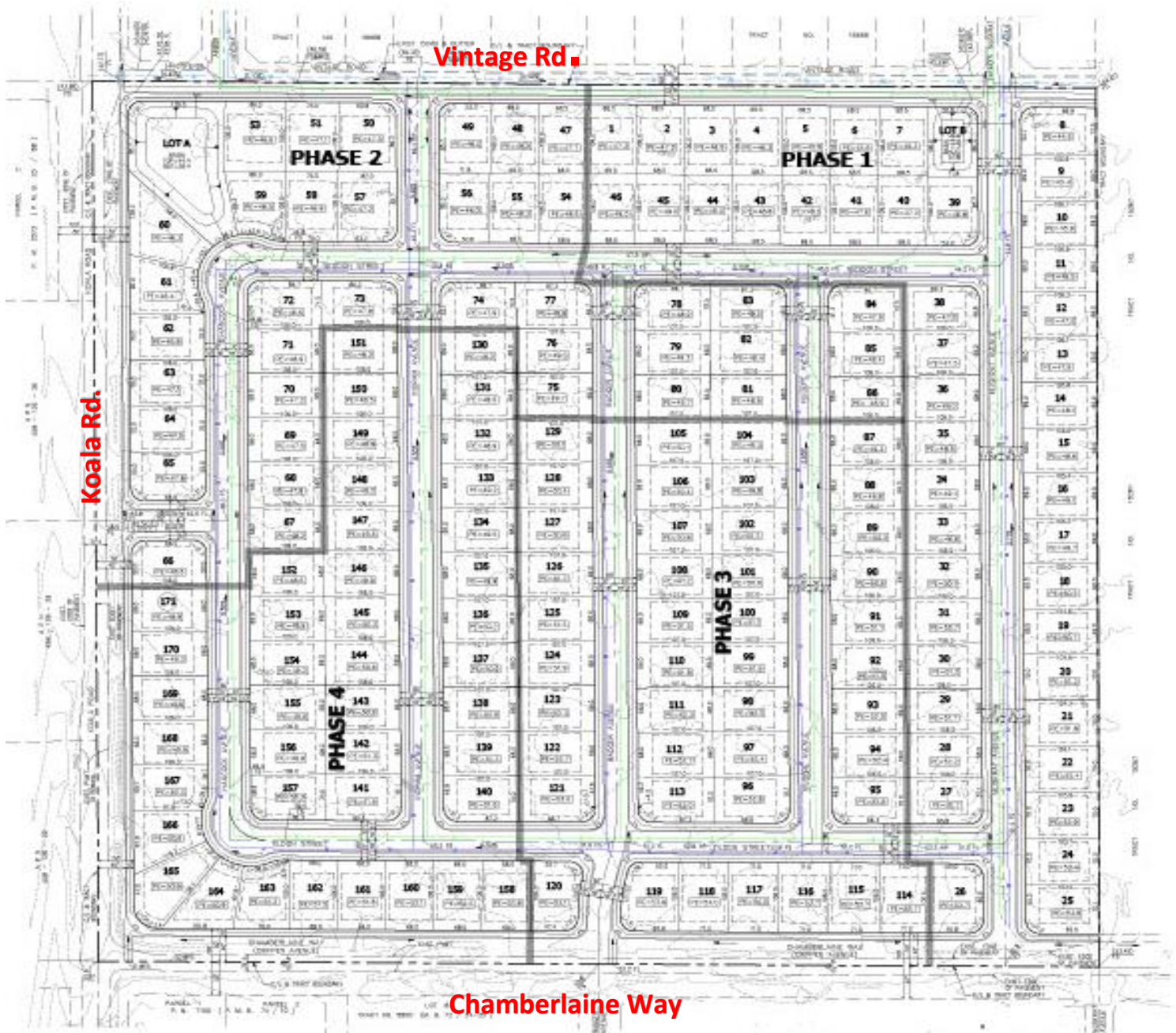
Storm Drainage Improvements

The proposed condition is to utilize two designated lots as basins for water quality and flood routing for the site. The design will incorporate a controlled basin outlet near both the northwestern corner and the northeastern corner of the site, Lots Of A and B, respectively, as depicted in Figure 3.2 – Tentative Tract Map. The proposed design will maintain the existing drainage patterns. The site run-off has been routed to the basin using the streets and typical surface collection facilities for water quality and flood control.

Figure 3.1- Location Map/Aerial Photo



Figure 3.2- Tentative Tract Map No. 20471



3.4- Construction and Operational Characteristics

Construction Schedule

Houses will be constructed based on market demand and absorption. Construction of the Project is anticipated to begin in the year 2022 and last approximately 31 months. Construction phases are assumed to consist of site preparation, grading, building construction, paving and architectural coating. Construction equipment and staging are to occur on-site, and construction vehicle access is planned along Chamberlaine Way. For analysis purposes, the Initial Study assumes all four phases will be mass graded at the same time.

Operational Characteristics

The proposed Project would operate as a residential community. Typical operational characteristics would include residents and visitors traveling to and from the site, leisure and maintenance activities occurring on individual residential lots and in the on-site recreational facilities and general maintenance of common areas. Low levels of noise and a moderate level of artificial exterior lighting typical of a residential community is expected.

3.5-Environmental Setting

CEQA Guidelines §15125 establishes requirements for defining the environmental setting to which the environmental effects of a proposed project must be compared. The environmental setting is defined as “...the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project, as they exist at the time the Notice of Preparation is published, or if no Notice of Preparation is published, at the time the environmental analysis is commenced...” (CEQA Guidelines §15125[a]). Because a Notice of Preparation was not required, the environmental setting for the Project is **April 2022**, which is the date that the Project’s environmental analysis commenced.

Onsite and adjacent land uses, General Plan land use designations, and zoning classifications are shown in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1. Land Uses, General Plan Land Use Designations, and Zoning Classifications

Location	Current Land Use	General Plan Land Use/Zoning Designations
Site	Vacant undeveloped land	Single Family Residential (R-S1)
North	Vintage Road followed by developed land	Single Family Residential (R-S1)
South	Chamberlaine Way followed by undeveloped land	Single Family Residential (R-S1)
East	Muskrat Ave followed by vacant undeveloped land	Single Family Residential (R-S1)
West	Koala (dirt road) followed by vacant undeveloped land	Desert Living (DL-5) (1 du/5 ac)

Source: Field inspection, City of Adelanto -General Plan Land Use & Zoning District Map, March 2022, Google Earth Pro.

4.0-Environmental Analysis

The Project is evaluated based on its potential effect on twenty-one (21) environmental topics. Each of the above environmental topics are analyzed by responding to a series of questions pertaining to the impact of the Project on the particular topic. Based on the results of the Impact Analysis, the effects of the Project are then placed in one of the following four categories, which are each followed by a summary to substantiate the factual reasons why the impact was placed in a certain category.

Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Significant or Potentially significant impact(s) have been identified or anticipated that cannot be mitigated to a level of insignificance. An Environmental Impact Report must therefore be prepared.	Potentially significant impact(s) have been identified or anticipated, but mitigation is possible to reduce impact(s) to a less than significant category. Mitigation measures must then be identified.	No "significant" impact(s) identified or anticipated. Therefore, no mitigation is necessary.	No impact(s) identified or anticipated. Therefore, no mitigation is necessary.

4.1 Aesthetics

Threshold 4.1 (a). Would the Project (Except as	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			✓	

Impact Analysis

A scenic vista is defined as a publicly accessible vantage point that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape. The City of Adelanto General Plan identifies scenic vistas within the City¹. Landforms or features that constitute a scenic vista in Adelanto include the Shadow Hills, located approximately four (4) miles to the north of the Project site and the Mojave River, located approximately six (6) miles east of the Project site. Impacts to scenic vistas are analyzed from points or corridors that are accessible to the public and that provide a view of a scenic vista. Potential public views and vantage points from the Project site to the Shadow Hills and Mojave

¹ City of Adelanto General Plan, Chapter 7, Conservation and Open Space Element.

River would be from the public-rights- of way of Vintage Road, Chamberlaine Way, Koala Road, Muskrat Avenue and the internal public streets serving the Project.

Structures within a viewer's line of sight of a scenic vistas may interfere with a public view of a scenic vista, either by physically blocking or screening the scenic vista from view, or by impeding or blocking access to a formerly available viewing position. Those viewers may see the scenic areas prior to development; but would have those views blocked post development. Because of distance to the Shadow Hills and Mojave River and intervening development, public views of these scenic vistas would not be blocked by the Project.

In addition, as required by Adelanto Zoning Ordinance §17.30.030, Table 20-1, the residential structures proposed of the property are restricted to thirty-five (35), the maximum lot coverage is 40%, and there are required building setbacks for the front, rear, and side lot lines which will serve to create space between structures. As such, the proposed structures would not block or completely obstruct views from surrounding public vantage to the Shadow Hills. The Mojave River is not visible from the Project Site because of the flat topography and because it is six (6) miles east. Impacts are less than significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

Threshold 4.1 (b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				✓

Impact Analysis

According to the California Department of Transportation, the Project site is not located within a State scenic highway². As such, there is no impact.

²California Department of Transportation, State Scenic Highway Program, <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>, accessed June 9, 2022.

Threshold 4.1 (c). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
If located in an Urbanized Area, conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			✓	

Impact Analysis

According to US Census Bureau, Adelanto is located within the Victorville-Hesperia, CA Urbanized Area³. As such, the Project subject to the City's applicable regulations governing scenic quality.⁴ After recordation of the Final Tentative Tract Map, single family residences can be constructed at a future date. The Community Design Element of the General Plan sets forth the characteristics that should be incorporated into the design of single family detached residential housing units. General Plan Section H.2, *Design Regulation and Review*, requires development plans (which include architectural design, site plans, and landscaping) be reviewed and evaluated to determine compliance with the objectives and specific requirements of the General Plan *Community Design Element* and Title 17, *Adelanto Zoning Ordinance*.

As required by §17.15.040, *Single-Family Residential Design Standards* of the Zoning Ordinance, construction of the proposed single family detached residential housing units are required to demonstrate compliance with the following salient regulations governing scenic quality:

- **Site Character** - Existing natural amenities (views, mature trees, and/or topographic features) and other amenities (structures of architectural significance and cultural resources) unique to the site shall be preserved and incorporated into the project's design whenever possible.
- **Variation of Development Patterns** - Variation of development patterns shall be incorporated in new subdivisions to achieve visual diversity and avoid a monotonous appearance
- **Landscaping**- A residential subdivision's landscaping shall be used to frame, soften, and embellish the quality of the residential environment, to buffer units from noise or undesirable views,

³ United States Census Bureau, 2010 Census Urban Area Reference Maps, https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc10map/UAUC_RefMap/ua/ua90541_victorville--hesperia_ca/DC10UA90541_001.pdf Accessed June 9, 2022.

⁴ City of Adelanto General Plan, page XI-4.

- **Walls/Fences** - Walls shall be designed to complement the architectural design of the homes within the neighborhood.
- **Architectural Standards**-Residential structures should consider compatibility with surrounding character, including building style, form, size, color, material, and roof line.

Mandatory compliance with the above-described provisions of the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance ensures that the Project will not conflict with regulations governing scenic quality.

Threshold 4.1 (d). Would the project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			✓	

Outdoor Lighting and Glare

The Project would increase the amount of light in the area above what is being generated by the vacant site by directly adding new sources of illumination including security and decorative lighting for the proposed structures. All outdoor lighting is required to be designed and installed to comply with §17.90.040- *Lighting*, of the Zoning Ordinance⁵ which stipulates:

“Except for residential light fixtures using less than a 75-watt bulb, the following shall apply to all outdoor lighting fixtures:

(a) All on-site lighting shall be energy efficient, stationary, and directed away from adjoining properties and public rights-of-way.

(b) Light fixtures shall be shielded so no light is emitted above the horizontal plane of the bottom of the light fixture.

(c) Light fixtures shall be shielded so no light above 0.5 footcandle spills over onto adjacent properties and rights-of-way. There shall be no spillover (0.0 footcandle) onto adjacent residential used or zoned properties”

Building Material Glare

§17.20.040 (b) of the Zoning Ordinance requires siding material to consist of stucco, wood, brick, stone, or decorative concrete block which are non-reflective materials which do not result in

⁵ Zoning Ordinance.

glare. Windows in single family residential housing units are not of the size and scale where a large expanse of glass surface area will produce glare. In addition, single family homes typically have window coverings (shades, blinds etc. that reduce impacts from interior and exterior glare. Compliance with the above referenced Zoning Ordinance requirements will ensure that the Project will not adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

4.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Threshold 4.2 (a) Would the project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓

Impact Analysis

The Project site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as mapped by the State Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.⁶ As such, development of the Project will not convert any type of farmland to a non-agricultural use.

Threshold 4.2 (b) Would the project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Agricultural Zoning

The current zoning classification for the site is Single Family Residential (R-S1). The R-S1 zone district is intended for the development of single-family detached housing at a density of up to four (4) units per gross acre. Minimum lot size is 7,200 square feet. Development at this density

⁶ <https://databasin.org/maps/new/#datasets=b83ea1952fea44ac9fc62c60dd57fe48>, accessed on June 9, 2022.

requires full urban levels of service and public improvements.⁷ The R-S1 zone is not intended for agricultural use. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use.

Williamson Act

A Williamson Act Contract enables private landowners to voluntarily enter contracts with local governments for the purpose of establishing agricultural preserves. The Project site is not under a Williamson Act Contract.⁸

Threshold 4.2 (c) Would the project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				✓

Impact Analysis

California Public Resources Code §12220(g) defines forest land as land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.

§4526 of the Code defines timberland as land, other than land owned by the federal government or land designated by the state as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of any commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees.

The Project site does not contain any forest lands, timberland, or timberland zoned as Timberland Production, nor are any forest lands or timberlands located on or nearby the Project site. Because no lands within the Project site are currently zoned or proposed for forestland or timberland, there is no potential to impact such zoning.

⁷ City of Adelanto Zoning Ordinance §17.02.010 (c),

⁸ <https://sbcountyarc.org/wp-content/uploads/arcforms/NPP874-WilliamsonActParcels.pdf>, accessed June 9, 2022.

Threshold 4.2 (d) Would the project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓

Impact Analysis

As noted in the response to Threshold 4.2(c) above, the Project site and surrounding properties do not contain forest lands, are not zoned for forest lands, nor are they identified as containing forest resources by the *General Plan*. Because forest land is not present within the Project site or in the immediate vicinity of the site, the Project has no potential to result in the loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

Threshold 4.2 (e) Would the project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				✓

Impact Analysis

As noted under Threshold 4.2 (a), the Project site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as mapped by the State Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. In addition, the site is not under agricultural production and there is no land being used primarily for agricultural purposes on or in the vicinity of the site.

