

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST FORM
CITY OF PASO ROBLES**

1. PROJECT TITLE:

First Step Homeless Navigation Center
[P19-0127; GPA19-03; PD19-13; RZN19-03]

2. LEAD AGENCY:

Contact: Darren Nash, City Planner
City Paso Robles
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Phone: (805) 237-3970

Email: DNash@prcity.com

3. PROJECT LOCATION:

3100 Sulphur Springs Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446;
APN: 008-051-026 (project impact area), 008-021-006, 008-051-002, 008-051-004

4. PROJECT PROPONENT

City of Paso Robles

5. GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION:

Commercial Service (CS)

6. ZONING:

Commercial/Light Industry (C3)

7. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO), a California nonprofit public benefit corporation based out of Atascadero, in cooperation with the City of Paso Robles (City), is proposing to design and construct a 48-bed dormitory-style homeless navigation center and shelter facility (project). The project would be located on City-owned property (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 008-051-026) at 3100 Sulphur Springs Road, south of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) (Figures 1 and 2).

ECHO is engaged in the business of providing supportive services to assist individuals and families who are homeless, including residential services and housing placement, case management services, meal services, nutrition services, shower services, and children's programs.

Project Objectives

The City desires to retain services to address homelessness and to help establish, fundraise, and operate an emergency warming center in Paso Robles for the homeless. ECHO wishes to provide such services to the City, and ECHO would operate the navigation center utilizing funds provided by the City.

The City received Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) grant funds. The HEAP grant is a one-time only, limited-term formula block grant awarded by San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care (SLO CoC), which the City would use to construct a homeless navigation center and shelter facility under this project.

Existing Facilities

There is currently a shortage of facilities available to meet the needs of the City's homeless population. The nearest "full-service" homeless center is located in San Luis Obispo, approximately 25 miles from Paso Robles. In Paso Robles, Transitional Food and Shelter, Inc. operates a temporary, emergency shelter program for homeless persons too ill, injured, or disabled to be in an overnight homeless navigation center. Loaves and Fishes, a private non-profit, also provides emergency food and motel vouchers for the needy and homeless. They are open between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Proposed Facilities

The project would consist of a single-story, 7,525-square-foot metal building that would include the following components:

- a 1,123-square-foot lobby area;
- a 734-square-foot dining area;
- a 226-square-foot kitchen/serving area;
- a 550-square-foot office area;
- a 244-square-foot conference room;
- a 698-square-foot restroom area;
- a 1,894-square-foot dormitory sleeping area;
- a 957-square-foot family sleeping area;
- a 251-square-foot laundry area; and
- a 264 square-foot storage area.

Other improvements would include a new 17-stall parking lot, a bike rack for at least eight bikes (to be installed by the City post-construction), trash enclosures, exterior cart storage, bioretention infrastructure, and landscaping. An insulated shipping container would be installed with a heating system for bed bug mitigation. A new 24-foot-wide driveway would be installed off Sulphur Springs Road. The perimeter of the site would be enclosed by a chain-link fence for security and security cameras would be installed. Frontage improvements would include construction of a 394-foot-long separated 6-foot-wide asphalt concrete (AC) sidewalk adjacent to Sulphur Springs Road. Figure 3 illustrates the proposed site plan for the project.

Two existing valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) trees (one 14 inches in diameter at breast height [dbh], the other 16 inches dbh) and one 24-inch dbh coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) tree would be protected

and retained by the project. Three coast live oak trees less than 6 inches dbh would be removed, along with multiple fruit trees. The project would require 737 cubic yards of earthwork and result in 27,456 square feet (0.63 acres) of site disturbance.

Initially, the facility would operate 24 hours a day from November through April and would be able to house up to 36 clients at a time. At full operation, the facility would operate 24 hours a day year-round and would be able to house up to 48 clients at a time. The entrance gate and facility would be locked from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Meals would be served from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the evening and breakfast-to-go would be served at 6:00 a.m. as clients leave the facility for the day. A shuttle would transport clients to and from the facility from a location to be determined in town. The project would retain three employees year-round and an additional three employees during winter.

Proposed Land Use and Zoning Changes

The project requires a General Plan Amendment change the land use designation of the property (APN 008-051-026) from Commercial Service (CS) to Public Facilities (PF) and a zoning amendment to change the zoning designation from Commercial/Light Industry (C3) to Public Facilities (PF). As part of the General Plan Amendment, the land use designation of the City-owned parcel to the north (APN 008-051-004) would also be changed from Commercial Service (CS) to Public Facilities (PF) for consistency, and, as part of the rezone, the City-owned parcel to the north (APN 008-051-004) and the WWTP (APN 008-021-006 and 008-051-002) would be rezoned from Commercial/Light Industry (C3) to Public Facilities (PF) to reflect the intended use and current nature of the parcels. The WWTP (APNs 008-021-006 and 008-051-002) already has a land use designation of Public Facilities (PF). Figures 4 and 5 illustrate the existing land use and zoning designations of the project site.

Schedule

Construction of the navigation center would begin in approximately May 2020 and occur over a period of 12 months. Construction is expected to be completed by March 2021.

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

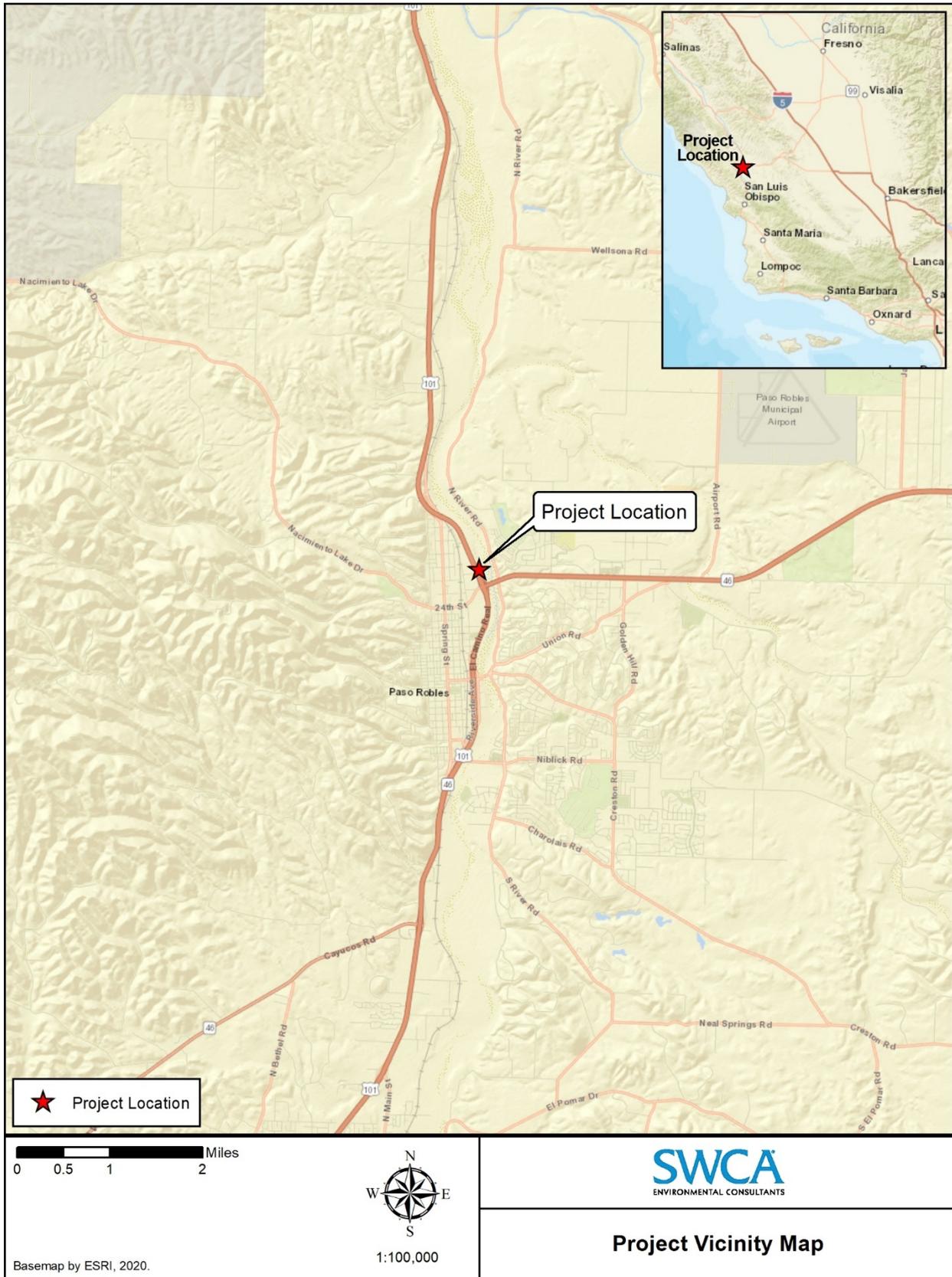


Figure 2. Project Location Map



Figure 3. Proposed Homeless Navigation Center Site Plan

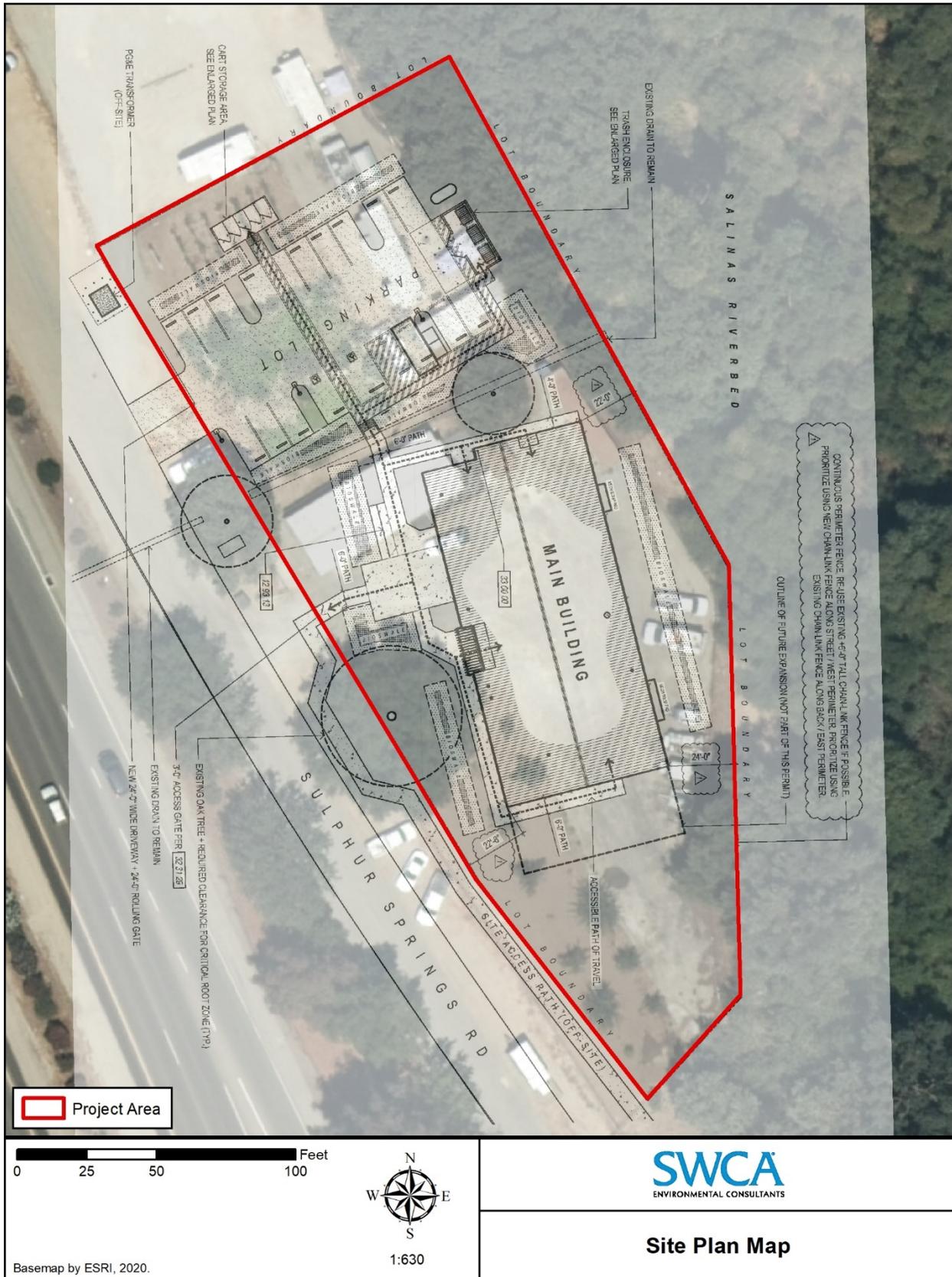


Figure 4. Existing Land Use Designation Map

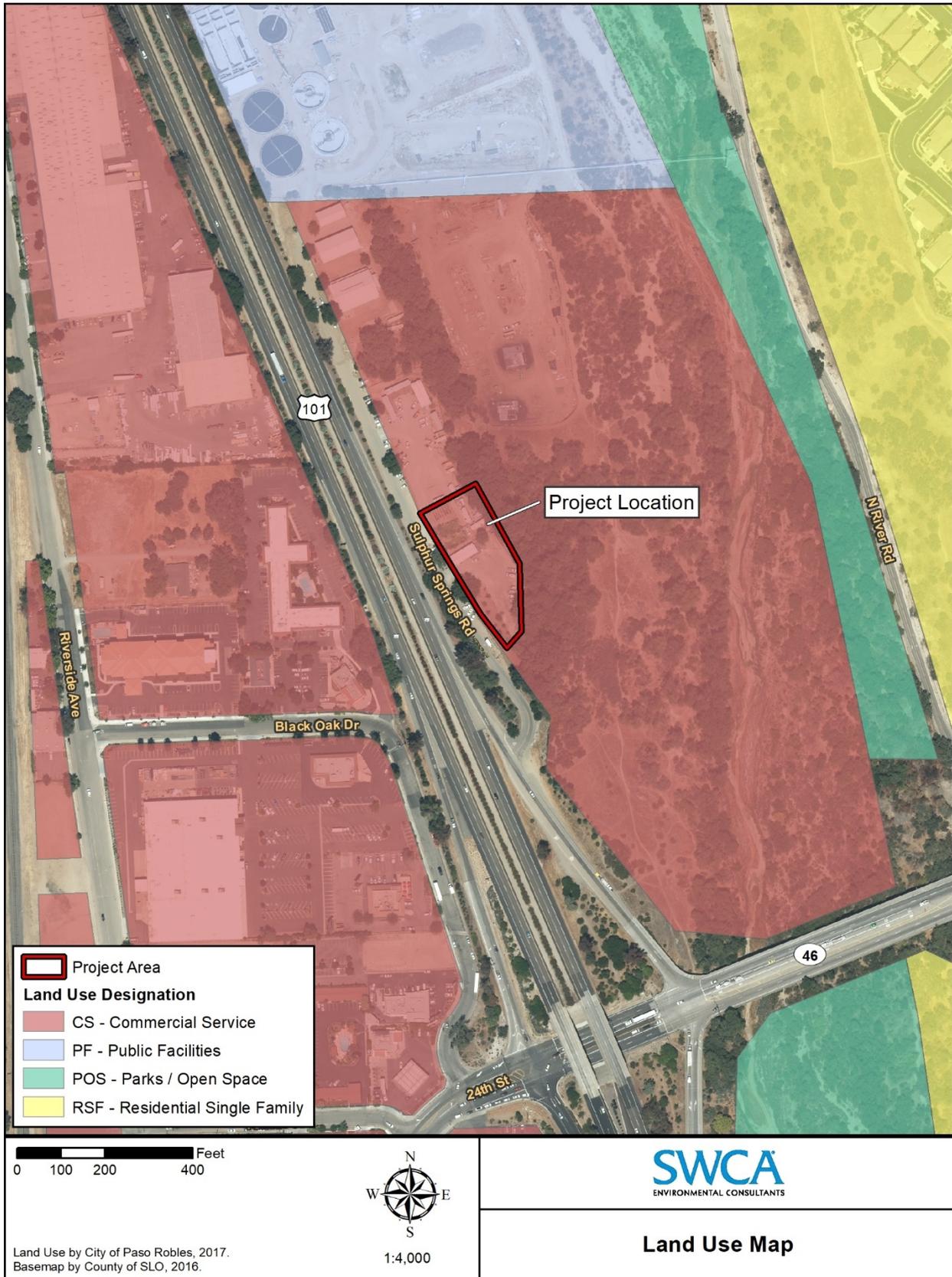
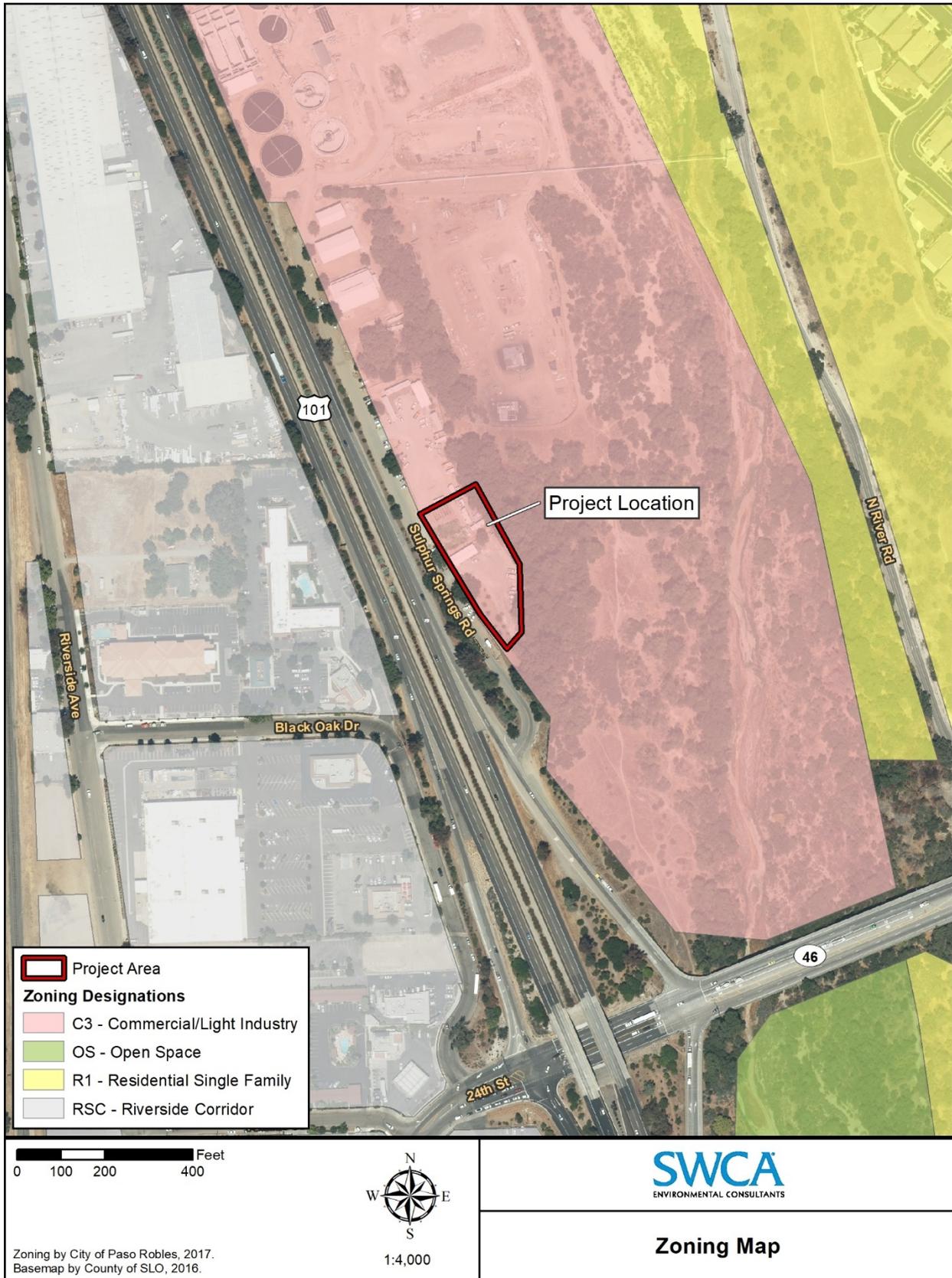


Figure 5. Existing Zoning Designation Map



8. SURROUNDING LAND USES AND SETTING:

Setting

The project site is within the City of Paso Robles Salinas River Overlay. The Land Use Element of the City General Plan notes that development within this overlay is subject to special review for standards related to conservation, access, and recreational opportunities along the Salinas River corridor. The eastern portion of the project site is also located within the Flood Hazard overlay and is subject to special requirements due to flood hazards mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The project site is relatively level, gently sloping to the south and east, and approximately 700 feet above sea level. The project site is underlain by floodplain and river channel deposits consisting of interbedded sand, gravel, silt, and clay sediments of varying thicknesses and consistencies. Relatively shallow groundwater conditions are likely associated with the Salinas River; perched groundwater was encountered at a depth of about 12 feet below ground surface in site explorations. The project site is currently unimproved and occupied by low-lying weedy grasses, three mature trees—including one mature live coast oak tree—and multiple young trees, including several fruit trees associated with the project site's former agricultural uses. The project site is surrounded by an approximately 4-foot-tall barbed-wire fence. The Salinas River riparian corridor is located along the eastern boundary of the project site.