4.3 Air Quality

The following analysis is based in part on the following:

- *California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) Data Sheets*. EPC Environmental Inc., dated April 5, 2022, included as Appendix A to this Initial Study.
- MDAQMD *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Federal Conformity Guidelines*, February 2020, available at: <https://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov/rules/overview>.

Air Quality Setting

Topography and Climate

The Project site is located within the Mojave Desert portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) is bordered in the southwest by the San Bernardino Mountains, separated from the San Gabriel's by the Cajon Pass (4,200 ft). A lesser channel lies between the San Bernardino Mountains and the Little San Bernardino Mountains (the Morongo Valley). The MDAB is classified as a dry-hot desert (BWh), with portions classified as dry-very hot desert (BWbh), to indicate at least three months have maximum average temperatures over 100.4° F.⁹

Air Pollutants and Health Effects

Air Pollutants are the amounts of foreign and/or natural substances occurring in the atmosphere that may result in adverse effects to humans, animals, vegetation and/or materials. The Air Pollutants regulated by the MDAQMD that are applicable to the Project are described below.¹⁰

Carbon Monoxide (CO). A colorless, odorless gas resulting from the incomplete combustion of hydrocarbon fuels. Over 80 percent of the CO emitted in urban areas is contributed by motor vehicles. Carbon monoxide is harmful when breathed because it displaces oxygen in the blood and deprives the heart, brain, and other vital organs of oxygen.

Nitrogen Dioxide NO_x. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a byproduct of fuel combustion. The principal form of nitrogen oxide produced by combustion is nitric oxide (NO), but NO reacts quickly to form NO₂, creating the mixture of NO and NO₂ commonly called NO_x. NO_x can irritate eyes, nose, throat, and lungs, possibly leading to coughing, shortness of breath, tiredness, and nausea.

Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀): One type of particulate matter is the soot seen in vehicle exhaust. Fine particles — less than one-tenth the diameter of a human hair — pose a serious threat to human health, as they can penetrate deep into the lungs. PM can be a primary pollutant or a secondary pollutant from hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxides. Diesel exhaust is a major contributor to PM pollution.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂). A strong smelling, colorless gas that is formed by the combustion of fossil fuels. Power plants, which may use coal or oil high in sulfur content, can be major sources of SO₂. Sulfur dioxide irritates the skin and mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs.

Ozone: Ozone is formed when several gaseous pollutants react in the presence of sunlight. Most of these gases are emitted from vehicle tailpipe emissions. Ozone can reduce lung function worsen bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma.

⁹ MDAQMD CEQA Guidelines, February 2020, Page 6-7.

¹⁰ <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality>

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): VOCs contribute to the formation of smog and/or may themselves be toxic. VOCs often have an odor, and some examples include gasoline, alcohol and the solvents used in paints. Health effects may include eye, nose and throat irritation, headaches, loss of coordination, and nausea.

Non-attainment Designations and Classification Status

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board have designated portions of the District non-attainment for a variety of pollutants. An “attainment” designation for an area signifies that criteria pollutant concentrations did not exceed the established standard. In contrast to attainment, a “nonattainment” designation indicates that a criteria pollutant concentration has exceeded the established standard. Table 4.3-1 shows the attainment status of criteria pollutants in the MDAB.

Table 4.3-1- Attainment Status of Criteria Pollutants in the Mojave Desert Air Basin

Criteria Pollutant	State Designation	Federal Designation
Ozone – 1-hour standard	Nonattainment	No Standard
Ozone – 8-hour standard	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	Nonattainment	Attainment
Fine Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Attainment	Unclassified/Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO _x)	Attainment	Unclassified/Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Unclassified /Attainment	Unclassified/Attainment
Lead	Attainment	Attainment

Source: California Air Resources Board, 2015.

As shown in Table 4.3-2 above, the MDAB is classified as Nonattainment for Ozone – 1-hour standard, Ozone – 8-hour standard, Respirable Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) and Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

Threshold 4.3 (a). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The following analysis is consistent with the preferred analysis approach recommended by the MDAQMD *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Federal Conformity Guidelines*.

Conformity with Air Quality Management Plans

The Project is located within the Mojave Desert Air Basin and under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District. Under the Federal Clean Air Act the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District has adopted a variety of attainment plans (i.e., “Air Quality Management Plans”) for a variety of non-attainment pollutants. A complete list of the various air quality management plans is available from the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District located at 14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392 or on their website at: <https://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov/rules/overview>.

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District is responsible for maintaining and ensuring compliance with the various Air Quality Management Plans. Conformity is determined based on the following criteria:

- A project is non-conforming if it conflicts with or delays implementation of any applicable attainment or maintenance plan. A project may also be non-conforming if it increases the gross number of dwelling units, increases the number of trips, and/or increases the overall vehicle miles traveled in an affected area (relative to the applicable land use plan).
- A project is conforming if it complies with all applicable Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District rules and regulations, complies with all proposed control measures that are not yet adopted from the applicable plan(s), and is consistent with the growth forecasts in the applicable plan(s) (or is directly included in the applicable plan).

Consistency with Emission Thresholds

As shown in Tables 4.3.5 and 4.3.6 below, the Project would not exceed Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District significance thresholds for any criteria pollutant during construction or during long-term operation. Accordingly, the Project’s air quality emissions are less than significant.

Consistency with Control Measures

The construction contractors are required to comply with rules, regulations, and control measures to control fugitive dust from grading (Rule 403) and the application of architectural coatings during building construction (Rule 1113).

Consistency with Growth Forecasts

The Project site is designated as Single Family Residential (R-S1) by the General Plan Land Use & Zoning Map. This land use designation is consistent with the land use plan that was used by the MDAQMD to generate the growth forecasts for the air quality plans referenced above.

Threshold 4.3 (b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The following provides an analysis based on the applicable regional significance thresholds established by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District to meet national and state air quality standards.

Table 4.3.2. MDAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds

Pollutant	Daily Emissions (pounds/day)
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	548
Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx)	137
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)	137
Oxides of Sulphur (SOx)	137
Particulate Matter (PM10)	82
Particulate Matter (PM 2.5)	65

Source: MDAQMD CEQA Guidelines, February 2020, Table 6.

Both construction and operational emissions for the Project were estimated based on a worst-case scenario of 171 dwelling units by using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) which is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to provide a uniform platform for government agencies to quantify potential criteria pollutant emissions associated with both construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. The model is authorized for use by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District.

Construction Emissions

Construction of the Project is assumed to begin in the year 2022 and last approximately 31 months. Construction phases are assumed to consist of site preparation, grading, building

construction, paving and architectural coating. The Project is expected to be operational in the year 2025. With the exception of mass grading, construction phases are not expected to overlap. Construction activities produce combustion emissions from various sources (utility engines, tenant improvements, and motor vehicles transporting the construction crew). Exhaust emissions from construction activities envisioned on site would vary daily as construction activity levels change. The Project will be required to comply with several standard fugitive dust control measures, per MDAQMD Rule 403. The following measures were factored into CalEEMod and are based upon data provided from MDAQMD:

- ☐ Utilize soil stabilizers - 30% PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} reduction.
- ☐ Replace ground cover - 15% PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} reduction.
- ☐ Water exposed areas 2x per day.

Daily construction emissions based on the above-described parameters are shown in Table 4.3.3 below.

Table 4.3.3. Construction Emissions

Maximum Daily Emissions	Emissions (pounds per day)					
	NO _x	ROG	CO	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
	39.85	35.23	29.90	0.07	21.42	11.63
Regional Threshold	137	137	548	137	82	65
Exceeds Regional Threshold?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

Source: MDAQMD and CalEEMod 2020.4.0

Operational Emissions

The Project would be operated as a residential subdivision. Typical operational characteristics include residents and visitors traveling to and from the site, delivery of goods and services to the residents, and maintenance activities. Table 4.3-4 shows the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District thresholds for operational emissions compared to the Project's maximum daily emissions

Table 4.3.4. Operational Emissions

Maximum Daily Emissions	Emissions (pounds per day)					
	NO _x	ROG	CO	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
	10.70	18.30	101.14	0.24	16.46	9.28
Regional Threshold	137	137	548	137	82	65
Exceeds Regional Threshold?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

Source: MDAQMD and CalEEMod 2020.4.0

As shown in Table 4.3.4 above, both construction and operational related emissions would not exceed Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District thresholds. Accordingly, the Project would not emit substantial concentrations of these pollutants during operation and would not contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation, on a direct or cumulative basis. As such, impacts are less than significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

Threshold 4.3 (d). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				✓

Impact Analysis

The Project is a residential subdivision and does not produce toxic air emissions such as those generated by industrial manufacturing uses or uses that generate heavy-duty diesel truck emissions. According to the MDAQMD, residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds, and medical facilities are considered sensitive receptor land uses. The nearest sensitive receptors are the residential neighborhood located adjacent to the Project site to the north approximately 150 feet and the residential neighborhood located approximately 100 feet to the southeast of the Project site.

The following project types proposed for sites within the specified distance to an existing or planned (zoned) sensitive receptor land use must be evaluated:

- ☐ Any industrial project within 1,000 feet.
- ☐ A distribution center (40 or more trucks per day) within 1,000 feet.
- ☐ A major transportation project (50,000 or more vehicles per day) within 1,000 feet.
- ☐ A dry cleaner using perchloroethylene within 500 feet; and,
- ☐ A gasoline dispensing facility within 300 feet.

The Project is a proposal to construct 171 single-family units. The Project does not meet the criteria listed above. As such, no impact will occur.

Threshold 4.3 (d). Would the Project	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Potential odor sources associated with the Project may result from construction equipment exhaust and the application of asphalt and architectural coatings during construction activities

and the temporary storage of typical solid waste (refuse) associated with the proposed Project's long-term operational uses.

The construction odor emissions would be temporary, short-term, and intermittent in nature and would cease upon completion of the respective phase of construction and is thus considered less than significant. It is expected that Project-generated refuse would be stored in covered containers and removed at regular intervals in compliance with the City's solid waste regulations. Therefore, odors associated with the proposed Project construction and operations would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

4.4 Biological Resources

The analysis in this section is based in part on the following technical reports:

- *General Biological Resources Assessment*, RCA Associates, Inc., September 28, 2021, included as Appendix B to this Initial Study.

Threshold 4.4 (a) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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?		✓		

Impact Analysis

As part of the environmental process, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) data sources were reviewed. Following the data review, surveys were performed on the site on September 27, 2021, during which the biological resources on the site and in the surrounding areas were documented by biologists from RCA Associates, Inc. As part of the surveys, the property and adjoining areas were evaluated for the presence of native habitats which may support populations of sensitive candidate, sensitive, or special status species plant and wildlife species.

Plant Species

The site supports a slightly disturbed desert scrub plant community which sparsely covers the property. Species present on the site included kelch grass, creosote bush, rubber rabbitbrush,

Asian mustard, western tansy mustard, white bursage, Nevada jointfir, Russian thistle, flatspine bur ragweed, California croton, Indian ricegrass, silver cholla, common burrobush, fiddleneck, and Joshua tree. Only the Joshua tree is considered a sensitive species as further discussed below.

Western Joshua Tree

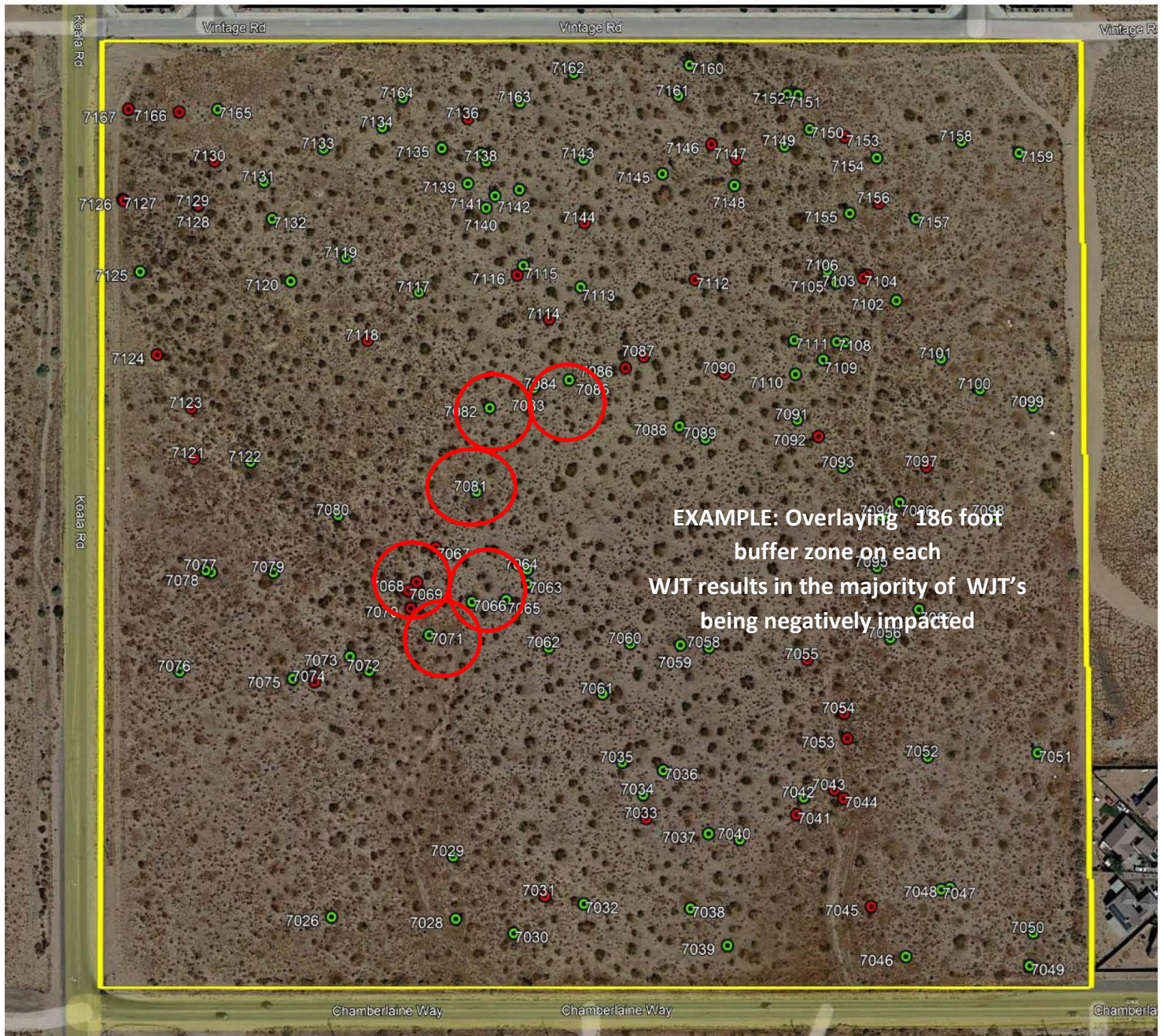
Western Joshua tree became a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), effective October 9, 2020. The CESA prohibits the take and possession of any species, or any part or product of a species that is designated by the California Fish and Game Commission as an endangered, threatened, or candidate species. As a candidate species, western Joshua tree now has full protection under CESA, and any take of the species (including removal of western Joshua tree or similar actions) will require authorization under CESA.

At its June 16, 2022, meeting, regarding whether to list western Joshua tree as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), the Commission continued the agenda item to its October, 2022 meeting. The Commission also requested the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) bring to the October meeting a proposed framework for a western Joshua tree range-wide conservation plan and a report on any related legislation. Importantly, the western Joshua tree will remain protected by CESA during this period.

A Joshua Tree Survey was performed in 2021 as part of the Protected Plant Preservation Plan (Appendix C of this Initial Study). GPS locations are provided in the report and each tree was evaluated based on various criteria such as height, health, leaning, clonal, and age class. Figure 4.4.1, *Locations of Western Joshua Trees*, shows the dispersal of 142 WJT's on the Project site. The CDFW requires an impact analysis to assess potential impacts to WJT within a 186-foot buffer zone of each WJT individual, the WJT seedbank, and indirect impacts to WJT. Indirect impacts to WJT include the destruction of the yucca moth (*Tegeticula synthetica*), WJT's obligate pollinator, during its dormant and flight phases, which would thereby impact the ability of WJT to sexually recruit new individuals. It should also be noted that the destruction or modification of WJT habitat could eliminate critical nurse plants for WJT seedling survival and disrupt the seed dispersal behavior of rodents; the primary way that WJT seeds are buried deep enough for successful seed germination.

As shown on Figure 4.4.1, *Locations of Joshua Trees*, on page 17, development of the Project will result in impacts to every WJT on the site when considering a 186-foot buffer zone for each WJT and the size of the Project site being 40 acres.

Figure 4.4.1-Locations of Western Joshua Trees



Because avoidance of WJT is not economically practical, the following mitigation measure is required to ensure that impacts to WJT are fully mitigated for the purposes of obtaining a take permit.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1. Incidental Take Permit for Western Joshua Tree. *If any western Joshua trees (WJT) are to be relocated, removed, or otherwise taken, the Project Proponent shall obtain an incidental take permit (ITP) from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under CDFW under §2081 of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), prior to the relocation, removal, or take (California Fish and Game Code Section 86 defines “take” as “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill”) of western Joshua tree, a Candidate for Threatened CESA-listed species. Take of any CESA-listed species is prohibited except as authorized by state law (Fish and Game Code, §§ 2080 & 2085). Permanent protection and perpetual management of compensatory habitat is necessary and required pursuant to CESA to fully mitigate project-related impacts of the taking of CESA-listed species. CDFW recommends permanent protection through either the purchase of conservation or mitigation bank credits or the establishment of a conservation easement, development of a long-term management plan, and securing funding sufficient to implement management plan tasks in perpetuity. These tasks should be completed, or financial security must be provided before starting any Project activities. To execute an ITP, CDFW requires documentation of CEQA compliance. CDFW requires the CEQA document have a State Clearing House number, show proof of filing fees, and proof the document has been circulated*

With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, impacts would be less than significant relating to candidate, sensitive, or special status species.

Wildlife Species

Wildlife observed on the site, or which are expected to inhabit the site include Common raven (*Corvus corax*), House finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), Rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), Turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), Northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), White-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), Virden (*Auriparus flaviceps*), Western whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*), Side-blotched lizard *Uta stansburiana*), Black-tailed jackrabbit *Lepus californicus*), Coyote (scat) (*Canis latrans*), Antelope ground squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*).

As part of the environmental process, a search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) search was performed. Based on this review, it was determined that five special status species have been documented within the Adelanto quad of the property. The following tables provide data on each special status species which has been documented in the area. Table 4.4.1.

Presence of Candidate, Sensitive, or Special Status Wildlife Species, provides a summary of all wildlife species that may be in the Project area.

Table 4.4.1. Presence of Candidate, Sensitive, or Special Status Wildlife Species

Species	Status	Presence/Absence
Desert Tortoise	<u>Federal</u> : Threatened <u>State</u> : Threatened	Not Present: The site is located within the known distribution of the species. An evaluation of the area and property was conducted, and no tortoises or suitable habitat was observed.
Mohave Ground Squirrel	<u>Federal</u> : None <u>State</u> : Threatened	Not Present: Site supports marginal habitat for the species. Species is not expected to observations occur on the site.
Swainsain's Hawk	Federal: None State: Threatened	Not Present. There is no habitat that the supports the species.
Le Conte's thrasher	<u>Federal</u> : None <u>State</u> : None <u>CDFW</u> : Species of Special Concern	Not Present. Site does support suitable habitat for the species. Surveys conducted on site did not identify any thrashers.
Burrowing Owl	<u>Federal</u> : None <u>State</u> : None <u>CDFW</u> : Species of Special Concern	Not Present/Future Presence Possible. The site does support suitable habitat for the species; however, no owls or owl sign, or suitable burrows were observed during field surveys.

Wildlife Species Mitigation Measures

Although wildlife species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulation, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were not detected on-site., the site is located within the range of the Burrowing Owl, Mojave Ground Squirrel, Desert Tortoise, and Nesting Birds. Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been included to ensure any impacts are less than significant to these species.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2. Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Survey. *Prior to any ground disturbance, pre-construction surveys for Burrowing Owls on the project site and in the surrounding area in accordance with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation, State of California Natural Resource Agency, Department of Fish and Game, May 7, 2012, shall be conducted no more than 14- prior to the beginning of project activities construction, and a secondary survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist within 24 hours prior to the beginning of project construction to determine if the project site contains suitable burrowing owl or sign thereof habitat and to avoid any potential impacts to the species. The surveys shall include 100 percent coverage of the project site. If both surveys reveal no burrowing owls are present or sign*

thereof, no additional actions related to this measure are required and a letter shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the survey. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW prior to construction. If occupied active burrows or sign thereof are found within the development footprint during the pre-construction clearance survey, Mitigation Measure BIO-2 shall apply.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3. Burrowing Owl Avoidance/Relocation. If active burrows or signs thereof are found within the development footprint during the pre-construction clearance surveys, site-specific non-disturbance buffer zones shall be established by the qualified biologist and shall be no less than 300 feet. If determined appropriate, a smaller buffer may be established by the qualified biologist following monitoring and assessments of the Project's effects on the burrowing owls. If it is not possible to avoid active burrows, passive relocation shall be implemented if a qualified biologist has determined there are no nesting owls and/or juvenile owls are no longer dependent on the burrows. A qualified biologist, in coordination with the applicant and the City, shall prepare and submit a passive relocation program in accordance with Appendix E (i.e., Example Components for Burrowing Owl Artificial Burrow and Exclusion Plans) of the CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012) for CDFW review/approval prior to the commencement of disturbance activities onsite and proposed mitigation for permanent loss of occupied burrow(s) and habitat consistent with the 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. When a qualified biologist determines that burrowing owls are no longer occupying the Project site and passive relocation is complete, construction activities may begin. A final letter report shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the passive relocation. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4. Mojave Ground Squirrel Pre-Construction Survey. Pre-construction surveys following the Mohave Ground Squirrel Survey Guidelines (CDFG 2010), or most recent version shall be performed by a qualified biologist authorized by a Memorandum of Understanding issued by CDFW. The pre-construction surveys shall cover the Project Area and a 50-foot buffer zone. Should Mohave ground squirrel presence be confirmed during the survey, the Project Proponent should obtain an ITP for Mohave ground squirrel prior to the start of Project activities. CDFW shall be notified if Mohave ground squirrel presence is confirmed during the pre-construction survey. If a Mohave ground squirrel is observed during Project activities, and the Project Proponent does not have an ITP, all work shall immediately stop, and the observation shall be immediately reported to CDFW.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5. Desert Tortoise Pre-Construction Survey. A CDFW-approved biologist shall conduct a protocol level presence or absence survey within the Project area and 50-foot buffer no more than 48 hours prior to Project activities during desert tortoise active season (April to May or September to October), in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2019 desert tortoise survey methodology. The survey shall utilize perpendicular survey routes and 100-percent visual coverage for desert tortoise and their sign. Results of the survey shall be submitted to CDFW. If the survey confirms absence, the CDFW-approved biologist shall ensure desert tortoise do not enter the Project area. If the survey confirms presence, the Project proponent shall

submit to CDFW for review and approval a desert tortoise-specific avoidance plan detailing the protective avoidance measures to be implemented to ensure complete avoidance of take to desert tortoise. If complete avoidance cannot be achieved, CDFW recommends Project proponent not undertake Project activities and Project activities be postponed until appropriate authorization (i.e., CESA ITP under Fish and Game Code section 2081) is obtained.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6. Nesting Bird Pre-Construction Survey. If construction occurs during the non-nesting season (typically September 16 through December 31), a pre-construction sweep shall be performed to verify absence of nesting birds. A qualified biologist shall conduct the pre-activity sweep within the Project areas (including access routes) and a 300-foot buffer surrounding the Project areas, within 2 hours prior to initiating Project activities. If project activities are planned during bird nesting season (generally, raptor nesting season is January 1 through September 15; and passerine bird nesting season is February 1 through September 1) a nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than three (3) days prior to the initiation of project activities, including, but not limited to clearing, grubbing, and/or rough grading prevent impacts to birds and their nests. The survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist. If nesting bird activity is present, a no disturbance buffer zone shall be established by the qualified biologist around each nest. The buffer shall be a minimum of 300 feet for raptors and 100 feet for songbirds, unless a smaller buffer is specifically determined by a qualified biologist familiar with the nesting phenology of the nesting species. The buffer areas shall be avoided until the nests are no longer occupied and the juvenile birds can survive independently from the nests. If there is no nesting activity, then no further action is need for this measure.

With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-5, impacts would be less than significant relating to candidate, sensitive, or special status wildlife species.

Threshold 4.4 (b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				✓

Impact Analysis

No riparian vegetation (e.g., cottonwoods, willows, etc.) exist on the site or in the adjacent habitats.

Threshold 4.4 (c) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?		✓		

Impact Analysis

A formal jurisdictional delineation was not conducted during the recent fieldwork conducted by RCA Associates; however, the site was inspected for features that may be considered jurisdictional. The site is relatively flat, approximately 992 meters above sea level, and shows signs of having been previously graded. This observation is based on the density of vegetation and current conditions observed on site during the September 7, 2021, field investigations. The property consists of Cajon Sand, which has a 0-2 percent slope, somewhat excessive soil drainage, with no frequency of flooding, and low available water supply. In the opinion of RCA Associates, no federal or state wetlands were observed on the site during the field investigations. However, there is evidence of flow from the residential development to the north of the Project site that crosses the site. In an abundance of caution, MM BIO-8 below is recommended to either obtain written correspondence from CDFW stating that notification under section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code is not required for the Project, or, if notification under section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code is required for the Project, to obtain a CDFW executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement:

MM BIO-8. California Department of Fish and Wildlife Jurisdictional Determination. Prior to construction and issuance of any grading permit, the Applicant shall obtain written correspondence from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) stating that notification under section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code is not required for the Project, or the Applicant shall obtain a CDFW-executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, authorizing impacts to Fish and Game Code section 1602 resources associated with the Project.

Threshold 4.4 (d). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Wildlife corridors link together areas of suitable habitat that are otherwise separated by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, or human disturbance. Corridors effectively act as links between different populations of a species. The Project site does not represent a wildlife travel route, crossing or regional movement corridor between large open space habitats.

Future development of the site will have minimal impact on the general biological resources present on the site, and most, if not all, of the vegetation will likely be removed during future construction activities. Wildlife will also be impacted by development activities and those species with limited mobility (i.e., small mammals and reptiles) will experience increases in mortality during the construction phase. However, more mobile species (i.e., birds, large mammals) will be displaced into adjacent areas and will likely experience minimal impacts. Therefore, loss of about 42.44-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 desert region. No sensitive habitats (e.g., wetlands, vernal pools, critical habitats for sensitive species, etc.) were observed on the site during the field investigations.

Threshold 4.4 (e) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?		✓		

Impact Analysis

Please refer to the discussion under Threshold 4.4 (a) regarding the Joshua trees.

Threshold 4.4 (f) Would the project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				✓

Impact Analysis

Regional multiple species conservation plans offer long-term assurances for conservation of covered species at a landscape scale, in exchange for biologically appropriate levels of incidental take and/or habitat loss as defined in the approved plan. California's NCCP Act (FGC §2800 et seq.) governs such plans at the state level, and was designed to conserve species, natural communities, ecosystems, and ecological processes across a jurisdiction or a collection of jurisdictions. Complementary federal HCPs are governed by the Endangered Species Act (7 U.S.C. § 136, 16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.) (ESA). Regional conservation plans provide conservation for unlisted as well as listed species. According to the *California Natural Community Conservation Plans Map* maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, there are no such plans that encompass the Project site.¹¹

4.5 Cultural Resources

The analysis in this section is based in part on the following technical report: *Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report Tentative Tract Map No. 20471*, CRM TECH, May 31, 2022¹², included as Technical Appendix C.

Threshold 4.5 (a) Would the project	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?				✓

¹¹ *California Natural Community Conservation Plans Map*, <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=68626&inline>, accessed on June 11, 2022.

¹² *Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report Tentative Tract Map No. 20471* Prepared by CRM TECH (May 31, 2022).

Impact Analysis

Records Search

On March 10, 2022, CRM TECH completed a records search at the South-Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) of the California Historical Resource Information System. Located on the campus of California State University, Fullerton, the SCCIC is the State of California's official cultural resource records repository for the County of San Bernardino. The purpose of the records search was to compile an inventory of previously identified cultural resources and existing cultural resources studies within a half-mile radius of the project location. Previously identified cultural resources include properties designated as California Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, San Bernardino County Landmarks, as well as those listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or the California Historical Resources Inventory.