The proposed project is located within the jurisdiction of the City. The regulatory setting pertaining to visual resources includes review of the proposed development's consistency with various elements of the City General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, in addition to the review of findings made in this document per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Elements of the General Plan provide a framework for evaluating proposed projects in regard to their potential to affect the atmosphere of the City.

Surrounding Land Uses

The project would be located on City-owned property at 3100 Sulphur Springs Road, south of the City WTP. The Salinas River and associated open space areas are located immediately east of the project site. A residential neighborhood zoned for single-family uses is located east across the Salinas River. The closest residences are located approximately 0.2 mile to the east and west. Residences to the east are separated from the project site by the Salinas River and associated open space and rest on a bluff approximately 100 feet upslope from the project site. Sulphur Springs Road and U.S. Route 101 (U.S. 101) border the site to the west. Lands farther west across U.S. 101 are occupied by commercial and light industrial uses.

Zoning

The project site is zoned for Commercial/Light Industrial (C3), and the adjacent properties west of the site are zoned for Commercial/Light Industrial (C3). The Salinas River corridor to the east, south, and north of the project site is zoned for Parks/Open Space (POS). The residential neighborhood east of the Salinas River is under the Borkey Area Specific Plan and is zoned for single-family residential uses. The properties west across U.S. 101 from the project site are zoned Riverside Corridor (RC). The residential neighborhood east of the Salinas River is under the Borkey Area Specific Plan and is zoned for single-family residential uses.

Construction-Impacted Areas

Earthwork and project construction would occur within the existing site boundary of the City parcel. The new homeless navigation center would be constructed on the southeast portion of the project site, while the parking lot and driveway would be located on the northwest portion of the project site. The navigation center building would be situated to preserve three existing mature trees on the project site, including one coast live oak tree. Three young coast live oak trees less than 6 inches dbh would be removed, along with multiple fruit trees.

Neighboring Properties

- North:** City Wastewater Treatment Plant
- South:** Salinas River, agricultural land, residential neighborhood
- East:** Undeveloped, U.S. 101/State Route 46 interchange
- West:** U.S. 101, commercial/industrial uses

9. OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (E.G., PERMITS, FINANCING APPROVAL, OR PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT):

The City received HEAP grant funds; the HEAP grant is a one-time only, limited-term formula block grant awarded by SLO CoC.

Additional subsequent approvals and other permits that may be required from federal, state, regional, and local agencies are identified below:

- City approval of a General Plan Amendment to change the land use designation from Commercial Service (CS) to Public Facilities (PF).
- City approval of a Zoning Amendment to change the zoning designation from Commercial/Light Industry (C3) to Public Facilities (PF).
- City approval of a Conditional Use Permit.
- City approval of grading and building permits.
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) encroachment permit for replacement of chain-link fence along Sulphur Springs Road.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

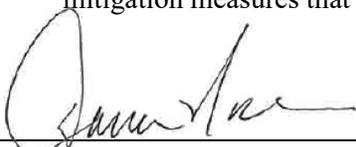
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

DETERMINATION (to be completed by the lead agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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



 Signature

February 7, 2020

 Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

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

Setting

The project site is currently an undeveloped City-owned parcel located just south of the existing WWTP. The relatively level site primarily consists of ruderals and grasses; three mature trees, including one coast live oak tree, are located along the perimeter of the project site. Multiple young trees, including approximately 10 fruit trees associated with the project site's former agricultural use, are scattered around the site. The project site is surrounded by an approximately 4-foot-tall barbed-wire fence. Areas to the north are occupied by the existing WWTP, the Salinas River lies to the south of the project site, and Sulphur Springs Road and U.S. 101 border the site to the west. The immediate area consists of the WWTP, U.S. 101, single-family residential and commercial developments, and open space associated with the Salinas River.

Views of the project site are largely screened by existing vegetation along the east shoulder of the northbound lanes of U.S. 101. Because the proposed homeless center would be consistent with the height, scale, and mass of nearby development and would include architectural design elements and landscaping to improve its appearance, it would not obstruct views of scenic resources or significantly change the

visual character of the project vicinity, and the project is considered compatible with the surrounding uses.

The project site is located within the jurisdiction of the City. The regulatory setting pertaining to visual resources includes review of the proposed development's consistency with various elements of the City General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, in addition to the review of findings made in this document per the State CEQA Guidelines. The Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Elements of the City General Plan provide a framework for evaluating proposed projects regarding their potential to affect the atmosphere of Paso Robles.

Impacts

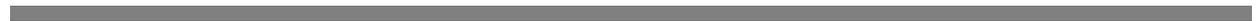
- a.** The project would not have a significant impact on a scenic vista because the site is located below the grade of the U.S. 101 and largely obstructed from view by existing vegetation along the east shoulder of the northbound lanes of U.S. 101, and thus would not interfere with scenic views of the Salinas River or distant ridges. Impacts to scenic vistas would be less than significant.
- b.** U.S. 101 is currently classified by Caltrans as an "Eligible State Scenic Highway – Not Currently Designated" (Caltrans 2019). The project will largely occur on a site that was previously graded and disturbed for agricultural uses. No rock outcroppings or unique geologic features would be affected. Construction of the project, as well as staging areas adjacent to Sulphur Spring Road, would be partially visible from the northbound lanes of U.S. 101 and the northbound U.S. 101 onramp; however, views would be largely obstructed by existing vegetation. The proposed homeless center would be consistent with the height, scale, and mass of nearby development and would include architectural design elements and landscaping to improve its appearance. Impacts to visual resources from an eligible state scenic highway would be less than significant.
- c.** The existing visual character of the site ranges from urban/industrial near U.S. 101, to rural/agricultural within and northeast of the Salinas River. Implementation of the project would not substantially change the visual character of the project site in the long term because the proposed one-story homeless navigation center would be consistent with the height, scale, and mass of nearby development and would include architectural design elements and landscaping to improve its appearance. Therefore, based on the developed character of the U.S. 101 corridor, the proposed building would not be visually inconsistent with the setting. During construction activities, the presence of equipment and materials would affect the visual character of the project site, but construction areas will be largely screened from view by existing vegetation and impacts would be temporary. Impacts would be further reduced by implementing architectural design features and a landscape plan to blend the proposed homeless navigation center building into the Salinas River riparian corridor backdrop. Therefore, impacts to the visual character would be less than significant.
- d.** The homeless navigation center, which is largely obstructed from view from U.S. 101, would be constructed of materials that would not increase the potential for glare visible from U.S. 101, such as the use of non-reflective glass and paint surfaces. The project site is in a relatively urbanized portion of the city with medium levels of ambient nighttime light. Project lighting would be consistent with the ambient light levels from nearby sources, including U.S. 101, the WTP, and nearby commercial, industrial, and residential development. In accordance with City regulations, lighting would be designed to eliminate any off-site glare. Exterior site lights would utilize full cut-off, "hooded" lighting fixtures to reduce off-site light spillage and glare. As a result, the project's impacts to light and glare would be less than significant.

Conclusion

The project would not significantly alter the existing visual character at the project site. The project site is largely obstructed from view from U.S. 101. Implementation of attractive architectural design features and a landscaping plan, which would retain three mature trees along the perimeter of the project site and blends the proposed homeless center building into the backdrop of the Salinas River corridor, would ensure visual impacts are less than significant. Light and glare impacts would be less than significant through the implementation of appropriate building materials and lighting fixtures.

Finding

Potential aesthetic impacts would be less than significant.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The project site is currently unimproved. Although the project site was previously used for agricultural uses, no agricultural uses currently occur on-site. The project site is not under Williamson Act contract. Underlying soils include Hanford and Greenfield gravelly sandy loams (2–9 percent slopes), Still clay loam (2–9 percent slopes), and Xerofluvents-Riverwash association. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) does not rate the project site as Prime Farmland (NRCS 2019). The project site is not designated as Farmland, based on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) Important Farmland Map for San Luis Obispo County (California Department of Conservation 2018). Agricultural uses in the area include livestock grazing and production agriculture northeast of the Salinas River.

Impacts

- a. Based on the location of the project, implementation of the project would not affect Farmland classified by the FMMP. No impacts would occur.
- b. The project site is zoned as Commercial/Light Industrial (C3), and the project site is not under Williamson Act contract; therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. No impacts would occur.
- c. The project site is zoned as Commercial/Light Industrial (C3) and is not zoned for forest land or timberland production. No impacts would occur.
- d. The project site does not contain forest land and therefore would not result in the conversion of forest land to a non-forest use. No impacts would occur.
- e. The project would not encroach upon or convert any active farmland on the project site or in the project vicinity. No impacts would occur.

Conclusion

No impacts to agricultural resources would occur, and no mitigation is necessary.

Finding

Based on the location of the proposed project, no significant agricultural impacts would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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III. AIR QUALITY

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

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The following discussion is based, in part, on the *Air Quality Analysis for the Paso Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant, City of El Paso De Robles, California* (Air Quality Analysis) (SWCA 2010). The Air Quality Analysis was used to inform this analysis because it includes the project site and has identical climatic conditions, and thus is representative of the air quality setting at the project site and the impacts that would occur from project construction and operation.

Setting

San Luis Obispo County is part of the South Central Coast Air Basin. The climate of Paso Robles is influenced by its proximity to the Pacific Ocean. Airflow around the county plays an important role in the movement and dispersion of pollutants. The speed and direction of local winds are controlled by the location and strength of the Pacific high-pressure system and other global weather patterns, topographical factors, and circulation patterns that result from temperature differences between the land and the sea. Data from the Paso Robles airport (2006 to 2008), about 4 miles east of the project site, indicates temperatures range from a high of 114 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) to a low of 12°F, and winds range from calm to almost 90 miles per hour (mph), with an average speed of 6 mph. Surface winds tend to be from the southeast and east in winter months (October through March), and the southwest to northwest from April through September. These differences are a function of surface pressures relative to temperature gradients.