For the project site, data from the SCCIC revealed that the project area had not been previously surveyed for cultural resources and no cultural resources had been recorded on or adjacent to the property.

Historical background research for this study was conducted by CRM TECH. Sources consulted during the research included published literature in local history as well as historical maps and aerial/satellite photographs of the project vicinity. Among the maps consulted for this study were the U.S. General Land Office's (GLO) land survey plat maps dated 1855-1856 and the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) topographic maps dated 1934-1993.

Field Survey

During the field survey, CRM Tech identified a previously undocumented prehistoric isolate within the project area and recorded it on California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms. The isolate consists of a single jasper flake, temporarily designated as Isolate 3840-1, pending assignment of an official Identification number in the California Historical Resources Inventory. No other artifacts or features more than 50 years of age were encountered within the project area during the field survey.

CEQA establishes that "a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (PRC §21084.1). "Substantial adverse change," according to PRC §5020.1(q), "means demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of a historical resource would be impaired." As defined by PRC §5020.1(j), "'historical resource' includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California."

More specifically, CEQA guidelines state that the term "historical resources" applies to any such

resources listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, included in a local register of historical resources, or determined to be historically significant by the lead agency (Title 14 CCR §15064.5(a)(1)-(3)). Regarding the proper criteria for the evaluation of historical significance, CEQA guidelines mandate that “generally a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be ‘historically significant’ if the resource meets the criteria for 13 listing on the California Register of Historical Resources” (Title 14 CCR §15064.5(a)(3)). A resource may be listed in the California Register if it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage.
- (2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- (3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
- (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. (PRC§5024.1(c))

In summary of the research results outlined above, a prehistoric isolate, designated temporarily as 3840-1, is the only cultural resource more than 50 years of age identified within the Project area. Such isolates, or localities with fewer than three artifacts, by definition do not qualify as archaeological sites due to the lack of contextual integrity. Therefore, they do not constitute potential “historical resources.” Based on these findings no “historical resources” exist within the project area and therefore no adverse change would occur to a “historical resource” as defined by CEQA.

Threshold 4.5 (b)	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?		✓		

Impact Analysis

Archaeological Setting

Although the only archaeological resources found during the field survey was a single prehistoric isolate, designated temporarily as 3840-1, ground-disturbing activities have the potential to reveal buried deposits not observed on the surface. Therefore, the following mitigation measures are recommended:

CR-1. Cultural Resources Discovery. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the following note shall be placed on the grading plan: “If cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease, and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the discovery. Work on the other portions of the project outside the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department (SMBMI) shall be contacted, as detailed within TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the discovery, to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.

CR-2. Monitoring and Treatment Plan. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the following note shall be placed on the grading plan: “If significant pre-contact cultural resources, as defined by CEQA, are discovered, and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, the drafts of which shall be provided to SMBMI for review and comment, as detailed within TCR-1. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.”

Threshold 4.5 (c) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The Project site does not contain a cemetery and no known formal cemeteries are located within the immediate site vicinity. If human remains are discovered during Project grading or other ground disturbing activities, the Project would be required to comply with the applicable provisions of California Health and Safety Code §7050.5 as well as Public Resources Code §5097 et. seq.

4.6 Energy

Threshold 4.6 (a) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Electricity and Natural Gas

Construction

The Project would require the use of electric power tools. The anticipated construction schedule assumes the Project would require approximately 31 months for completion of build-out. The consumption of electricity would be temporary in nature and would not represent a significant demand on available supplies. The use of natural gas is not anticipated to be used during construction.

Operations

Occupancy of the single-family residences would result in the consumption of natural gas and electricity. Energy demands are estimated at 4.837 kBTU/year of natural gas and 1.361 kWh/year of electricity¹³. Natural gas would be supplied to the Project by Southwest Gas Corporation and electricity would be supplied by SCE. The Project proposes single-family homes reflecting contemporary energy efficient/energy conserving designs and operational programs. The Project does not propose uses that are inherently energy intensive and the energy demands in total would be comparable to other single-family land use projects of similar scale and configuration. The Project will also comply with the applicable Title 24 standards. Compliance itself with applicable Title 24 standards.

In addition, the Project will be required to provide rooftop solar panels, or sources of on-site renewable energy, per the latest 2019 California Energy Code requirements. The Energy Code requires all new residential construction to achieve net-zero emissions associated with electricity usage using on-site renewable sources. This analysis has conservatively assumed 80% of electricity usage will be captured via on-site renewable sources (i.e., solar panels), as part of the project design.

¹³ Appendix A, TTM20471 CalEEMod Datasheets.

Motor Vehicle Fuels

Construction

Most activities would use fuel powered equipment and vehicles that would consume gasoline or diesel fuel. Heavy construction equipment (e.g., dozers, graders, backhoes, dump trucks) would be diesel powered, while smaller construction vehicles, such as pick-up trucks and personal vehicles used by workers would be gasoline powered.

The consumption of fuel would be temporary in nature and would not represent a significant demand on available supplies. Given the physical characteristics of the site and the type of development proposed, there are no unusual Project characteristics or construction processes that would require the use of equipment that would use more fuel than is used for comparable activities; or equipment that would not conform to current emissions standards (and related fuel efficiencies). In addition, as required by state law¹⁴, idling times of construction vehicles is limited to no more than five minutes, thereby minimizing, or eliminating unnecessary and wasteful consumption of fuel due to unproductive idling of construction equipment. Equipment employed in construction of the Project would therefore not result in inefficient wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of fuel.

Operations

Fuel that would be consumed by Project-generated traffic is a function of total vehicles miles traveled (VMT) and estimated vehicle fuel economies of vehicles accessing the Project site. The Project will result in 4,529,825 annual VMT¹⁵ and an estimated annual fuel consumption of 120,810,432,376 gallons of fuel.¹⁶

Enhanced fuel economies realized pursuant to federal and state regulatory actions, and related transition of vehicles to alternative energy sources (e.g., electricity, natural gas, biofuels, hydrogen cells) would likely decrease future gasoline fuel demands per VMT. Location of the Project proximate to regional and local roadway systems tends to reduce VMT within the region, acting to reduce regional vehicle energy demands.

Conclusion

As supported by the preceding discussions, Project transportation energy consumption would not be considered inefficient, wasteful, or otherwise unnecessary.

¹⁴ California Code of Regulations Title 13, Motor Vehicles, §2449(d)(3) Idling.

¹⁵ TTM20471 CalEEMod Datasheets.

¹⁶ EPA, 2020 Automotive Trend Report, <https://www.epa.gov/automotive-trends/explore-automotive-trends-data>, accessed June 11, 2022.

Threshold 4.6(b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The regulations directly applicable to the Project are *Building Energy Efficiency Standards*, Title 24, Part 6, and CALGreen Title 24, Part 11. These regulations include but are not limited to the use of energy efficient heating and cooling systems, water conserving plumbing and water-efficient irrigation systems. The Project is required to demonstrate compliance with these regulations as part of the building permit and inspection process.

4.7 Geology And Soils

Threshold 4.7(a). Would the Project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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.				✓

Impact Analysis

Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zones are regulatory zones surrounding the surface traces of active faults in California. (A trace is a line on the earth's surface defining a fault.) Wherever an active fault exists, if it has the potential for surface rupture, a structure for human occupancy cannot be placed over the fault and must be a minimum distance from the fault (generally fifty feet).¹⁷ According to The California Geological Survey's Earthquake Hazards Zone Application (EQ Zapp), the Project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault zone.¹⁸

¹⁷ <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/alquist-priolo>.

¹⁸ <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/geologichazards/#dataviewer>, accessed June 10, 2022.

Threshold 4.7(a1). Would the Project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Strong seismic ground shaking?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The Project site is in a seismically active area of Southern California and is expected to experience moderate to severe ground shaking during the lifetime of the Project. This risk is not considered substantially different than that of other similar properties in the Southern California area. As a mandatory condition of Project approval, the Project would be required to construct the proposed structures in accordance with the seismic design criteria mandated by the Adelanto Municipal Code Title 14, *Buildings and Construction*. The purpose of this Title is, in part, to provide minimum standards to safeguard life or property by stipulating building and foundation requirement to withstand earthquake.

Threshold 4.7(a2). Would the Project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			✓	

Impact Analysis

According to The California Geological Survey's Earthquake Hazards Zone Application (EQ Zapp), the Project site is not located in a liquefaction zone.¹⁹ Notwithstanding, the Project would be required to comply with Development Code Section 16-5.02.060 (b) (2), *Soils Engineering Report*, which includes data regarding the nature, distribution and strength of existing soils, conclusions and recommendations for grading procedures, design criteria for corrective measures and other data required by the Building Official.

Threshold 4.7(a3). Would the Project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Landslides?				✓

¹⁹ <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/geologichazards/#dataviewer>, accessed June 10, 2022.

Impact Analysis

The site is relatively flat and is not adjacent to any slopes or hillsides that could be potentially susceptible to landslides.

Threshold 4.7(b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The Project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, because the site will be paved and landscaped after it is developed. To control soil erosion during construction, the Project proponent is required to comply with Chapter 17.93-*Erosion and Sediment Control*, of the Adelanto Municipal Code which serves to implement the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements applicable to the Project area and prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). In addition, a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) is required which addresses post-construction soil erosion. Preparation and implementation of these plans is a mandatory requirement.

The SWPPP will identify potential sources of erosion and sedimentation loss of topsoil during construction, and identify erosion control measures to reduce or eliminate the erosion and loss of topsoils, such as the use of silt fencing, fiber rolls, or gravel bags, stabilized construction entrance/exit, hydroseeding.

Post construction, much of the site will be covered with paving, structures, and landscaping, which will reduce soil erosion. As detailed in Threshold 4.9 (a), *Hydrology and Water Quality*, storm water will be controlled using a single basin designed to implement water quality and flood control requirements. Stormwater treatment will be provided by the bottom 1-2 feet of the basin, where the required volume will infiltrate into the ground, and any soil erosion materials will be managed.

(Also see analysis under Issue 4.9, *Hydrology and Water Quality*).

Threshold 4.7(c). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable because of the Project, and potentially result in on-site or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Landslide/Lateral Spreading

Lateral spread or flow are terms referring to landslides that commonly form on gentle slopes and that have rapid fluid-like flow movement, like water. All the land within the Project site is relatively flat and according to the County of San Bernardino Hazard Maps, is not located in areas prone to landslides and thus there are no slopes that may contribute to lateral spreading.

Subsidence

Subsidence is the downward movement of the ground caused by the underlying soil conditions. Certain soils, such as clay soils are particularly vulnerable since they shrink and swell depending on their moisture content. Subsidence is an issue if buildings or structures sink which causes damage to the building or structure. Subsidence is usually remedied by excavating the soil the depth of the underlying bedrock and then recompact the soil so that it can support buildings and structures.

Liquefaction or Collapse

Liquefaction may occur during seismic ground shaking of relatively loose, granular soils that are saturated or submerged can cause soils to liquefy and temporarily behave as a dense fluid

Collapse occurs in saturated soils in which the space between individual particles is filled with water. This water exerts a pressure on the soil particles that influences how tightly the particles themselves are pressed together. The soils lose their strength beneath buildings and other structures.

Based on the California Geological Survey, the site is not mapped within a zone of potentially liquefiable soils. Based on groundwater data (<http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/>), it is estimated that groundwater is at a depth greater than 50 feet below existing grade. The site is also not included within the San Bernardino County Geologic Hazards Maps as being located within an area with a liquefaction hazard. Liquefaction is not considered to be a hazard at the subject site due to the great depth to groundwater (greater than 50 feet) and the current geologic

hazard mapping. As such, impacts would be less than significant, and no impacts related to subsidence, liquefaction and collapse will occur through compliance with the California Building Standards Code also known as California Code of Regulations Title 24.

Threshold 4.7(d) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Be located on expansive soil, as defined in the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Expansive soils generally consist of clay that tend to expand (increase in volume) as it absorbs water, and it will shrink (lessen in volume) as water is drawn away. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Web Soil Survey, the Project site primarily consists of soils classified as Lavic Loamy Fine Sand.²⁰

The Lavic Series consists of very deep, moderately well drained soils that formed in mixed alluvium dominantly from granitic sources. Lavic soils are on fan piedmonts, alluvial fans and basin rim positions and have slopes of 0 to 5%.²¹ Lavic Loamy Fine Sand are not a clay soil and is generally not susceptible to expansion. Notwithstanding, the Project would be required to comply with Adelanto Municipal Code §16.04.050 which sets forth the procedures governing the requirements for soils reports, which includes data regarding the nature, distribution and strength of existing soils, conclusions and recommendations for grading procedures, design criteria for corrective measures and other data required by the Building Official.

Threshold 4.7(e) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓

Impact Analysis

²⁰ Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Web Soil Survey. Available online at the following link: <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/>. Accessed June 10, 2022.

²¹ United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. Available online at the following link: <http://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/>. Accessed June 10, 2022.

The Project does not propose the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. The Project would install domestic sewer infrastructure and connect to the City of Adelanto's sewer conveyance and treatment system.

Threshold 4.7(f) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		✓		

Impact Analysis

Paleontological resources are the preserved fossilized remains of plants and animals. Fossils and traces of fossils are preserved in sedimentary rock units, particularly fine- to medium grained marine, lake, and stream deposits, such as limestone, siltstone, sandstone, or shale, and in ancient soils. They are also found in coarse-grained sediments, such as conglomerates or coarse alluvium sediments. Fossils are rarely preserved in igneous or metamorphic rock units. Fossils may occur throughout a sedimentary unit and, in fact, are more likely to be preserved subsurface, where they have not been damaged or destroyed by previous ground disturbance, amateur collecting, or natural causes such as erosion.

The property is situated in the Mojave Desert geomorphic province. The Mojave Desert province is a wedge-shaped area that is enclosed on the southwest by the San Andreas fault zone, the Transverse Ranges province, and the Colorado Desert province, on the north and northeast by the Garlock fault zone, the Tehachapi Mountains and the Basin and Range province, and on the east by the Nevada and Arizona state lines, and the Colorado River. The area is dominated by broad alluviated basins that are mostly aggrading surfaces that are receiving non-marine continental deposits from the adjacent upland areas. More specific to the subject property, the site is in an area geologically mapped to be underlain by Quaternary Alluvium. Alluvium is deposited as lakes, playas, and terraces and has the potential to contain paleontological resources. Therefore, the following mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

GEO-1: Inadvertent Discovery of Paleontological Resources. *If paleontological resources are encountered during implementation of the Project, (including areas impacted by off-site street improvements) ground-disturbing activities will be temporarily redirected from the vicinity of the find. A qualified paleontologist (the "Project Paleontologist") shall be retained by the developer to make an evaluation of the find. If the resource is significant, Mitigation Measure GEO-2 shall apply.*

GEO-2: Paleontological Treatment Plan. *If a significant paleontological resource(s) is discovered on the property, (including areas impacted by off-site street improvements), in consultation with the Project proponent and the City, the qualified paleontologist shall develop a plan of mitigation which shall include salvage excavation and removal of the find, removal of sediment from around the specimen (in the laboratory), research to identify and categorize the find, curation in the find a local qualified repository, and preparation of a report summarizing the find.*

With implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1 and GEO-2, impacts are less than significant regarding paleontological resources.

Unique Geologic Feature

The Project site is relatively flat. The site soils generally consist of Quaternary Alluvium and more specifically Lavic Loamy Fine Sand which is a common soil type in Adelanto. As such, the Project does not contain a geologic feature that is unique or exclusive locally or regionally.

4.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The following documents were used in the preparation of this analysis:

- TTM20471 CalEEMod Datasheets (Appendix A).
- Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) And Federal Conformity Guidelines*, February 2020.

Threshold 4.8 (a-b) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are called greenhouse gases (GHGs). The major concern with GHGs is that increases in their concentrations are contributing to global climate change. Global climate change is a change in the average weather on Earth that can be measured by wind patterns, storms, precipitation, and temperature. Although there is disagreement as to the rate of global climate change and the extent of the impacts attributable to human activities, most in the scientific community agree that there is a direct link between increased emissions of GHGs

and long-term global temperature increases. The principal GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Because different GHGs have different warming potential, and CO₂ is the most common reference gas for climate change, GHG emissions are often quantified and reported as CO₂ equivalents (CO₂e). No single land-use project could generate enough greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to change the global average temperature noticeably. Cumulative GHG emissions, however, contribute to global climate change and its significant adverse environmental impacts. Thus, the primary goal in adopting GHG significance thresholds, analytical methodologies, and mitigation measures is to ensure new land use development provides its fair share of the GHG reductions needed to address cumulative environmental impacts from those emissions.

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District Thresholds of Significance

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4, when making a determination of the significance of greenhouse gas emissions, the “lead agency shall have discretion to determine, in the context of a particular project, whether to use a model or methodology to quantify greenhouse gas emissions resulting from a project, and which model or methodology to use.” Moreover, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(c) provides that “a lead agency may consider thresholds of significance previously adopted or recommended by other public agencies or recommended by experts” on the condition that “the decision of the lead agency to adopt such thresholds is supported by substantial evidence.”

The City of Adelanto has not adopted Greenhouse Gas (GHG) thresholds of significance; therefore, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District threshold will be utilized. The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) has established GHG significance thresholds on a daily and annual basis. A summary of the projected annual operational greenhouse gas emissions, including amortized construction-related emissions associated with the development of the Project is provided in Table 4.8-1.

Table 4.8.1. Project Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Source	GHG Emissions MT/yr			
	N2O	CO2	CH4	CO2e
Mobile Sources	0.083	1,518.99	0.09	1,545.85
Area	0.001	110.72	0.17	115.25
Energy	0.007	499.66	0.025	502.44
Solid Waste	0.000	40.70	2.41	100.83
Water/Wastewater	0.009	43.10	0.37	54.94
30-year Amortized Construction GHG				49.31
TOTAL				2,368.62
MDAQMD Threshold				100,000
Exceed Threshold?				NO

Source: CalEEMod (Appendix A).

As shown on Table 4.8-1, the Project's greenhouse gas emissions on both a daily and annual basis would not exceed the MDAQMD's significance thresholds. Thus, Project-related emissions would not have a significant direct or indirect impact on greenhouse gas emissions that could impact climate change and no mitigation or further analysis is required.

Threshold 4.8 (b) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.			✓	

Impact Analysis

In 2006, the California legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The law establishes a limit on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the state of California to reduce state-wide emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. In 2016, the California Assembly and Senate expanded upon AB 32 with Senate Bill (SB) 32, which mandates a 40% reduction in GHG emissions from 1990 levels by 2030. In January 2017, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) developed a plan (SB 32 Scoping Plan¹) that charted a path towards the GHG reduction goal using all technologically feasible and cost-effective means.

In response to these initiatives, an informal project partnership, led by the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG), adopted the *San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan*.²² The Reduction Plan summarizes the actions that 23 jurisdictions selected to reduce jurisdictional GHG emissions, as well as state-mandated actions. The Reduction Plan is not mandatory for the partnership jurisdictions. Instead, it provides information that can be used by partnership jurisdictions, if they choose so, to develop individual climate action plans (CAPs).

Pursuant to the Plan, the City of Adelanto selected a goal to reduce its community GHG emissions to a level that is 40% below its 2020 GHG emissions level by 2030. The City will meet and exceed this goal subject to reduction measures that are technologically feasible and cost effective through a combination of state (~60%) and local (~40%) efforts.

At the project level, prior to issuance of a building permit, the Project Proponent is required to submit plans showing that the Project will be constructed in compliance with the most recently

²² San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, available at: https://www.gosbcta.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/San_Bernardino_Regional_GHG_Reduction_Plan_Main_Text_Mar_2021.pdf, accessed on June 10, 2022.

adopted edition of the applicable California Energy Code, (Part 6 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations) and the California Green Building Standards Code, 2019 Edition (Part 11 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations).

Applicable measures to a single-family residential include, but are not limited to:

- **Energy Efficiency:** The Project is required to provide electric vehicle (EV) charging outlets; install energy efficient appliances and HVAC systems, and overall residential buildings shall meet or exceed the minimum standard design required by the 2019 California Energy Code.
- **Waste Diversion** -The Project's waste hauler would be required to comply with all applicable local, State, and Federal solid waste disposal standards, thereby ensuring that the solid waste stream to the landfills that serve the Project are reduced in accordance with existing regulations. In addition, The Project is required to submit and implement a construction waste management plan to reduce the amount of construction waste transported to landfills.
- **Water Conservation**-Utilize water conservation techniques to conserve water resources, such as the use of low-flow irrigation and plumbing systems.
- **Water-Efficient Landscaping Practices**-Promote low per capita water use using low water consumptive plant materials/desert plants (xeriscape).

Based on the analysis above, the Project will not conflict with regional or State plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and will support the 40 percent long-term reduction in greenhouse gas emissions identified in the Reduction Plan.

4.9 - Hazards And Hazardous Materials

Threshold 4.9(a) (b)	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?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Existing Conditions

The Project site consists of vacant undeveloped land. There have been no previous activities, such as agriculture or industrial uses that resulted in contamination of the Project site.

Construction Activities

Heavy equipment used during the construction of the proposed Project would be fueled and maintained by substances such as oil, diesel fuel, gasoline, hydraulic fluid, and other liquid materials that would be considered hazardous if improperly stored or handled. In addition, materials such as paints, roofing materials, solvents, and other substances typically used in building construction would be located on the Project site during construction. Improper use, storage, or transportation of hazardous materials could result in accidental releases or spills, potentially posing health risks to workers, the public, and the environment. The potential for unintentional releases and spills of hazardous materials during construction is a standard risk on all construction sites, and there would be no greater risk for improper handling, transportation, or spills associated with future development that would be a reasonable consequence of the proposed Project than would occur on any other similar construction site.

Construction contractors are required to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding hazardous materials, including but not limited requirements imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. As such, impacts due to construction activities would not cause a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the release of hazardous materials to the environment.

Operational Activities

The Project site would be developed with residential land uses which is a land use not typically associated with the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Although residential land uses may utilize household products that contain toxic substances, such as cleansers, paints, adhesives, and solvents, these products are usually in low concentration and small in amount and would not pose a significant risk to humans or the environment during transport to/from or use at the Project site.

Threshold 4.9 (c) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				✓

Impact Analysis

The nearest schools are both greater than one-quarter mile distance from the Project site. Harold George Visual and Performing Arts Magnet and Middle School (10650 Bartlett Avenue) is located 1.18 miles to the southeast, and Westside Park Elementary School (18270 Casaba Road) is located 1.68 miles to the southeast of the Project site. As discussed in the responses to Thresholds 4.9 (b) and 4.9 (c) above, all hazardous or potentially hazardous materials would comply with all applicable federal, State, and local agencies and regulations with respect to hazardous materials. Therefore, regardless of the proximity of planned or proposed schools, the Project will not impact schools.

Threshold 4.9 (d) Would the Project	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓

Impact Analysis

The Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List is a planning document used by the State and local agencies to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Below are the data resources that provide information regarding the facilities or sites identified as meeting the Cortese List requirements.

- *List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database.*

- ☐ *List of Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites from the State Water Board's GeoTracker database.*
- ☐ *List of solid waste disposal sites identified by Water Board with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit.*
- ☐ *List of "active" CDO and CAO from Water Board.*
- ☐ *List of hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action pursuant to Section 25187.5 of the Health and Safety Code, identified by DTSC.*

Based on a review of the Cortese List maintained by the California Environmental Protection Agency the Project site is not identified on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.²³

Threshold 4.9 (e) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓

Impact Analysis

The Project site is approximately four miles west of the Southern California Logistics Airport and 3.3 miles north of Adelanto Airport. According to San Bernardino Countywide Plan Policy Map HZ-9, *Airport Safety and Planning Areas*, the Project site is not located within the boundaries of an airport land use plan²⁴.

Threshold 4.9 (f) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			✓	

²³ California Environmental Protection Agency, Cortese List Data Resources, <https://calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>, accessed June 10, 2022.

²⁴ <https://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/AirportLandUse.aspx>, accessed on June 10, 2022.

Impact Analysis

Access to the Project site is proposed from Chamberlaine Way, Koala Road, and Vintage Road. The Project site does not contain any emergency facilities, nor does it serve as an emergency evacuation route. During construction and long-term operation, the Project would be required to maintain adequate emergency access for emergency vehicles from Seneca Road.

Threshold 4.9 (g) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				✓

Impact Analysis

According to the *California Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer* maintained by Cal Fire, the Project site is not located within a high wildfire hazard area²⁵. Also refer to analysis under Section 4.20, *Wildfire*.

4.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Threshold 4.10 (a) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or 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?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Construction Impacts

Construction of the Project would involve clearing, grading, paving, utility installation, building construction, and the installation of landscaping, which would result in the generation of potential water quality pollutants such as silt, debris, chemicals, paints, and other solvents with the potential to adversely affect water quality. As such, short-term water quality impacts have

²⁵ <https://gis.data.ca.gov/datasets/789d5286736248f69c4515c04f58f414>, accessed on June 10, 2022.

the potential to occur during construction activities in the absence of any protective or avoidance measures.

Chapter 17.93.050 - *Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan* of the Adelanto Municipal Code requires the Project to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater Permit for construction activities. The permit is required for all Projects that include construction activities, such as clearing, grading, and/or excavation that disturb at least one acre of total land area.

Compliance with the permit requires the preparation and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will identify construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be implemented to prevent soil erosion and the discharge of sediment into the local storm drains during the project's construction phase. Typical BMPs measures include, but are not limited to, preserving natural vegetation, stabilizing exposed soils, use of sandbags, and installation of temporary silt fencing.

Operational Impacts

Storm water pollutants commonly associated with residential land uses include sediments, nutrients, trash and debris, bacteria and viruses, oil and grease, and pesticides. City of Adelanto Municipal Code Chapter 17.93.060 requires the preparation of a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) for managing the quality of storm water or urban runoff that flows from a developed site after construction is completed. The Project will comply with the City of Adelanto and the Phase II Small MS4 General Permit for the Mojave River Watershed as described below.

Post construction, storm water will be controlled using two basins for water quality and flood control. The proposed basins are identified as Lot "A" and Lot "B" on Figure 3-2, *Tentative Tract Map No. 20471*, on page 8. Storm water run-off will be routed to the basins using the streets, curbs, gutters, and swales. Stormwater treatment will be provided by the bottom of the basins, where the required volume will infiltrate into the ground. As designed, the basin exceeds the required storage volume. The basins are designed to be compatible with the City of Adelanto Master Plan of Drainage. The basins will ensure that the Project will not significantly change area drainage patterns, impact any of the surrounding properties, or change any of the regional master plan facilities.

Threshold 4.10 (b) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Ground Water Supply Discussion

The Project would be served with potable water by the Adelanto Public Utility Authority. Adelanto has groundwater wells within its distribution system that are actively used to pump groundwater from the Mojave River Groundwater Basin, which lies beneath Victor Valley.²⁶ The Mojave Basin Area was the subject of a court ordered adjudication in 1993 due to the rapid growth within the area, increased withdrawals, and lowered groundwater levels. The court's Judgment appointed Mojave Water Agency (MWA) as Watermaster of the Mojave Basin Area. The court ordered adjudication of the Mojave Basin Area allocates a variable free production allowance (FPA) to each purveyor that supplies more than 10 AFY, including Adelanto.

Each allocated FPA represents the purveyor's share of the water supply available from the MWA Subarea. FPAs are determined as a percentage of the purveyor's highest verified annual use from 1986 to 1990. The FPA, which is currently set at 80 percent of BAP for agriculture and 60 percent of BAP for municipal and industrial (M&I), can vary from year to year depending on the Watermaster's safe yield projections for the Basin. If Adelanto, or another purveyor, pumps more than its allotted FPA in any year, they are required to purchase replacement water equal to the amount of production in excess of the FPA. Replacement obligations are satisfied by paying MWA and then purchasing unused FPA within the subarea.

Given the City's total reliance on groundwater, the reliability of the City's water supply is thus entirely dependent on the reliability of the groundwater in the Mojave River Basin managed by the Mojave Water Agency. Because almost all of the water used within the Mojave Water Agency's service area is supplied by pumped groundwater, to supplement the local groundwater supplies, the Mojave Water Agency recharges the groundwater basins with State Water Project imported water, natural surface water flows, wastewater imports from outside the Mojave Water Agency's service area, agricultural depletion from storage, and return flow from pumped groundwater not consumptively used. The Mojave Water Agency's sources are only used to recharge the groundwater basins and are not supplied directly to any retailers, except for two power plants, the High Desert Power Project, and the LUZ Solar Plant.