San Luis Obispo County's air quality is measured by nine total ambient air quality monitoring stations; the two nearest this proposed project are located in Atascadero and Paso Robles. Gaseous pollutant levels are measured continuously and averaged each hour, 24 hours a day. Particulate pollutants are generally sampled by filter techniques for averaging periods of 3 to 24 hours. PM₁₀ (inhalable particulate matter ten microns or less in size) and PM_{2.5} (inhalable particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in size) are sampled for 24 hours every sixth day on the same schedule nationwide.

The significance of a given pollutant can be evaluated by comparing its atmospheric concentration to federal and state air quality standards. These standards represent allowable atmospheric contaminant concentrations at which the public health and welfare are protected and include a factor of safety. In San Luis Obispo County, ozone and PM₁₀ are the pollutants of main concern, since exceedance of state health-based standards for those are experienced here. The county has been designated as a non-attainment area for the state PM₁₀ and ozone standards. Ozone levels exceeding the federal and state standards have been measured in Paso Robles, Atascadero, and the Carrizo Plain in recent years. State PM₁₀ standards have been exceeded in various locations throughout the county, including Paso Robles and Atascadero.

On a regional basis, ozone is the pollutant of greatest concern in San Luis Obispo County, particularly in the north and east parts of the county. Ozone is a secondary pollutant, formed in the atmosphere by complex photochemical reactions involving precursor pollutants and sunlight. The amount of ozone formed is dependent upon both the ambient concentration of chemical precursors, and the intensity and duration of sunlight. Consequently, ambient ozone concentrations tend to be highest in the summer. Reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) are the primary precursors to ozone formation. NO_x emissions result primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels; ROG emissions are also generated by fossil fuel combustion and evaporation of petroleum products. Emissions of ROG and NO_x are fairly equally divided between mobile and stationary sources in the county. The major regional PM₁₀ sources are grading, demolition, agricultural tilling, road dust, quarries, and vehicle exhaust.

Air toxics are substances that may cause or contribute to an increase in cancer or serious illness, such as respiratory disease. The federal Clean Air Act (CAA, as amended in 1990) set up a new, nationwide, air toxics control program. The federal program focuses on larger industrial sources that are of the highest national priority, such as chemical manufacturers. State and local air pollution control agencies adopt measures to minimize Californians' exposure to Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs).

An odor is any gas that produces an olfactory response or sensation when inhaled through the nose. An odor threshold is a sensory property that refers to the minimum concentration necessary to produce this response. Although an odor may be detected, it may not be offensive. Offensive odors rarely cause any physical harm but they may create annoyance. Therefore, odor generators are usually segregated away from potential receptors. There are no federal or state regulations controlling odor emissions; however, local air districts do take enforcement action when they receive complaints from "a considerable number of persons." The state law is left intentionally vague to allow local officials leeway in responding and issuing fines and control orders. The primary source of odorous gas emissions in the project vicinity is the existing WWTP, particularly at the headworks (i.e., where untreated septage enters the WWTP). Primary clarifiers and sludge piles constitute less significant odor sources.

Regulatory Setting

Federal

Air quality protection at the national level is provided through the federal CAA, most recently amended through the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. The 1990 CAA Amendments represent the fifth major effort by the U.S. Congress to improve air quality. The federal Clean Air Act is generally less stringent than the California Clean Air Act (CCAA). However, unlike the California law, the CAA sets statutory deadlines for attaining federal standards. The 1990 amendments added several new sections to the law,

including requirements for the control of TACs, reductions in pollutants responsible for acid deposition, development of a national strategy for stratospheric ozone and global climate protection, and requirements for a national permitting system for major pollution sources.

All projects involving an area that has been designated “non-attainment” or “maintenance” for any federal criteria pollutant must comply with the related CAA attainment plan. San Luis Obispo County is currently designated “attainment” for all federal standards and is not designated a maintenance area.

State

The CCAA sets forth California ambient air quality standards and requires all areas of the state to achieve and maintain the air quality standards by the earliest practicable date. These standards are generally more stringent than the federal standards; thus, emission controls that comply with the state law are typically more than sufficient to achieve attainment of the federal standards. The CCAA requires that all Air Pollution Control Districts (APCDs) adopt and enforce regulations to achieve and maintain the state ambient air quality standards for the area under their jurisdiction. Pursuant to the requirements of the law, the San Luis Obispo County APCD (SLOAPCD) adopted a Clean Air Plan (CAP) for their jurisdiction in 1991 and has made subsequent updates and revisions. The county has been designated as a non-attainment area for the state PM₁₀ and ozone standards.

Local

The most recent San Luis Obispo County CAP is used by the SLOAPCD to address attainment of national and state fugitive dust (PM₁₀) and ozone standards for the entire county. The 2001 CAP presents a detailed description of the sources and pollutants that impact the jurisdiction, future air quality impacts to be expected under current growth trends, and an appropriate control strategy for reducing ozone precursor emissions. PM₁₀ emissions are expected to drop as part of the ozone control strategy as well. Further, the City adopted a CAP in 2013.

Global Climate Change

Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, sets goals for reducing greenhouse gasses (GHGs) sufficiently to protect future resources. Interim goals are set for 2020 with a final goal of approximately 80% GHG reduction by 2050. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) must develop state inventories and develop emission reduction programs. Local agencies must also develop inventories and develop programs to meet GHG reduction targets. Senate Bill (SB) 375 requires changes in housing programs, coordination between transportation planning and land use (to reduce car driving), and eliminates CEQA review for some transit projects.

Climate change refers to any significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for an extended period of time (decades or longer). Climate change may result from:

- Natural factors, such as changes in the sun's intensity or slow changes in the Earth's orbit around the sun;
- Natural processes within the climate system (e.g., changes in ocean circulation); or
- Human activities that change the atmosphere's composition (e.g., through burning fossil fuels) and/or the land surface (e.g., deforestation, reforestation, urbanization, desertification, etc.).

Human activities, such as fossil fuel combustion and land use changes, release carbon dioxide and other compounds, cumulatively termed GHGs. GHGs are any gases that absorb infrared radiation in the atmosphere and tend to increase the average planetary temperature. GHGs, as defined in AB 32, include

carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and perfluorocarbons (PFCs).

In November 2013, the City adopted a Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan includes a GHG inventory for the city. According to the GHG Emissions Inventory, in 2005 (the baseline year for the Climate Action Plan), the Paso Robles community emitted approximately 169,557 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) GHG emissions as a result of transportation activities that took place within the transportation, residential energy use, commercial and industrial energy use, off-road vehicles and equipment, solid waste, aircraft, and wastewater sectors. The largest contributors of GHG emissions were the transportation (40%), residential energy use (24%), and commercial/industrial energy use (20%) sectors. The remainder of emissions resulted from the solid waste (8%), off-road vehicles and equipment (8%), aircraft (less than 1%), and wastewater (less than 1%) sectors.

According to the SLOAPCD, climate change may have the following effects on northern inland San Luis Obispo County:

- Agriculture: reduced crop yields, increased irrigation demands, and plant damage from tropospheric ozone. Every 2°F temperature increase reduces food crop yields by about 10% due to pollination failure.
- Public health: increased smog and commensurate respiratory illness and weather-related mortality.
- Water resources: reduced Sierra snowpack, reduced late-summer water supplies, increased water demands, and changed flood hydrology. San Luis Obispo County is increasingly reliant on water imported from other areas of the state, which in turn comes primarily from mountain precipitation.

Impacts

- a. The 2001 CAP includes land use management strategies to guide decision makers on land use approaches that result in improved air quality. Implementation of the project is not anticipated to conflict with the 2001 CAP, because the project is intended to treat the existing homeless population and would not increase population projections estimated in the CAP for the city. Improvements would not significantly increase vehicle trips as the number of employees are limited and clients are expected to be shuttled to and from the site, rather than driving individually. Due to the nature of the project, the proposed use of the site would not require transportation control measures. The project is located within an urbanized portion of the City and would address the existing demand for overnight housing for the City's homeless population. Impacts would be less than significant.
- b. The San Luis Obispo County area is a non-attainment area for the state standards for ozone and PM₁₀. The SLOAPCD administers a permit system to ensure that stationary sources do not collectively create emissions that would cause state and local standards to be exceeded. Implementation of the project has the potential to generate emissions during construction of the project (short-term emissions) and during operation of the proposed shelter building (long-term emissions).

Short-term emissions. Heavy equipment and earth-moving operations generate fugitive dust and combustion emissions. These may have substantial temporary impacts on local air quality. Fugitive dust emissions would result from land clearing, grading operations, and construction equipment operations over the unpaved project site. Combustion emissions, such as NO_x and PM₁₀, are most significant when using large diesel-fueled scrapers, loaders, bulldozers, haul

trucks, compressors, generators, and other types of equipment. The construction of larger projects with a greater amount of ground disturbance in the immediate vicinity, including the WWTP upgrade project, were found not to exceed established thresholds. Thus, due to the limited amount of ground disturbance and construction activities, construction of the project is not expected to exceed any emission thresholds. Nevertheless, mitigation is introduced in the event that fugitive dust emissions occur in the existing PM₁₀ non-attainment area, discussed immediately below.

Fugitive Dust. Site grading would occur over the project site to create a stable, level ground surface, building pad, and parking lot, and trenching activities would occur associated with the required utility services. Heavy equipment performing construction activities would result in fugitive dust emissions from the project site. Specifically, fugitive dust emissions would result from land clearing, excavation, and equipment traffic over the unpaved project site. Impacts from fugitive dust emissions would be potentially significant because they potentially would cause a public nuisance or exacerbate the existing PM₁₀ non-attainment status in the northern areas of the county, including the city. As a result, mitigation is introduced below to reduce emissions of fugitive dust during ground-disturbing and construction activities.

Combustion Emissions (ROG and NO_x). Up to 1 acre of ground disturbance (the approximate size of the parcel) and a limited quantity of soil are proposed for disturbance, which would not exceed 2,000 cubic yards per day. Movement of 2,000 cubic yards per day generates 185 pounds per day (lbs/day) of NO_x (SLOAPCD threshold). Combustion emissions are most significant when using large diesel-fueled scrapers, loaders, bulldozers, haul trucks, compressors, generators, and other heavy equipment. Emissions can vary substantially from day to day, depending on the level of activity and the specific type of operation. ROG and NO_x are the critical pollutants caused by construction work because of the high output of these pollutants by heavy diesel equipment normally used in grading operations. In July 1999, the CARB listed diesel exhaust as a TAC, identifying both chronic and carcinogenic public health risks. There is no threshold below which there are no significant health risks. Although construction activities would not exceed daily thresholds for diesel particulate matter, the project would occur in a developed area, with existing single-family residences located approximately 1,000 feet to the immediate east, and, therefore, would be potential exposure to humans from diesel particulate matter. Implementation of standard SLOAPCD measures, introduced as project mitigation measures below, would reduce the construction-related combustion emissions of ROG and NO_x.