²⁶ 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, Victorville Water District, June 1, 2021, p.6-3, accessed on June 10, 2022.

Groundwater Recharge Discussion

Development of the Project would increase impervious surface coverage on the Project site which would in turn reduce the amount of direct infiltration of runoff into the ground. The Project proposes to use roads within the Project site to carry runoff to a proposed water quality basin, designed for both retention and detention. As such, the Project will not interfere substantially with groundwater recharge.

In addition, according to a review of historical groundwater data (California Department of Water Resources and California State Water Resources Control Board groundwater well data [<http://wdl.water.ca.gov> and <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>]), depth to groundwater is greater than 50 feet below ground surface (bgs) in the general Project site area. As such, the Project will not impact groundwater.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Discussion

California depends on groundwater for a major portion of its annual water supply, particularly during times of drought. This reliance on groundwater has resulted in overdraft and unsustainable groundwater usage in many of California's basins.²⁷ The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was enacted to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. The City of Adelanto is located within the Upper Mojave River Valley portion of the Mojave River Basin.

The Mojave River is an adjudicated basin (i.e. water rights are determined by court order).²⁸ Adjudicated basins are exempt from the SGMA because such basins already operate under a court-ordered management plan to ensure the long-term sustainability of a basin. No component of the Project would obstruct with or prevent implementation of the management plan for the Mojave River Basin. As such, the Project would not conflict with any sustainable groundwater management plan. Impacts would be less than significant

Conclusion

Based on the analysis above, the Project is not forecast to 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.

²⁷ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/, accessed on June 10, 2022.

²⁸ <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/bp-dashboard/final/>, accessed on June 10, 2022.

Threshold 4.10 (c). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 that would:				
(i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			✓	
(ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?			✓	
(iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			✓	
(iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Post construction, storm water will be controlled using two basins for water quality and flood control. The proposed basins are identified as Lot "A" and Lot "B" on Figure 3-2, *Tentative Tract Map No. 20471*, on page 8. Storm water run-off will be routed to the basins using the streets, curbs, gutters, and swales. Stormwater treatment will be provided by the bottom of the basins, where the required volume will infiltrate into the ground. As designed, the basin exceeds the required storage volume. The basins are designed to be compatible with the City of Adelanto Master Plan of Drainage. The basins will ensure that the Project will not significantly change area drainage patterns, impact any of the surrounding properties, or change any of the regional master plan facilities.

Threshold 4.10 (d). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				✓

Impact Analysis

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Project site is not located within a flood hazard zone.²⁹ According to the California Department of Conservation, California Official Tsunami Inundation Maps³⁰, the site is not located within a tsunami inundation zone. In addition, the Project would not be at risk from seiche because there is no water body around the Project site capable of producing as seiche.

Threshold 4.10 (e) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			✓	

Impact Analysis

As discussed under Threshold 4.10 (a) and 4.10 (c), with implementation of the proposed drainage system improvements and features, the Project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the *Lahontan Basin Plan*. In addition, as discussed under Threshold 4.10 (b), the Project site is not subject to a Sustainable Groundwater Water Management program and will not substantially impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin

4.11 Land Use And Planning

Threshold 4.11 (a)	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide a community?				✓

Impact Analysis

An example of a Project that has the potential to divide an established community includes the construction of a new freeway or highway through an established neighborhood. The Project

²⁹ <https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps>, accessed on June 10, 2022.

³⁰ California Department of Conservation, *California Official Tsunami Inundation Maps*, <https://www.conservancy.ca.gov/cgs/tsunami/maps#:~:text=Coordinated%20by%20Cal%20OES%2C%20California,considered%20tsunamis%20for%20each%20area,> accessed June 10, 2022.

site is located in an area that consists primarily of vacant land and housing tracts. The Project site is bordered on the north by Vintage Road (paved road); followed by a housing tract; on the south by Chamberlaine Way (paved road) followed by mostly vacant undeveloped land; on the east by Muskrat Avenue, (dirt road) followed by vacant undeveloped land and a small housing tract adjacent to the southeast portion of the Project site; and to the east Koala Road (paved road) followed by vacant undeveloped land. The Project site is planned for residential development by the General Plan. The properties in the immediate area are also planned for residential development. Thus, development of the Project site is a logical continuation of the development pattern in the area as proposed by the General Plan and will not divide an established community.

Threshold 4.11 (b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The applicable plans and policies relating to a conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect are evaluated throughout this Initial Study document as described below.

City of Adelanto General Plan

- **Land Use Element:** The General Plan Land Use and Zoning designation for the Project site is R-1 (Single-Family Residential) which allows a maximum density of 4 dwellings per acre. The Project proposes a density of 4 du/ac, which is consistent with the General Plan Land Use Element.
- **Circulation Element:** Please refer to Section 4. 17, Transportation, for the analysis.
- **Conservation/Open Space Element:** Please refer to Sections 4.1, *Aesthetics*, and Section 4.4, *Biological Resources*, for the analysis
- **Noise Element:** Please refer to Section 4.13, *Noise*, for the analysis.
- **Safety Element:** Please refer to Section 4.9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, for the analysis.
- **Community Design Element:** Please refer to Section 4.1, *Aesthetics*, for the analysis.

City of Adelanto Zoning Ordinance

In instances where the Zoning Ordinance applies to an environmental effect, it is identified in the Analysis section for an environmental topic.

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District Air Quality Management Plan

Please refer to Section 4.3, *Air Quality*, for the analysis

San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

Please refer to section 4.8, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, for the analysis

Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan)

Please refer to Section 4.10, *Hydrology and Water Quality* for the analysis.

Conclusion

As demonstrated throughout this Initial Study document, the Project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect, with compliance with mandatory regulatory requirements or mitigation measures.

4.12 Mineral Resources

Threshold 4.12 (a). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓

Impact Analysis

The naturally occurring mineral resources within the Planning Area include sand, gravel or stone deposits that are suitable as sources of concrete aggregate. The Project site that has been designated with a Mineral Land Classification of MRZ-3A, which is an area containing known mineral occurrences of undetermined mineral resource significance. This classification was based on a report by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, entitled *Mineral Land Classification of Concrete Aggregate Resources in the Barstow - Victorville Area, San Bernardino County, California*. A review of the California Department of Conservation interactive web mapping indicates there is no active mines on the Project site³¹. In addition, a review of California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources well finder indicates that there are no wells located in the vicinity of the Project site.³²

Accordingly, implementation of the Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the residents of the State of California.

Threshold 4.12 (b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓

Impact Analysis

The Project site is not being used for mineral resource recovery. The Project site is designated as Single Family Residential (R-1). If the Project site were intended for mineral recovery, it would

³¹ <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mineralresources/>, accessed on June 10, 2022.

³² California, State of. Department of Conservation. California Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources Well Finder. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/#openModal/-117.41448/34.56284/14>, accessed on June 10, 2022.

be designated as such, and not residential. As such, the Project is not delineated on the General Plan, a specific plan, or other land use plan as a locally important mineral resource recovery site

4.13 Noise

Threshold 4.13 (a). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project more than standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Methodology

In California Building Industry Association v. Bay Area Air Quality Management District (2015) 62 Cal.4th 369, Case No. S213478, the California Supreme Court stated “In light of CEQA’s text, statutory structure, and purpose, we conclude that agencies generally subject to CEQA are not required to analyze the impact of existing environmental conditions on a project’s future users or residents. But when a proposed project risks exacerbating those environmental hazards or conditions that already exist, an agency must analyze the potential impact of such hazards on future residents or users. In those specific instances, it is the project’s impact on the environment – and not the environment’s impact on the project – that compels an evaluation of how future residents or users could be affected by exacerbated conditions.” Notwithstanding “special CEQA requirements [that] apply to certain airport, school and housing construction projects [,]” the Court held “that ordinary CEQA analysis is concerned with a project’s impact on the environment, rather than with the environment’s impact on a projects and its users or residents

Exceptions to this are housing projects for agricultural workers, affordable housing, and transit priority projects (a type of development that is either 100% residential or a mixed-use development (where 50% of the project is residential), that has a floor area ratio (ratio of total building square footage to total lot square footage) of 0.75, a minimum net density of at least 20 dwelling units per acre).

Moreover, special CEQA requirements apply to certain airport, school, and housing construction projects. In such situations, CEQA requires agencies to evaluate a project site's environmental conditions regardless of whether the project risks exacerbating existing conditions. The environmental review must consider—and a negative declaration or exemption cannot issue

without considering—how existing environmental risks such as noise, hazardous waste, or wildland fire hazard will impact future residents or users of a project. That these exceptions exist, however, does not alter our conclusion that ordinary CEQA analysis is concerned with a project's impact on the environment, rather than with the environment's impact on a project and its users or residents.

Existing Ambient Noise Levels

The Project site is in partially developed area of the City and currently does not generate noise. The existing noise environment in the Project area is characterized by the area's general level of development. The Project is located in a partially developed with residential uses. Ambient noise levels are therefore increased as a result of roadway traffic, industrial activities, and other human activities. Table 4.13-1, *Population Density and Associated Ambient Noise Levels*, summarizes typical ambient noise levels based on level of development. Given the rural nature of the proposed Project area, baseline ambient noise levels are assumed to be approximately 40-50 Ldn.

Table 4.13.1. Population Density and Associated Ambient Noise Levels

Population Density	dBA, Ldn
Rural 40-50	40-50
Small town or quiet suburban residential	50
Normal suburban residential	55
Urban residential	60
Noisy urban residential	65
Very noisy urban residential	70
Downtown, major metropolis	75-80
Area adjoining freeway or near major airport	80-90
Notes: dBA = A-weighted decibels Ldn = day-night level	

Source: Draft Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration Silver Peak Solar Project, February 24, 2022.

Short-term Construction Noise Impact Analysis

The most significant source of short-term noise impact resulting from the Project is related to noise generated during construction activities on the Project site. Construction is performed in discrete steps, each of which has its own mix of equipment and consequently its own noise characteristics. Thus, noise levels will fluctuate depending upon construction phase, equipment type, duration of equipment use, distance between the noise source and receptor, and the presence or absence of noise attenuation structures. As shown on Table 4.13.2, *Typical Construction Equipment Noise levels*, below, noise levels generated by heavy construction equipment can range from approximately 75 dBA to 99 dBA when measured at 50 feet.

Table 4.13.2. Typical Construction Equipment Noise Levels

Type of Equipment	Range of Sound Levels Measured (dBA at 50 feet)
Pile Driver	81 to 96
Rock Drills	83 to 99
Jack Hammers	75 to 85
Pneumatic Tools	78 to 88
Pumps	68 to 80
Dozers	85 to 90
Tractors	77 to 82
Front-End Loaders	86 to 90
Graders	79 to 89
Air Compressors	76 to 86
Trucks	81 to 87

Source: "Noise Control for Buildings and Manufacturing Plants", Bolt, Beranek & Newman, 1987.

Construction noise will have a temporary or periodic increase in the estimated 51 dBA ambient noise level above the existing within the Project vicinity. Typical operating cycles for these types of construction equipment may involve one or two minutes of full power operation followed by three to four minutes at lower power settings. Noise levels will be loudest during the grading phase from the use of a bulldozer, which at 50 feet, ranges from 85 to 90 dBA. For every doubling of distance, the sound level reduces by 6 dBA. Noise generation related to construction activities is addressed in §17.90.020(d) of the Zoning Ordinance which requires construction projects to list general noise reduction practices as "General Notes" on the construction drawings as part of the Project's conditions of approval (COA). These mandatory conditions are described as follows:

17.90.020 (d) Construction Practices

To reduce potential noise and air quality nuisances, the following items shall be listed as "General Notes" on the construction drawings:

(1) Construction activity and equipment maintenance is limited to the hours between 7:00 a.m. to dusk on weekdays. Construction may not occur on weekends or State holidays, without prior consent of the Building Official. Non-noise generating activities (e.g., interior painting) are not subject to these restrictions. City and State construction projects, such as road re-building or resurfacing, and any construction activity that is in response to an emergency, shall be exempt from this requirement.

(2) Stationary construction equipment that generates noise in excess of sixty-five (65) dBA at the project boundaries must be acoustically shielded and located at least one hundred feet (100') from occupied residences. The equipment area with appropriate acoustic shielding shall be designated on building and grading plans. Equipment and shielding shall remain in the designated location throughout construction activities.

(3) *Construction routes are limited to City of Adelanto designated truck routes.*

(4) *Water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used during clearing, grading, earth moving, excavation, or transportation of cut or fill materials to prevent dust from leaving the site and to create a crust after each day's activities cease. At a minimum, this would include wetting down such areas in the later morning and after work is completed for the day and whenever wind exceeds fifteen (15) miles per hour.*

(5) *A person or persons shall be designated to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering as necessary to prevent transport of dust off-site. The name and telephone number of such person(s) shall be provided to the City.*

(6) *All grading equipment shall be kept in good working order per factory specifications.*

With implementation of the above standard conditions of approval, construction noise impacts would be less than significant.

Operational Noise Analysis

Sound levels generated by single-family residential activities are:

- ☐ Normal conversation, air conditioner= 60 dBA
- ☐ Gas-powered lawnmowers and leaf blowers = 80-85 dBA.
- ☐ Motorcycle = 95 dBA
- ☐ Very loud radio, stereo, or television =105–110 dBA
- ☐ Shouting or barking in the ear = 110 dBA³³

The USEPA identifies noise levels affecting health and welfare as exposure levels over 70 dBA over a 24-hour period. Noise levels for various levels are identified according to the use of the area. Levels of 45 dbA are associated with indoor residential areas, hospitals, and schools, whereas 55 dBA is identified for outdoor areas where typical residential human activity takes place. According to the USEPA levels of 55 dbA outdoors and 45 dbA indoors are identified as levels of noise considered to permit spoken conversation and other activities such as sleeping, working, and recreation, which are part of the daily human condition.³⁴ Levels exceeding 55 dbA in a residential setting are normally short in duration and not significant in affecting health and welfare of residents.

³³ Center for Disease Control, "[Loud Noised Can Cause Hearing Loss](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hearing_loss/default.html)"., https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hearing_loss/default.html, accessed on June 18, 2022.

³⁴ USEPA "EPA Identifies Noise Levels Affecting Health and Welfare" <https://archive.epa.gov/epa/aboutepa/epa-identifies-noise-levels-affecting-health-and-welfare.html> accessed June 11, 2022.

The primary increase in noise will be the result of adding vehicle traffic generated by the Project to Chamberlaine Way, Vintage Road, Koala Avenue and Muskrat Avenue. The level of traffic noise depends on three primary factors (1) the volume of traffic, (2) the speed of traffic, and (3) the number of trucks in the flow of traffic. The proposed Project does not propose any uses that would require a substantial number of truck trips and the proposed Project would not alter the speed limits that will be established.

Under existing conditions, traffic volumes are very low. The Project is forecast generate 1,710 daily vehicle trips³⁵. According to Caltrans, the human ear can begin to detect sound level increases of 3 decibels (dB) in typical noisy environments.³⁶ A doubling of sound energy (e.g., doubling the volume of traffic on a highway) that would result in a 3-dBA increase in sound, would generally be barely detectable.

The Project is estimated to generate approximately 1,710 total daily vehicle trips distributed along Vintage Road, Chamberlaine Way, Koala Avenue, and Muskrat Avenue. However, the anticipated increased traffic would not result in a doubling of the daily vehicle traffic to be generated in the area. Therefore, the proposed Project traffic would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient roadway noise levels. Noise impacts created by the Project would be less than significant and mitigation is not required.

Conclusion

Through compliance with mandatory requirements to reduce noise during construction, the Project's construction noise impacts will not result in the generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project. In addition, as shown above, the Project's operational noise would not be significant either.

Threshold 4.13 (b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Ground-borne vibration levels from automobile traffic are generally overshadowed by vibration generated by heavy trucks that roll over the same uneven roadway surfaces. The Project does

³⁵ ITE Trip Generation Manual, 11th Edition.

³⁶ Caltrans, Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol, April 2020, p.7-1.

not involve the use of heavy trucks, so vehicle traffic generated by the Project will not generate excessive ground borne vibration.

According to the Federal Transit Administration, *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*, September 2018³⁷, while ground vibrations from construction activities do not often reach the levels that can damage structures, construction vibration may result in building damage or prolonged annoyance from activities such as blasting, piledriving, vibratory compaction, demolition, and drilling or excavation near sensitive structures. The Project does not require these types of construction activities.

Threshold 4.13 (c). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 be residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The Project site is approximately 3.5 miles west of the Southern California Logistics Airport. According to San Bernardino Countywide Plan Policy Map HZ-9, *Airport Safety and Planning Areas*, the Project site is not located within an area exposed to excessive noise levels³⁴.

4.14 Population And Housing

Threshold 4.14 (a). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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)?			✓	

Impact Analysis

³⁷ <https://www.transit.dot.gov/research-innovation/transit-noise-and-vibration-impact-assessment-manual-report-0123>.

³⁴ <https://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/AirportLandUse.aspx>, accessed on June 18, 2022.

The Project site has a General Plan Land Use and Zoning designation of Single Family Residential (R-S5) which allows a maximum density of 5 dwellings unit per acre (du/ac). As proposed, the Project has a density of 4.0 du/ac and is therefore consistent with the General Plan. According to the 2020 population estimates provided by the California Department of Finance, there are 3.88 persons per households in Adelanto³⁸. Based on 171 dwelling units, the Project could increase the overall population of the City by 663 persons (assuming all new residents will come from outside the city limits).

Although the Project site is in a relatively undeveloped area, it is within approximately 150 feet of existing development to the east and to the north. In addition, the Project site is served by existing water and sewer facilities, gas and electric utilities. No additional infrastructure will be needed to serve the Project other than connection to infrastructure adjacent to the site.

Threshold 4.14 (b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓

Impact Analysis

The Project site consists of undeveloped vacant land. Therefore, implementation of the Project would not displace a substantial number of existing housing, nor would it necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

4.15 Public Services

Threshold 4.15 (a). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant				

³⁸ E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2011-2021 with 2010 Census Benchmark, <https://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/e-5/>, accessed on June 11, 2022.

Threshold 4.15 (a). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
1) Fire protection?			✓	
2) Police protection?			✓	
3) Schools?			✓	
4) Parks?			✓	
5) Other public facilities?			✓	

Fire Protection: The San Bernardino County Fire Department provides fire protection services to the Project area. The Project would be primarily served by the Adelanto Station #322, an existing station located approximately 2.25 miles southeast of the Project site at 10370 Rancho Road. Development of the Project would impact fire protection services by placing an additional demand on existing County Fire Department resources should its resources not be augmented. To offset the increased demand for fire protection services, the Project would be conditioned by the City to provide a minimum of fire safety and support fire suppression activities, including compliance with State and local fire codes, fire sprinklers, a fire hydrant system, paved access, and secondary access.

In addition, the City collects a Development Impact Fee to assist the City in providing fire protection facilities. Payment of the Development Impact Fee would be applied to fire facilities and/or equipment, to offset the incremental increase in the demand for fire protection services that would be created by the Project. Therefore, the Project would not result in the need to construct new or physically altered fire facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection.

Police Protection: The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department provides community policing to the Project area via the Victor Valley Sheriff Station located at 11613 Bartlett Street in Victorville. Because the Project site is in a developing area, it would be routinely patrolled by the Sheriff's Department. The City collects a Development Impact Fee to assist the City in providing for capital improvement costs for police protection facilities. Payment of the Development Impact Fee would be applied to police facilities and/or equipment, to offset the incremental increase in the demand for police protection services that would be created by the Project. Therefore, the Project would not result in the need to construct new or physically altered police facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for police protection.

Schools: Adelanto is served by two school districts: Adelanto Elementary School District, which provides elementary and middle School services throughout the City, and the Victor Valley Union High School District, which operates Adelanto High School. The nearest schools from the Project site are Harold George Visual and Performing Arts Magnet and Middle School (10650 Bartlett Avenue) and Westside Park Elementary School (18270 Casaba Road), both one-half mile to the south.

The Project is forecast to generate the following number of students as shown in Table 4.15.1, *Student Generation*.

Table 4.15.1. Student Generation Factors

School Level	Student Generation Factor (1) (2)	Number of Students
Elementary School	0.3366	58
Junior High School	0.1041	18
High School	0.1439	24
Total	---	100
Notes: 1) Elementary and Junior High School generation rates are based upon the <i>Adelanto Elementary School District, School Facilities Justification Report, June 29, 2021</i> . 2) High School student rate is based upon the <i>Victor Valley Union High School District, Residential and Commercial/Industrial Development School Fee Justification Report, April 21, 2020</i> .		

Both school districts are authorized by State law (Government Code § 65995-6) to levy a new construction fee per square foot of industrial construction for the purpose or funding the reconstruction or construction of new school facilities. Pursuant to Section 65995(3) (h) of the California Government Code, the payment of statutory fees is “*deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization as defined in Section 56021 or 56073, on the provision of adequate school facilities.*” Therefore, the payment of school impact fees for residential development would offset the potential impacts of increased student enrollment related to the implementation of the Project.

Parks: The nearest public park to the Project site is Richardson Park, which is located approximately three miles to the southeast. The City of Adelanto requires dedication of land, payment of fees in-lieu of parkland dedication, or a combination thereof at a rate of three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for proposed residential subdivisions, pursuant to *Adelanto Municipal Code Chapter 16.52*. Based on 171 dwelling units, the Project could increase the overall population of the City by 663 persons (assuming all new residents will come from outside the city limits). 663 residents would result in the need of approximately one acre of parkland. Payment of the in-lieu fee would ensure that the Project will not result in a significant impact with respect to parkland

Other Public Facilities: As noted above, development of the Project could result in a direct increase in the population of 663 persons. The current population of the City is 35,147 (assuming all new residents of the Project came from outside the City). As such, the Project would result in a 1.7% increase in population. It is not anticipated the Project would increase the demand for public services, including public health services and library services to the degree that the construction of new or expanded public facilities would be required based on this small increase in population.

In addition, the Project would be required to comply with the provisions of Municipal Code Chapter 3.75 which requires payment of the Development Impact Fee to assist the City in providing public services. Payment of the Development Impact Fee would ensure that the Project provides fair share of funds for additional public services. These funds may be applied to the acquisition and/or construction of public services and/or equipment.

4.16 Recreation

Threshold 4.16 (a). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The nearest public park to the Project site is Richardson Park, which is located approximately one mile to the east. The Project could result in the increased use of existing parks and recreation facilities. Substantial deterioration of existing facilities could occur if the level of usage intensifies significantly, and the maintenance of affected facilities does not keep pace with intensified use and additional park facilities are not provided to meet existing and the increased demand.

As noted under Threshold 4.15 (a) above, development of the Project could result in an increase in population of 663 persons (1.7% increase). This small amount of population increase is not anticipated to increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities to the degree that substantial physical deterioration of recreational facilities would occur or be accelerated.

In addition, the City of Adelanto requires dedication of land, payment of fees in-lieu of parkland dedication, or a combination thereof at a rate of three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for proposed residential subdivisions, pursuant to *Adelanto Municipal Code Chapter 16.52*.

Compliance with this mandatory requirement will ensure that the Project will not result in a significant impact with respect to recreational facilities.

Threshold 4.16 (b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				✓

Impact Analysis

The Project does not propose the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

4.17 Transportation

Threshold 4.17(a). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?			✓	

Impact Analysis

A significant impact would occur if development of the Project would conflict with programs, plans, or ordinances that support transit services, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and trails. The Project would construct the following circulation system improvements:

Chamberlaine Way and Koala Road

The ultimate right-of-way is 100-feet. The Project will construct pavement for three travel lanes, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and an asphalt shoulder within a 50-foot-wide portion of the right-of-way.

Vintage Road

The ultimate right-of-way is 60-feet. The Project will construct pavement for three travel lanes, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and an asphalt shoulder within a 60-foot-wide portion of the right-of-way.

Muskrat Avenue

The ultimate right-of-way is 60-feet. The proposed alignment for Muskrat Avenue runs slightly west of the existing dirt road, and is depicted on the Project's Tentative Tract Map. The Project will construct pavement for three travel lanes, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and an asphalt shoulder within a 60-foot-wide portion of the right-of-way.

Internal Streets

Proposed internal streets will be public roads improved with pavement, curb, gutter, sidewalk, driveway approaches on both sides of each street within a 60-foot-wide right-of-way.

Public transportation services within the City of Adelanto and near the proposed Project are provided by the Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTa). The closest connection points to the VVTa transit routes are Route No. 32 (North Adelanto), located along the Project's southern perimeter along Vintage Road near Muskrat Avenue. The Project is not proposing any improvements that would conflict with Route No. 32, or any future transit route in the area.

In October 2020, the City adopted the *Adelanto Active Transportation Plan. Adelanto in Motion, An Active Transportation Plan* ("Plan") which represents a new commitment to walking and biking in Adelanto. According to the Plan, there are no bicycle or pedestrian projects proposed adjacent to the Project site. Thus, the Project would not interfere with proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities planned elsewhere in the City. However, the Project would construct streets that meet City standards that provides sidewalks and pavement that would accommodate bicycle travel.

Based on the preceding analysis, the Project would not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

Threshold 4.17(b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Changes to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines were adopted in December 2018, which require all lead agencies to adopt Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as a replacement for automobile delay-based level of service (LOS) as the new measure for identifying transportation

impacts for land use projects. This statewide mandate took effect July 1, 2020. Impacts related to LOS will be evaluated through the City's development review process apart from CEQA.

The City of Adelanto City Council adopted Resolution No. 20-41 on June 24, 2020, which approved VMT thresholds for CEQA compliance purposes. A project is considered to have a less than significant impact related to VMT if it is located in a low VMT generating traffic analysis zone (TAZ). As specified within the Adelanto's VMT Guidelines, the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) VMT Screening Tool has been used to determine if the Project site is located within a Low VMT Zone. Results of the Screening Tool are shown on Table 4.17.1, SBCTA VMT Screening Tool Results.

Table 4.17.1 SBCTA VMT Screening Tool Result

Description	Results
Assessor Parcel Number (APN)	0459-014-13
Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)	53895101
TAZ VMT	28.9
Jurisdiction VMT	27.9
% Difference	3.46% Below Threshold
In Low VMT TAZ	Yes

Source: Tentative Tract Map (TTM) 20471 Vehicles Miles Traveled Screening Analysis, prepared by RK Engineering Group, Inc., March 15, 2022.

Pursuant to the City of Adelanto Guidelines, the proposed project is located in a Low VMT Area and may be presumed to have a less than significant impact to VMT without the need for a detailed VMT modeling analysis. As shown on Table 4.17.1 above, Project generated VMT is below the City's VMT threshold. The Project will not require a full VMT analysis and impacts are less than significant.

Threshold 4.17(b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The proposed roadway improvement will be designed in accordance with the City of Adelanto's *Standard Drawings and Specifications* requirements. In addition, the Project is located in an area planned for residential uses. As such, the Project would not be incompatible with existing development in the surrounding area to the extent that it would create a transportation hazard because of an incompatible use.

Threshold 4.17(b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Result in inadequate emergency access?		✓		

Impact Analysis

The Project would improve Vintage Road, Koala Road, Muskrat Road and Chamberlaine Way adjacent to the Project site per City standards. Emergency access would be available from these streets connecting to the citywide circulation system. During the course of the preliminary review of the Project, the Project's transportation design was reviewed by the City's Engineering Department, Fire Department, and Sheriff's Department to ensure that adequate access to and from the site would be provided for emergency vehicles.

4.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

§21074 of the Public Resources Code describes Tribal Cultural Resources as follows:

(a) "Tribal cultural resources" are either of the following:

(1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:

(A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.

(B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.

(2) 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 Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

(b) A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of subdivision (a) is a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape.

(c) A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a “nonunique archaeological resource” as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms with the criteria of subdivision (a).

Threshold 4.18 (a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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)?				✓

Impact Analysis

As detailed in Section 4.5, *Cultural Resources*, a prehistoric isolate, designated temporarily as 3840-1, is the only cultural resource more than 50 years of age identified within the Project area. Such isolates, or localities with fewer than three artifacts, by definition do not qualify as archaeological sites due to the lack of contextual integrity. Therefore, they do not constitute potential historical resources. Based on these findings no historical resources identified as tribal cultural resources exist within the project area and therefore no adverse change would occur.

Threshold 5.18 (b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the		✓		

Threshold 5.18 (b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?				

Sacred Lands File Search

A Sacred Lands File request was sent by CRM TECH to the State of California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a records search on February 14, 2022. The NAHC is the State of California's trustee agency for the protection of "tribal cultural resources," as defined by California Public Resources Code §21074, and is tasked with identifying and cataloging properties of Native American cultural value, including places of special religious, spiritual, or social significance and known graves and cemeteries throughout the state. In response to CRM TECH's inquiry, the Native American Heritage Commission states in a letter dated March 30, 2022, that the Sacred Lands File yielded negative results for Native American cultural resources in the vicinity of the project area.