Long-term Emissions. The threshold criteria established by the SLOAPCD to determine the significance and appropriate mitigation level for long-term operational emissions (i.e., vehicular and area source emissions) from a project are presented in Table 1. Emissions that equal or exceed the designated threshold levels are considered potentially significant and should be mitigated. As the project would serve 36 clients and contain limited restroom, kitchen, and laundry facilities, the project is not expected to exceed the SLOAPCD-established emissions thresholds. For projects requiring air quality mitigation, the SLOAPCD has developed a list of both standard and discretionary mitigation strategies tailored to the type of project being proposed: residential, commercial, or industrial.

Table 1. APCD Thresholds of Significance for Operational Emissions Impacts

Pollutant	Threshold	
	Daily	Annual
Ozone Precursors (ROG + NO _x)	25 lbs/day	25 tons/year

Table 1. APCD Thresholds of Significance for Operational Emissions Impacts

Pollutant	Threshold	
	Daily	Annual
Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)	1.25 lbs/day	n/a
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀), Dust	25 lbs/day	25 tons/year
Greenhouse Gases (CO ₂ , CH ₄)	Not Yet Established	

Source: SLOAPCD CEQA Air Quality Handbook, 2009

Operational Impacts. Due to the limited size of the homeless navigation center, operation of the project is not expected to exceed SLOAPCD-identified thresholds for operational emissions. Following construction, the project site would be covered with buildings, hardscapes, and landscaping, which effectively prevent the generation of fugitive dust. However, operation of the homeless navigation center would result in the new on-site consumption of natural gas for water heating, laundry, and cooking. In addition, operation of the homeless navigation center would result in additional vehicle trips to the project site. However, emissions from these sources would not exceed SLOAPCD-identified thresholds for operational emissions. Thus, long-term operational impacts would be less than significant.

- c. See response to (b) above.
- d. The project site is located approximately 0.2 mile from a residential area. As discussed above, construction of the project would generate emissions, including DPM and fugitive dust. These emissions would not exceed SLOAPCD thresholds; however, due to the proximity of sensitive receptors, mitigation is recommended to reduce the potential for a nuisance, and exposure to DPM. Impacts would be less than significant.
- e. The project does not propose a land use that would typically cause an odor nuisance. On-site trash receptacles would be covered and properly maintained to prevent adverse odors, and no adverse impacts are anticipated. Therefore, project implementation would not result in significant odors affecting the surrounding area. Impacts would be less than significant.

Conclusion

Implementation of the project would result in potential significant but mitigable impacts during construction activities, including generation of air emissions, including DPM; generation of fugitive dust potentially affecting sensitive receptors; and exposure of asbestos. Implementation of standard mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Prior to commencement of grading, demolition, and construction activities, the contractor shall include the following Best Available Control Technology measures for diesel-fueled construction equipment on final grading and construction plans. These measures will reduce reactive organic gases, nitrogen oxides, and diesel particulate matter emissions from construction equipment:

- a. Maintain all construction equipment in proper tune according to manufacturer’s specifications;

- b. Fuel all off-road and portable diesel-powered equipment with California Air Resources Board (CARB)-certified motor vehicle diesel fuel (non-taxed version suitable for off-road);
- c. Use diesel construction equipment meeting CARB's Tier 3 certified engines or cleaner off-road heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State Off-road Regulation;
- d. Use on-road heavy-duty trucks that meet the CARB's 2012 or cleaner certification standard for on-road heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State On-Road Regulation;
- e. Construction or trucking companies with fleets that do not have engines in their fleet that meet the engine standards identified in the above two measures (e.g., captive or nitrogen oxide-exempt area fleets) may be eligible by proving alternative compliance;
- f. All on- and off-road diesel equipment shall not idle for more than 5 minutes. Signs shall be posted in the designated queuing areas and or job sites to remind drivers and operators of the 5-minute idling limit;
- g. Diesel idling within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors is not permitted;
- h. Staging and queuing areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors;
- i. Electrify equipment when feasible;
- j. Substitute gasoline-powered in place of diesel-powered equipment, where feasible; and
- k. Use alternatively fueled construction equipment on-site where feasible, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane, or biodiesel.

Mitigation Measure AQ-2:

Prior to commencement of grading, demolition, and construction activities, the contractor shall include the following measures to control fugitive dust on final grading and construction plans. These measures will reduce fugitive dust (PM₁₀) emissions:

- a. Prohibit dust opacity greater than 10% from any project source beyond the property line;
- b. Prohibit visible fugitive dust on-site that equals or exceeds 20% opacity for 3 minutes or more in any 1 hour;
- c. Provide for monitoring dust and construction debris during construction;
- d. Designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering or other measures as necessary to prevent transport of dust off-site. Duties should include holiday and weekend periods when work may not be in progress (but strong winds are forecast);

- e. Provide the name and telephone number of such persons to the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District prior to construction commencement;
- f. Identify complaint handling procedures;
- g. Fill out a daily dust observation log; and
- h. Provide a list of all heavy-duty construction equipment operating at the site. The list shall include the make, model, engine size, and year of each piece of equipment.

Dust Control measures shall contain the following items or equivalent measures:

- a. Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible.
- b. Water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency shall be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water shall be used whenever possible.
- c. All dirt stockpile areas shall be sprayed daily as needed.
- d. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than 1 month after initial grading shall be sown with a fast-germinating native grass seed and watered until vegetation is established.
- e. All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation shall be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District.
- f. All parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible after initial site grading. In addition, building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.
- g. Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall be posted to not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site.
- h. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, or other loose materials are to be covered or shall maintain at least two feet of free board (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 23114.
- i. Wheel washers shall be installed where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto streets, or trucks and equipment leaving the site shall be washed off.
- j. Parking lots and driveways shall be swept at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water shall be used when feasible.

- k. Permanent dust control measures shall be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil-disturbing activities.

Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Naturally occurring asbestos has been identified by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as a toxic air contaminant. Serpentine and ultramafic rocks are very common in the state and may contain naturally occurring asbestos. Under the CARB Air Toxics Control Measure (ATCM) for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations, prior to construction permit issuance, a geologic investigation shall be prepared to determine the presence of naturally occurring asbestos. If naturally occurring asbestos is found at the site, the City must comply with all requirements outlined in the Asbestos ATCM before grading begins. These requirements may include, but are not limited to: (1) preparation of an “Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan,” which must be approved by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) before grading begins, and (2) an “Asbestos Health and Safety Program,” as determined necessary by the SLOAPCD. Prior to final inspection or occupancy, whichever occurs first, when naturally occurring asbestos is encountered, the City shall receive verification from the SLOAPCD that the above measures have been incorporated into the project.

Finding

Based on implementation of the mitigation measures identified above, potential air quality impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES				
Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The following discussion is based, in part, on the following reports, prepared by SWCA Environmental Consultants:

- *Biological Resources Survey Report for the El Paso de Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California (2009a)*
- *California Red-legged Frog Site Assessment Report for the El Paso de Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California (2009b)*
- *Cultural Resources Survey for the Paso Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, City of El Paso De Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California (2009c)*

- *Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination for the El Paso de Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California (2009d)*

These reports were used to inform this analysis because the project site for the WTP expansion program included this project site and the immediate project vicinity.

Setting

The project site is located on the northern end of the city, between U.S. 101 to the west and the Salinas River to the east. Elevation of the project site is approximately 700 feet above sea level.

The project site is currently an undeveloped City-owned parcel located just south of the existing WWTP. The relatively level site primarily consists of ruderals and grasses; three mature trees along the perimeter of the project site, including a coast live oak tree; three coast live oak trees less than 6 inches at dbh; and approximately 10 remaining fruit trees from the former agricultural use of the project site.

The plant communities within the project vicinity include landscaped/developed, ruderal, seasonal wetland, windrow, central coast live oak riparian forest, central coast arroyo willow riparian forest, central coast riparian scrub, and riverine habitat. Of these plant communities, central coast live oak riparian forest, central coast arroyo willow riparian forest, and central coast riparian scrub are considered sensitive by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). A detailed discussion of the sensitive plant communities found within the project study area is included in the Biological Resources Survey Report (SWCA 2009a).

Special-Status Plants

Based on the literature review, a total of 28 sensitive plant species have been documented in an approximate 10-mile radius of the site (SWCA 2009a). Because the plant species list is considered regional, the range and habitat preferences of those species was analyzed to identify which special-status plant species have potential to occur within the project area. This analysis considers existing habitats, elevation, and soil types found within the site and vicinity. This analysis determined that the following two sensitive plant species may have potential to occur within or directly adjacent to the project study area based on the presence of potential suitable habitat:

- Davidson's bush mallow (*Malacothamnus davidsonii*)
- San Bernardino aster (*Symphotrichum defoliatum*)

Davidson's bush mallow is a deciduous shrub in the Malvaceae family. This species is documented in San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Los Angeles Counties. It is a California endemic found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. The blooming period for this species is June through January. The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) considers this species to be rare and fairly endangered in California (List 1B.2). The project study area includes riparian and forest habitat capable of supporting Davidson's bush mallow; however, this species was not observed during field surveys conducted during July and August 2009.

San Bernardino aster is a rhizomatous herb in the Asteraceae family. The presence of this species is documented in San Luis Obispo County, south to San Diego County, and east towards San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. It is a California endemic found in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grassland (vernally mesic)/near ditches, streams, and spring habitats. This species flowers from July to November. The CNPS considers this species to be rare and fairly endangered in California (List 1B.2). The project

study area supports riparian and forest habitat capable of supporting San Bernardino aster; however, this species was not observed during field surveys conducted during July and August 2009.

Special-Status Animals

Based on a CNDDDB query and a review of existing literature, a total of twenty-five special-status wildlife species were investigated for potential occurrence within the project study area. Within the property, 13 special-status wildlife species were determined to have suitable habitat conditions (SWCA 2009a).

- South-Central California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)
- Western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*)
- Southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata pallida*)
- Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum frontale*)
- Monterey dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes luciana*)
- Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*)
- Yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*)
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
- Least bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)
- Nesting Birds
- Roosting Bats Species

Suitable habitat was also considered to be present for nesting migratory bird species, which are protected under Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918.