Assembly Bill (AB) 52

The provisions in the Public Resources Code related to tribal cultural resources created a process for consultation with California Native American Tribes during the CEQA process. Tribal Governments can request consultation with a lead agency and give input into potential impacts to tribal cultural resources before the agency decides what kind of environmental assessment is appropriate for a proposed project. The City commenced the AB 52 process by sending out consultation invitation letters March 23, 2022, to the following tribes who previously requested notification pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1.

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

To date, the City has no record that any tribes requested consultation. However, because the Project site is located within Serrano ancestral territory and, therefore, may of interest to a tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the area, Mitigation Measures TCR-1 and TCR-2 are made a part of the project/permit/plan conditions.

Mitigation Measure TCR-1. Inadvertent Discovery. *If cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 50-foot buffer) shall cease*

and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period.

Mitigation Measure TCR-2. Human Remains. If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and that code enforced for the duration of the project. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her representative, the MLD may inspect the site of discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD shall make recommendations as the manner in which to treat the human remains and any associated offerings.

4.19 Utilities And Service Systems

Threshold 4.19 (a). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?		✓		

Impact Analysis

The Project does not require that the existing utility infrastructure be relocated as the Project will connect to the existing infrastructure facilities adjacent to the Project site. However, the installation and construction of the sewer, water, storm drainage facilities described below will result in earth moving that may impact Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils (Paleontological Resources), and Tribal Cultural Resources.

Water Service

The Project will connect to the existing waterlines in the immediate vicinity (e.g. Vintage Road and/or Muskrat Avenue).

Sewer Service

The Project will connect to the existing sewer lines in the immediate vicinity (e.g., Vintage Road and/or Muskrat Avenue).

Storm Drainage Improvements

The proposed condition is to utilize dual basins for water quality and flood routing for the site. The design will incorporate controlled basin outlets at the northeastern and northwestern corners of the site. This approach will maintain the existing drainage patterns. The site run-off has been routed to the basin using the streets and typical surface collection facilities for water quality and flood control.

Electric Power Facilities

The Project will connect to the existing Southern California Edison electrical distribution facilities available in the vicinity of the Project site.

Natural Gas Facilities

The Project will connect to the existing Southwest Gas Corporation natural gas distribution facilities available in the vicinity of the Project site.

Telecommunication Facilities

Telecommunication facilities include a fixed, mobile, or transportable structure, including, all installed electrical and electronic wiring, cabling, and equipment, all supporting structures, such as utility, ground network, and electrical supporting structures, and a transmission pathway and associated equipment in order to provide cable TV, internet, telephone, and wireless telephone services to the Project site. Services that are not provided via satellite will connect to existing facilities maintained by the various service providers.

Conclusion

Construction or installation of utilities and service systems may impact Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-6, CR-1, GEO-1, GEO-2, TCR-1 and TCR-2 are required.

Threshold 4.19 (b). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple years?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The Project would be served with potable water by the Adelanto Public Utility Authority. The City's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan indicates the gallons per capita water use at 116 gallons per day per capita (GPCD)³⁵. The project is estimated to increase the population by approximately 663 persons, which would create an additional water demand of 85-acre feet per year.

Adelanto has groundwater wells within its distribution system that are actively used to pump groundwater from the Mojave River Groundwater Basin, which lies beneath Victor Valley.³⁶ The Mojave Basin Area was the subject of a court ordered adjudication in 1993 due to the rapid growth within the area, increased withdrawals, and lowered groundwater levels. The court's Judgment appointed Mojave Water Agency (MWA) as Watermaster of the Mojave Basin Area. The court ordered adjudication of the Mojave Basin Area allocates a variable Free Production Allowance (FPA) to each purveyor that supplies more than 10 AFY, including Adelanto.

Each allocated FPA represents the purveyor's share of the water supply available from the MWA Subarea. FPAs are determined as a percentage of the purveyor's highest verified annual use from 1986 to 1990. The FPA, which is currently set at 80 percent of the Base Annual Production (BAP) for agriculture and 60 percent of BAP for municipal and industrial and industrial producers, can vary from year to year depending on the Watermaster's safe yield projections for the Basin. If Adelanto, or another purveyor, pumps more than its allotted FPA in any year, they are required to purchase replacement water equal to the amount of production in excess of the FPA. Replacement obligations are satisfied by paying MWA and then purchasing unused FPA within the subarea.

Pursuant to paragraph 24 (o) of the Judgment After Trial dated January 10, 1996, the Watermaster is required to make a recommendation to the Court for adjusting the FPA of each Subarea, if necessary. The City is located within the Alto Subarea. Based on the most recent (2021) annual report, the FPA in the Alto Subarea is within 5% of the Projected Safe Yield (PSY) of BAP (1.3%). Municipal and Industrial producers' FPA is within 5% of the indicated PSY at the

³⁵ Adelanto 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, August 25, 2021, p. 5-3, accessed on June 18, 2022

³⁶ Adelanto 2015 Urban Water Management Plan, June 6, 2016, p. 23.

current level of 55%. However, it is recommended that Agricultural producers FPA be reduced by 5% to 60% for Water Year 2021-22. Municipal and industrial producers FPA will remain at 55% for Water Year 2021-22. As noted above, FPA is within 5% (percentage of BAP) of PSY and thus, the Watermaster not compelled to recommend ramp down.³⁷

Threshold 4.19 (c). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			✓	

Impact Analysis

The Adelanto Public Utilities Authority is the sole agency for collecting, treating and discharging wastewater within its service area through the Adelanto Wastewater Treatment Facility. Wastewater from Adelanto's water service area is collected and treated at the City-owned 4.0 MGD activated sludge wastewater treatment facility through an operations and maintenance contract with the PERC Water Corporation.

Municipal wastewater is generated in Adelanto's service area from a combination of residential, commercial, and industrial sources. The quantities of wastewater generated are generally proportional to the population and water usage in the service area. It is estimated that Adelanto's customers generate wastewater roughly proportional to 60 to 70 percent of the City's water demand. Based on the 70% wastewater to water calculation the Project is estimated to generate 24,000 gallons or 0.03 MGD of wastewater per day.

With the recent expansion of the Adelanto Wastewater Treatment Facility to 4.0 MGD, the City would have adequate capacity to serve the Project's wastewater needs and would not significantly impact existing commitments. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

³⁷ Mojave Area Basin Watermaster, available at: <https://www.mojavewater.org/files/28AR2021.pdf> Annual Report for Water Year 2020-21 accessed on June 9, 2022.

Threshold 4.19 (d). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Generate solid waste more than State or local standards, or more than the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Construction Related Impacts

The California Green Building Standards Code (“CAL Green”) requires all newly constructed buildings to prepare a Waste Management Plan and divert construction waste through recycling and source reduction methods. The City of Victorville Building and Safety Department reviews and approves all new construction projects required to submit a Waste Management Plan. Mandatory compliance with CAL Green solid waste requirements.

Operational Related Impacts

The Project is estimated to generate 41 tons of solid waste per year³⁸. The amount of estimated solid waste generated by the Project is derived from the California Emissions Estimator Model, which is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to provide a uniform platform for government agencies, land use planners, and environmental professionals to quantify potential criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with both construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. The model also quantifies the amount of solid waste generated by a project. The program uses annual waste disposal rates from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) data for individual land uses.

Although, solid waste may ultimately be disposed of at various landfills, the closest landfill to the Project site is the Victorville Sanitary Landfill located at 18600 Stoddard Wells Road, approximately 10.5 miles to the east. According the CalRecycle website, the Victorville Sanitary Landfill has a daily throughput of 3,000 tons per day and a remaining capacity of 93,400,000 cubic yards. The expected closure is October 1, 2047.³⁹ As such, there is adequate landfill capacity to serve the Project.

³⁸ Appendix A-TTM20471 CalEEMod Datasheets.

³⁹ <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/SiteActivity/Details/1870?siteID=2652>, accessed on June 11, 2022.

Threshold 4.19 (e). Would the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			✓	

Impact Analysis

Avco Disposal (Burrtec) currently provides solid waste collection services to the City. Avco is required to provide these services in compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

4.20 Wildfire

Threshold 4.20 (e). Wildfire.	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Is the project located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones?				✓

Impact Analysis

A wildfire is a nonstructural fire that occurs in vegetative fuels, excluding prescribed fire. Wildfires can occur in undeveloped areas and spread to urban areas where the landscape and structures are not designed and maintained to be ignition resistant. As stated in the State of California's General Plan Guidelines: *"California's increasing population and expansion of development into previously undeveloped areas is creating more 'wildland-urban interface' issues with a corresponding increased risk of loss to human life, natural resources, and economic assets associated with wildland fires."* To address this issue, the state passed Senate Bill 1241 to require that General Plan Safety Elements address the fire severity risks in State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs).

According to the *California Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer* maintained by Cal Fire, the Project site is not located within a high wildfire hazard area⁴⁰. Project site is not located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. As such, Thresholds 4.20 (a) through 4.20 (d) below require no response.

- ☐ Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

⁴⁰<https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/>, accessed on June 10, 2022.

- 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.
- 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.
- Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, because of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

4.21 Mandatory Findings Of Significance

Threshold 4.21(a) Does the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		✓		

Impact Analysis

As indicated in this Initial Study, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Soils and Geology, and Tribal Cultural Resources may be adversely impacted by Project development. The following mitigation measures are required to reduce impacts to less than significant levels:

- BIO-1: CDFW Incidental Take Permit for Western Joshua Tree (during candidacy period)
- BIO-2: Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Survey.
- BIO-3: Burrowing Owl Avoidance/Relocation.
- BIO-4: Mojave Ground Squirrel Pre-Construction Survey.
- BIO-5: Desert Tortoise Pre-Construction Survey.
- BIO-6: Nesting Bird Pre-Construction Survey.
- CR-1: Archaeological Inadvertent Discovery.
- GEO-1: Inadvertent Discovery of Paleontological Resources
- GEO-2: Paleontological Treatment Plan
- TRC-1: Tribal Cultural Inadvertent Discovery

▪ TRC-2: Human Remains

Threshold 4.21 (b) Does the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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)?		✓		

The cumulative impacts analysis provided here is consistent with Section 15130(a) of the CEQA Guidelines in which the analysis of cumulative effects of a project is based on two determinations: Is the combined impact of this project and other projects significant? If so, is the project’s incremental effect cumulatively considerable, causing the combined impact of the projects evaluated to become significant? The cumulative impact must be analyzed only if the combined impact is significant, and the project’s incremental effect is found to be cumulatively considerable (CEQA Guidelines 15130(a)(2) and (3)).

The analysis of potential environmental impacts in Section 4.0, *Environmental Analysis*, of this Initial Study concluded that the Project would have *no impact* or a *less than significant impact* for all environmental topics, with the exception of Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils (Paleontological Resources), Tribal Cultural Resources, and Utilities and Service Systems (installation of facilities that involves disturbance of previously undisturbed land). For these resources, Mitigation Measures are required to reduce impacts to less than significant levels as discussed below.

Biological Resources

As discussed in Section 4.4, *Biological Resources*, of this Initial Study, future development of the site will impact the general biological resources present on the site, and most of the vegetation, including 142 WJT’s will be removed during future construction activities. Mitigation Measure BIO-1, which requires compensatory mitigation as part of an Incidental Take Permit process, will ensure that impacts are fully mitigated.

Wildlife will also be impacted by development activities and those species with limited mobility (i.e., small mammals and reptiles) will experience increases in mortality during the construction phase. More mobile species (i.e., birds, large mammals) will be displaced into adjacent areas and will likely experience minimal impacts.

Although wildlife species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulation, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were not detected, the project site is located within the range of the Burrowing Owl, Mojave Ground Squirrel, Desert Tortoise, and Nesting Birds. Therefore, the Mitigation Measures BIO-2 through BIO-6 are included to ensure any impacts are less than significant to these species.

Overall, the loss of about 42.44-acres of disturbed 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 desert region. Based on the preceding analysis, the Project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

Cultural Resources

As discussed in Section 4.5, *Cultural Resources*, of this Initial Study, the records search and field survey did not identify any historical resources or unique archaeological resources within the Project site boundaries. Research results, combined with surface conditions have failed to indicate sensitivity for buried cultural resources. No additional cultural resources work, or monitoring is necessary during proposed activities associated with the development of the earthmoving activities. If previously undocumented cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find, diverting construction excavation, if necessary, as required by Mitigation Measure CR-1. Based on the preceding analysis, the Project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

Geology and Soils (Paleontological Resources)

As discussed in Section 4.7, *Geology and Soils*, of this Initial Study, the property is situated in the Mojave Desert geomorphic province. The Mojave Desert province is a wedge-shaped area that is enclosed on the southwest by the San Andreas fault zone, the Transverse Ranges province and the Colorado Desert province, on the north and northeast by the Garlock fault zone, the Tehachapi Mountains and the Basin and Range province, and on the east by the Nevada and Arizona state lines, and the Colorado River. The area is dominated by broad alluviated basins that are mostly aggrading surfaces that are receiving non-marine continental deposits from the adjacent upland areas. More specific to the subject property, the site is located in an area geologically mapped to be underlain by alluvium. Alluvium has the potential to contain paleontological resources. Therefore, Mitigation Measures GEO-1 and GEO-2 are required. Based on the preceding analysis, the Project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

Tribal Cultural Resources

As discussed in Section 4.18, *Tribal Cultural Resources*, of this Initial Study, construction and operation of the Project could potentially impact tribal cultural resources. Pending results of the

AB52 tribal consultation process, Mitigation Measures TCR-1 and TCR-2 are required. Based on the preceding analysis, the Project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

Utilities and Service Systems

As discussed in Section 4.19 *Utilities and Service Systems*, of this Initial Study, the installation and construction of the sewer, water, storm drainage facilities described below will result in earth moving that may impact Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils (Paleontological Resources), and Tribal Cultural Resources. Potential impacts to these resources are mitigated by Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-6, CR-1, GEO-1 and GEO-2, and TCR-1 through TCR-2. Based on the preceding analysis, the Project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

Threshold 4.21 (c) Does the Project:	Potentially Significant or Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			✓	

As indicated by this Initial Study, the Project will not result in potentially significant environmental impacts that directly affect human beings (i.e., Air Quality, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, and Utilities and Service Systems).