South-Central California Coast steelhead is a federally threatened fish species that historically occupied the headwaters of the Salinas River before the Salinas Dam was built in 1954. Over time, the valley portions of the Salinas River (main stem) have become unsuitable for spawning and rearing juvenile steelhead. Steelhead habitat has declined in this portion of the Salinas River due to the presence of a sandy/silt substrate, low flows during the summer and high water temperatures. The lower portions of the Salinas River located in Monterey County function as migration corridor when flows are great enough to connect to the Pacific Ocean. Steelhead are not expected to occur within the project vicinity.

California red-legged frog was listed as federally threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1996, and is also considered a Species of Special Concern (SSC) by the CDFW. Riparian habitat degradation, urbanization, predation by bullfrogs, and historic market harvesting have all reportedly contributed to population declines in this species. California red-legged frogs occur in various habitats during their life cycle. Breeding areas include aquatic habitats such as lagoons, streams and ponds, and siltation and irrigation ponds. California red-legged frogs prefer aquatic habitats with little or no flow, the presence of surface water to at least early June, surface water depths to at least 0.7 meters (2.3 feet), and the presence of fairly sturdy underwater supports such as cattails (*Typha* spp.). The largest densities of California red-legged frog are typically associated with dense stands of overhanging willows and an intermixed fringe of sturdy emergent vegetation. Although no California red-legged frogs were observed while conducting surveys of the project study area in 2009, the study area contains suitable breeding and foraging habitat for this species.

Western spadefoot toad is considered an SSC by the CDFW. The species ranges from Shasta County in the north, southward into northwestern Baja California, Mexico. In California, the known range is entirely west of the Sierra Nevada and desert regions. It is known to occur in elevations that range from near sea level to 4,470 feet. The western spadefoot is a terrestrial species that enters water to breed. It inhabits underground burrows, primarily in washes, floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, and alkali flats, and also in foothills and mountains. For breeding, the species uses temporary rain pools (vernal pools) that persist for more than 3 weeks. The pools are often associated with ephemeral stream courses. During surface activity between late February and late May, females attach egg masses to plant material or submerged rocks in rain pools, and larval development occurs in 3 to 11 weeks. Successful reproduction occurs in pools that lack fishes, bullfrogs, and crayfish. This species typically preys on invertebrates. Although no western spadefoot toads were observed while conducting surveys of the project study area, there is potential breeding habitat within a seasonal wetland located in the vicinity of the project study area. This seasonal wetland area may also provide suitable estivation habitat for this species.

Southwestern pond turtle is considered an SSC species by the CDFW. Pond turtles prefer quiet waters of ponds, lakes, streams, and marshes. This subspecies inhabits reaches of streams that contain deep pools, from 3.0 to 5.2 feet in depth. The ponds favored by turtles typically support emergent and floating vegetation such as cattails and algal mats. The southwestern pond turtle historically has been present in most Pacific slope drainages between the Oregon and Mexican borders. It is mostly aquatic, leaving its aquatic site to reproduce, estivate, and over-winter. Pond turtles also bask on half-submerged logs, rocks, or flat shorelines close to the edge of water. In warmer areas along the central and southern California coast, pond turtles may be active all year. Nesting sites may be more than 400 meters from the aquatic site, but most nests are within 200 meters. Approximately 10 pond turtles were observed nearby in the WWTP ponds during the surveys for the WWTP project, and thus may be also present in the project vicinity for this project.

Coast (California) horned lizard is considered an SSC species by the CDFW. This species is a relatively large horned lizard, less rounded than other species, with numerous pointed scales along the sides of the body and over the back. Only the horns around the head are rigid. The range of the species extends from northern California to the tip of Baja California, distributed throughout foothills and coastal plains in areas with abundant, open vegetation such as chaparral or coastal sage scrub. The species typically occupies open country, especially sandy areas, washes, flood plains, and wind-blown deposits in a wide variety of habitats. The coast horned lizard is a ground dweller, and does not climb shrubs or trees. Egg-laying in southern California extends from late May through June with a mean clutch size of 13 eggs. Coast horned lizards feed on ants and other small insects. One coast horned lizard was observed in the central coast riparian scrub during the surveys for the WWTP. This species was observed within the project study area along the banks of the Salinas River.

Monterey dusky-footed woodrat occurs in coastal central California and is considered an SSC by the CDFW. This subspecies prefers habitats that exhibit a moderate vegetative canopy, with a brushy understory. Dusky-footed woodrats primarily breed in the spring; however, breeding activities may continue throughout the year during favorable conditions, and this species can have multiple litters during the year. Nests (middens) are typically built of sticks and leaves at the base of, or within, a tree or shrub, or at the base of a hill. Middens may measure up to 8 feet in height and diameter. This nocturnal species forages on the ground and primarily feeds on woody plants, but also eats fungi, flowers, grasses, and acorns. A large woodrat midden was observed in central coast live oak riparian forest during the 2009 surveys and additional middens may be present in the project vicinity.

Cooper's hawk are protected by the MBTA and are found in dense stands of live oak (*Quercus* spp.), riparian or other forest habitats, near water. Cooper's hawk forage in broken woodland and habitat edges, where they capture small birds and mammals in the air, on the ground, and in vegetation. This species nests in deciduous trees, usually 6 to 15 meters above the ground; breeding occurs March through August,

with peak activity May through July. Trees and riparian habitat in the project study area provide both nesting and foraging habitat for Cooper's hawk.

Yellow warbler are migratory and broadly distributed throughout North America, though their California distribution is largely restricted to the northern and coastal portions of the state and the Sierra Nevada foothills. Within San Luis Obispo County, this species is a fairly common summer transient of deciduous riparian habitats. Breeding and nesting of yellow warbler typically occurs from mid-April to early August, with peak activity occurring in June. Eggs (typically three to six) are incubated for approximately 11 days, and young fledge approximately 9 to 12 days thereafter. The nesting lifestage of yellow warbler is considered an SSC by the CDFW. Brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds has reportedly reduced numbers of this species statewide, though predation and destruction/clearing of riparian habitat is also implicated in population declines of this species. This species was not observed or heard during the 2009 surveys; however, due to the presence of suitable habitat this species has a potential to occur within the project study area.

Bald eagle was listed as federally and state endangered in 1971 and then proposed for delisting in 1999. Currently, the species is state listed as endangered and recognized as a fully protected species by the CDFW. The bald eagle is a large, dark brown raptor that weighs about 8 to 14 pounds and has a wingspan of 6.5 to 8 feet; adults have a white head and tail. They are a rare or uncommon to locally fairly common winter visitor from October to late March and early April. The breeding range is mainly in mountainous habitats of northern California and the Central Coast Range near reservoirs, lakes, and rivers. Nests are built in the upper canopy of large trees, usually conifers. In most of California, the breeding season lasts from about January through July or August. Bald eagles winter throughout the state in areas that have medium to large bodies of water where their main food source is fish. The project study area provides potential wintering opportunities for bald eagles. Based on personal communication with WWTP Plant Manager Chris Slater in July 2009, for the 2009 survey efforts, this species was observed as an infrequent forager within the project study area. As the habitat communities are relatively the same as they were during the 2009 survey efforts, there is the potential that bald eagles may be present in the project study area.

Osprey is considered an SSC species by the CDFW, and it is protected under the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3513. Osprey is associated with large, fish-bearing waters, primarily in ponderosa pine through mixed conifer habitats. This species preys mostly on fish in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, bays, estuaries, and surf zones. Nests are placed on a platform of sticks at the top of large snags or dead-topped trees, on cliffs, or on manmade structures. Breeding takes place between March and September, with a clutch size of one to four eggs. This species needs tall, open-branched "pilot trees" for landing before approaching the nest and for use by young for flight practice. Two ospreys were observed flying over the project study area during a survey conducted by SWCA in February 2009. One of the two was observed flying into a blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) tree just north of the WTP. As the habitat communities are relatively the same as they were during the 2009 survey efforts, there is the potential that ospreys may be present in the project study area.

Least bell's vireo is a federally and state-listed endangered species that primarily occurs in association with low, dense riparian growth in the vicinity of water or dry river bottoms. Nesting usually occurs along the margins or on twigs of various shrubs, including low-growing species of willow, and breeding and nesting primarily occurs in May and June. The nearest known documented occurrence of least Bell's vireo was observed over the Salinas River in 1983 upstream and downstream of the Bradley Bridge. This species was not observed or heard during surveys. Although riparian vegetation is present within the project study area, this vegetation is not considered suitable habitat for nesting least Bell's vireo due to the high level of disturbance that has resulted in very sparse, low-density vegetation. This species may occur within the project area as an infrequent foraging transient during its migration, but is not expected to be nesting within the immediate vicinity of the project study area.

Nesting Birds (Class Aves) are protected during their nesting period under the provisions of the federal MBTA and California Fish and Game Code Section 3503, and a number of other bird species have the potential for nesting within the project study area. Birds may nest in urban habitats (e.g., buildings, bridges, landscaped ornamental vegetation), windrows, riparian forest and scrub areas, and ruderal habitats. During the 2009 survey efforts, several bird species protected under the MBTA were observed within the project study area. It is likely that these species are still utilizing the project study area for nesting.

Roosting Bat are protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and CEQA, and the CDFW is responsible for administering these acts relative to roosting bats. Large trees on and adjacent to the project study area have the potential to support unknown bat species, including the pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) and hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*). No bats were observed during surveys conducted in 2009; however, if bats are utilizing on-site trees for roosting, the CDFW is empowered to review the project for impacts to the bats and require mitigation for any impacts that may occur. No roosting bats were observed during surveys conducted in 2009.

Regulatory Setting

Federal Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (FESA) provides legislation to protect federally listed plant and animal species. Impacts to listed species resulting from the implementation of a project would require the responsible agency or individual to formally consult with the USFWS or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) to determine the extent of impact to a particular species. If the USFWS or NOAA Fisheries determine that impacts to a federally listed species would likely occur, alternatives and measures to avoid or reduce impacts must be identified. The USFWS and NOAA Fisheries also regulate activities conducted in federal critical habitat, which are geographic units designated as areas that support primary habitat constituent elements for listed species.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The MBTA of 1918 protects all migratory birds, including their eggs, nests, and feathers. The MBTA was originally drafted to put an end to the commercial trade in bird feathers, popular in the latter part of the 1800s. The MBTA is enforced by the USFWS, and potential impacts to species protected under the MBTA are evaluated by the USFWS in consultation with other federal agencies. Several migratory bird species may be present within all habitats within the project study area, including landscaped/developed and ruderal areas. If nesting bird surveys are conducted prior to any ground-disturbing activities, and none are present, impacts to nesting birds are not expected.

California Endangered Species Act

The CESA ensures legal protection for plants listed as rare or endangered and wildlife species formally listed as endangered or threatened. The CDFW also maintains a list of California SSC. SSC status is assigned to species that have limited distribution, declining populations, diminishing habitat, or unusual scientific, recreational, or educational value. Under state law, the CDFW is empowered to review projects for their potential to impact special-status species and their habitats. Under CESA, CDFW reserves the right to request the replacement of lost habitat that is considered important to the continued existence to CESA-protected species.

California Fish and Game Code

California Fish and Game Code Section 3511 includes provisions to protect fully protected species, such as: (1) Prohibiting take or possession “at any time” of the species listed in the statute, with few exceptions; (2) stating that no provision of this code or any other law shall be construed to authorize the

issuance of permits or licenses to “take” the species; and (3) stating that no previously issued permits or licenses for take of the species “shall have any force or effect” for authorizing take or possession. The CDFW is unable to authorize incidental take of fully protected species when activities are proposed in areas inhabited by those species. Sections 3503 and 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code state that it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, with occasional exceptions. In addition, Section 3513 states that it is unlawful to take or possess any migratory bird as designated in the MBTA or any part of such migratory birds except as provided by rules and regulations under provisions of the MBTA.

California Fish and Game Code Section 1603: The CDFW is responsible for conserving, protecting, and managing California’s fish, wildlife, and native plant resources. To meet this responsibility, the law requires any person, state or local government agency, or public utility proposing a project that may impact a river, stream, or lake to notify the CDFW before beginning the project. If the CDFW determines that a project may adversely affect existing fish and wildlife resources, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement is required. A Streambed Alteration Agreement lists the CDFW conditions of approval relative to a proposed project, and serves as an agreement between the City and the CDFW for a term of not more than 5 years for the performance of activities subject to this section. Because the project is outside and above the flow line of the Salinas River, the project would not likely require issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Impacts

- a. **Special-Status Plants.** Field surveys were conducted during the appropriate blooming period for all plant species determined to have the potential to occur within or immediately adjacent to the project site. No special-status plant species were observed during the previous survey efforts. As the habitat communities are relatively the same as they were during the previous survey efforts, and the project area has been maintained in a relatively barren state, no impacts to special-status plant species are expected to occur.

Special-Status Animals. As proposed, project activities are proposed in close proximity to sensitive habitats. These habitats contain or have potential to contain a variety of sensitive wildlife species, including vernal pool fairy shrimp, California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, western spadefoot toad, roosting bats, and nesting birds. The potential for impacts, and recommended mitigation measures for sensitive species are presented below.

Vernal pool fairy shrimp is known to occur approximately 2 miles south of the project study area; however, there are no seasonal wetland features within the project site. Based on the location of the seasonal wetland area outside of areas proposed for facility improvements, the potential sensitive habitat can be avoided during construction and operation of the project. Mitigation to avoid and protect this habitat is recommended to ensure less than significant effects.

Southwestern pond turtle were observed directly within the wastewater treatment ponds at the WTPP north of the project site during field surveys conducted during May 2009. The project site is located approximately 750 feet south of the closest treatment pond.

Coast horned lizard was identified within sandy riverine habitat located within the project study area, but not directly within the proposed project impact area. The project site is located approximately 500 feet west of the riverine habitat in the Salinas River; thus, the likelihood of this occurrence is considered low due to the distance from the habitat and the presence of more suitable habitat nearby (Salinas River).

Western spadefoot toad was not observed within the project study area during surveys conducted by SWCA in 2009. However, due to the known presence of this species in the Paso Robles area, the subterranean lifecycle of the species, and the presence of suitable habitat within the project site, there is a potential that this species may occur within the project site. The likelihood of this occurrence is low and the nearby seasonal wetland would be avoided by implementation of the recommended mitigation measures.

California red-legged frog was not observed during surveys conducted by SWCA in 2009. In order to evaluate the potential for California red-legged frog to occur within the project study area, SWCA conducted a USFWS California Red-legged Frog Site Assessment (SWCA 2009b). As a result of this study, it was determined that this species does not occur within a 1-mile radius of the project study area; however, there is a presence of suitable breeding and foraging habitat within the project study area. Due to the relatively far distance from the Salinas River, it is unlikely that the species would occur on the project site since it lacks appropriate cover from predators, pool depth, and the presence of surface hydrology during the non-rainy season. Although the potential for California-red-legged frog to occur within the project site is low, the City should assume presence of California red-legged frog during all project activities within proximity to suitable habitat. Thus, mitigation measures to protect the California red-legged frog are recommended below.

Monterey dusky-footed woodrat is known to occur within the project study area. Removal of vegetation within the project study area may result in impacts to this species. As a result, mitigation measures to reduce impacts to the Monterey dusky-footed woodrat are recommended below.

San Joaquin kit fox utilize the Salinas River as a wildlife corridor for the purposes of foraging. Based on the existing footprint of facility use areas, implementation of the project would not result in a loss of habitat. Although suitable habitat is present for this species within the project study area, it is unlikely to occur due to the low population numbers and lack of recent observations within the area. In addition, due to the location of the project site, payments of San Joaquin kit fox mitigation fees are not required. Despite this low likelihood of occurrence, mitigation measures are recommended to reduce the potential impact to this species.

- b. The project would not disturb or remove riparian habitat associated with the Salinas River. Central coast live oak riparian forest, central coast arroyo willow riparian forest, central coast riparian scrub, seasonal wetland, and riverine are sensitive plant communities located within and adjacent to the project study area. The project would retain one mature live oak tree (along with two other mature trees), but would remove live oak trees less than 6 inches dbh. Because the project would retain and protect the mature trees on project site, impacts to sensitive natural communities would be less than significant.
- c. Based on the Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (SWCA 2009d) conducted for the project, no portion of the project site is subject to U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Based on a review of aerial photographs and a cursory site inspection, the results of this survey remain accurate. In 2009, a potential jurisdictional area was identified north of the project site at the WTPP—a seasonal wetland area. The seasonal wetland was found to have a nexus with the Salinas River, which flows to the Pacific Ocean (a navigable water of the U.S.). However, the seasonal wetland area is outside of the project site and would not be disturbed by the project. As a result, the project would not result in a significant impact to a protected wetland.

- d. No active nests were noted during surveys conducted in 2009. However, due to the transient nature of these species, project activities (e.g., vegetation removal, noise impacts) could have the potential to directly and/or indirectly impact a variety of nesting migratory bird species, including federally and state-protected species (e.g., Cooper’s hawk, osprey, bald eagle, least Bell’s vireo, and yellow warbler). The potential for these impacts to occur are considered to be very low, considering the relatively small area of disturbance associated within the construction of the homeless navigation center and the fact that only the project would remove only three young live oak trees—all of which are less than 6 inches dbh—and several remaining fruit trees, which are not likely to provide suitable habitat for protected migratory bird species. Nonetheless, the riparian corridor for the Salinas River contains suitable habitat for active nests and the project site contains three mature trees that would be retained. As a result, there remains the potential that active nests may be present and mitigation measures are recommended to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory bird species within the project study area. No roosting bats were observed during surveys conducted in 2009. However, pre-activity surveys are recommended as mitigation to ensure that project activities do not impact roosting bat species.

- e. One coast live oak tree protected by the City of Paso Robles Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance, is present on the site. This tree would be retained and protected by the project, along with two other mature trees. Three young live oak trees less than 6 inch dbh, not projected by the Tree Preservation Ordinance, would be removed by the project. Approximately 10 remaining fruit trees associated with the former agricultural use would also be removed. Although the protected coast live oak tree would be retained by the project, mitigation is recommended to ensure the retained tree is protected during construction and survives following completion of the construction activities.

- f. See responses to (a) through (e) above.

Conclusion

Implementation of the project would result in short-term impacts to sensitive habitats, including individual oak trees, and riparian and wetland habitat. Based on the proximity of the project to the Salinas River, potentially significant impacts to special-status animal species including California red-legged frog, western spadefoot toad, southwestern pond turtle, coast horned lizard, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, least Bell’s vireo, and nesting and roosting birds and bats may occur. Implementation of the mitigation measures listed below is recommended to avoid impacts to sensitive habitat and special-status species to the maximum extent feasible and to reduce potential impacts by implementing construction crew training, environmental monitoring, avoidance of sensitive habitats to the maximum extent feasible, and restoration measures.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Survey timing, site preparation, construction activities, planting installation, maintenance, monitoring, and reporting of the vegetation/restoration efforts shall be done in accordance with applicable regulations. The following measures shall be incorporated by the contractor during construction:

- a. Prior to construction, locations/boundaries of sensitive communities shall be flagged by a qualified biologist. The areas to be protected shall be shown on all applicable construction plans.

- b. Prior to any grubbing or vegetation removal, exclusionary fencing shall be erected at the boundaries of confirmed sensitive habitat areas to avoid equipment and human intrusion adjacent

habitats, including the seasonal wetland feature located within the southern portion of the project study area. The fencing shall remain in place throughout construction activities.

- c. Prior to construction, the City shall specify an on-site mitigation strategy to mitigate for impacts to sensitive communities that may be impacted. Restoration of permanently affected riparian areas, if any, shall occur at a minimum 1:1 ratio, and shall occur within the bank and riparian edge of the Salinas River. This on-site mitigation strategy shall follow permit conditions in the following areas:
 1. Suitable on-site mitigation locations based on soil type, hydrologic conditions, and proximity to existing habitat;
 2. Seed collection requirements and protocol;
 3. Soil seed bank conservation strategies;
 4. Mitigation site preparation techniques;
 5. Seeding regime;
 6. Mitigation site maintenance schedule, including weed abatement strategies, erosion control monitoring, etc.; and
 7. Monitoring requirements.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Prior to start of construction, a qualified biologist shall conduct a worker orientation program for construction staff. The training shall include information on and emphasize the presence of special-status species and habitats identified within the project vicinity during previous field surveys and preconstruction surveys, including, but not limited to, oak trees, riparian and wetland habitat, California red-legged frog, western spadefoot toad, southwestern pond turtle, coast horned lizard, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, nesting raptors and ground-nesting birds, least Bell's vireo, and roosting bats. The training shall also include applicable local, City of Paso Robles, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulatory policies and provisions regarding their protection, and measures to be implemented to avoid and/or minimize impacts.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Construction monitoring shall be conducted by the City of Paso Robles or a designated, qualified biologist at a frequency and duration appropriate for the project construction, based on the species and applicable regulations.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Prior to and during construction, the project shall implement erosion control best management practices. To reduce the potential for inadvertent release of sediment from construction areas to the Salinas River or other sensitive resource areas, the contractor shall install appropriate erosion control devices (i.e., straw wattles, silt fence) around the perimeter of areas of the project site experiencing disturbance of the ground surface. Any storm drains and gutters leading to drainage and/or wetland areas shall be protected by installation of erosion control measures or shall be blocked to prevent water entry. Erosion control devices shall be checked on a daily basis to ensure proper function.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Prior to construction, the City of Paso Robles shall ensure preparation and implementation of a Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan that includes provisions for avoiding and/or minimizing impacts to sensitive habitat areas, including wetland and riparian areas and water bodies due to equipment-related spills during project implementation. The City shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the City shall ensure that the plan allows a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measure to take should a spill occur. The plan shall include the following provisions:

- a. All equipment fueling shall be conducted within designated staging areas of the project site. Such areas shall consist of roadway or ruderal habitat. At no time shall any equipment fueling be conducted within 100 feet of any wetland and riparian habitat area or water body;
- b. An overview of the containment measures to appropriately store and contain all fuels and associated petroleum products during the project shall be included in the plan. This shall include provisions for equipment staging areas, such as the need for drip pans underneath parked equipment and designated storage areas for fuel dispensing equipment with visqueen lining or similar and secondary containment; and
- c. A description of the response equipment that will be on-site during construction and exact procedures for responding to any inadvertent spills including miscellaneous fuel and/or lubricant spills from construction equipment and vehicles during operations. Final specifications of a Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City prior to project implementation.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: The City of Paso Robles shall ensure that all grading and construction plans include the following measures specific to live oak tree protection:

- a. Protection Fencing: Protection fencing shall be shown in orange ink on the grading plan. Protection fencing shall consist of 4-foot-high chain link, snow, or safety fence (staked with t-posts 8 feet on center) at the edge of the critical root zone or line of encroachment for each tree or group of trees. The fence shall be installed prior to initiation of grading and construction activities. The contractor shall be responsible for maintaining an erect fence throughout the construction period. An arborist, upon notification, shall inspect the fence placement once erected. The fence shall not be moved prior to arborist inspection and/or approval. If orange plastic fencing is used, a minimum of four zip ties shall be used on each stake to secure the fence. All efforts shall be made to maximize the distance from each protected tree. Weather-proof signs shall be posted by the general contractor on the fences every 50 feet with the following information: "Tree Protection Zone. No personnel, equipment,

materials, and vehicles are allowed. Do not remove or re-position this fence without calling [Name of Arborist, Phone Number].”

- b. Soil Aeration Methods: Soils within the critical root zone that have been compacted by heavy equipment and/or construction activities shall be returned to their original state before all work is completed. Methods include water jetting, adding organic matter, and boring small holes with an auger (18 inches deep, 2 to 3 feet apart, with a 2- to 4-inch auger) and the application of moderate amounts of nitrogen fertilizer. The arborist(s) shall advise.
- c. Chip Mulch: All areas within the critical root zone of the trees that can be fenced shall receive a 4- to 6-inch layer of chip mulch to retain moisture, retain soil structure, and reduce the effects of soil compaction.
- d. Trenching within the Critical Root Zone: All trenching within the critical root zone of native trees shall be hand dug. All major roots shall be avoided whenever possible. All exposed roots larger than 1-inch diameter shall be clean cut with sharp pruning tools and not left ragged. A mandatory meeting between the arborist(s) and grading contractor(s) shall occur prior to start of work.
- e. Grading within the Critical Root Zone: Grading shall not encroach within the critical root zone unless authorized. Grading shall not disrupt the normal drainage pattern around the trees. Fills shall not create a ponding condition and excavations shall not leave the tree on a rapidly draining mound.
- f. Exposed Roots: Any exposed roots shall be recovered the same day they are exposed. If this is not feasible, exposed roots shall be covered with burlap or another suitable material and wetted down twice per day until reburied.
- g. Equipment Operation: Vehicles and all heavy equipment shall not be driven under the trees, as this will contribute to soil compaction. Vehicles and equipment shall not be parked under the tree canopy, and all areas behind protection fencing are off-limits unless preapproved by the arborist.
- h. Existing Surfaces: The existing ground surface within the critical root zone of all oak trees shall not be cut, filled, compacted, or panned unless shown on the grading plans and approved by the arborist.
- i. Construction Materials and Waste: No liquid or solid construction waste or materials shall be dumped or stored on the ground within the critical root zone of any native tree.
- j. Arborist Monitoring: An arborist shall be present for the following activities: preconstruction fence placement inspection; all grading and trenching within the critical root zone of the tree to be retained; and any other encroachment the arborist feels necessary and as authorized by the City;

- k. **Preconstruction Meeting and Compliance Letter:** An on-site preconstruction meeting with the arborist, City of Paso Robles, and earth-moving construction crew shall be required. Prior to final inspection, a letter from the arborist shall be required verifying the health/condition of all impacted trees and providing any recommendations for any additional mitigation. The letter shall verify that the arborist was on-site for all grading and/or trenching activity that encroached into the critical root zone of the selected native trees, and that all work done in these areas was completed to the standards set forth above.
- l. **Pruning:** Class 4 pruning includes crown-reduction pruning (reduction of tops, sides, or individual limbs). A trained arborist shall perform all pruning. No pruning shall take more than 25% of the live crown of any native tree. Any trees that may need pruning for road or structure clearance shall be pruned prior to any grading activities to avoid any branch tearing.
- m. **Landscape:** All landscape within the critical root zone shall consist of drought-tolerant or native varieties. Lawns shall be avoided. All irrigation trenching shall be routed around critical root zones, otherwise above ground drip-irrigation shall be used.
- n. **Utility Placement:** All utilities, sewer, and storm drains shall be placed down the roads and driveways and, when possible, outside the critical root zones. The arborist shall supervise trenching within the critical root zone. All trenches in these areas shall be exposed by air spade or hand dug with utilities routed under or over roots larger than three inches in diameter.
- o. **Fertilization and Cultural Practices:** As the project moves towards completion, the arborist may suggest either fertilization and/or mycorrhiza applications that will benefit tree health. Mycorrhiza offers several benefits to the host plant, including faster growth, improved nutrition, ground drought resistance, and protection from pathogens.

Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Prior to construction, the City of Paso Robles shall obtain all necessary permits, approvals, and authorizations from jurisdictional agencies. These may include, but may not be limited to: (1) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Nationwide Permit 12; (2) Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Water Quality Certification; and (3) California Department of Fish and Wildlife Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement for activities within the tops of banks or outer edges of riparian canopies (whichever extends furthest from the streambeds) of drainages. The City shall adhere to all conditions included within these permits, approvals, and authorizations.

Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Prior to construction, any riparian and wetland areas shall be shown on all construction plans. All riparian vegetation planned for removal shall also be specified and shown on the construction plans.

Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall permanently remove, from the project area, any individuals of exotic species, such as bullfrogs,

crayfish, and centrarchid fishes, to the maximum extent possible, in compliance with the California Fish and Game Code.

Mitigation Measure BIO-10: During construction, all trash that may attract predators shall be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris shall be removed from work areas.

Mitigation Measure BIO-11: Unless otherwise specified in resource agency permits, at least 30 days prior to the onset of activities, the City of Paso Robles shall obtain a letter of permission from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to relocate any southwestern pond turtles, western spadefoot toads, or coast horned lizards that are present within the project study area. In the event special-status species are observed, qualified specialists shall perform a capture and relocation effort. If present, the qualified biologist shall capture and relocate any pond turtles, spadefoot toads, and coast horned lizards to safe locations outside of the area of impact, pursuant to California Department of Fish and Wildlife conditions. Observations of Species of Special Concern or other special-status species shall be documented on California Natural Diversity Database forms and submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife upon project completion.

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Unless otherwise specified in resource agency permits, at least 7 days prior to onset of activities, a qualified biologist shall survey the work site for the presence of California red-legged frog, coast horned lizard, southwestern pond turtle, and western spadefoot toad. If special-status species, including mature individuals, tadpoles, or eggs are found, the approved specialist shall contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine if moving any of these life stages is appropriate. In making this determination, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall consider if an appropriate relocation site exists. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife approves moving animals, the approved specialist shall be allowed sufficient time to move special-status species from the work site before work activities begin. Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved specialists shall participate in activities associated with the capture, handling, and monitoring of California red-legged frogs, unless otherwise specified in resource agency permits.

Mitigation Measure BIO-13: A qualified biologist shall monitor the work site during construction. The qualified biologist shall be experienced in the identification and protection of California red-legged frogs, coast horned lizard, southwestern pond turtle, western spadefoot toad, and least Bell's vireo. The qualified biologist shall be on-site to perform preconstruction surveys, instruct workers, and monitor activities within sensitive habitat areas and during relocation of special-status species. The qualified biologist shall have the authority to halt any action that might result in impacts that exceed the levels anticipated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife during review of the proposed action. If work is

stopped, the appropriate regulatory agency (e.g., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife) shall be notified immediately by the qualified biologist. The qualified biologist shall also submit a report to the City of Paso Robles documenting the implementation of any required mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measure BIO-14: During construction, in order to reduce the potential for amphibious species and other wildlife species entering the construction area, standing water shall not be created as a result of construction activities.

Mitigation Measure BIO-15: Prior to construction, the project site shall be surveyed by a qualified specialist for identification of woodrat middens. In the event woodrat middens are observed, and the middens cannot be avoided during project activities, then the middens shall be removed as follows, under supervision of the specialist. Due to the health risks surrounding this activity, removal by hand is not recommended.

- a. Upon completion of clearing the vegetation surrounding the woodrat shelter, the operator shall gently nudge the intact middens with equipment or long-handled tools. The operators shall place their equipment within the previously cleared area and not within the undisturbed woodrat shelter area. The objective is to alarm the woodrats so that they evacuate the midden and scatter away from the equipment and into the undisturbed habitat.
- b. Once the woodrats have evacuated the midden, the operator shall gently pick up portions of the structure with a front loader and move it to the undisturbed adjacent habitat. The objective of moving the structure is to provide the displaced woodrats with a stockpile of material to scavenge while they build a new midden. Jeopardizing the integrity of the structure is not an issue.

Mitigation Measure BIO-16: To prevent inadvertent harm to San Joaquin kit fox, prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall perform the following monitoring activities:

- a. Within 30 days prior to initiation of site disturbance and/or construction, the qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-activity (i.e., preconstruction) survey for known or potential kit fox dens and submit a letter to the City of Paso Robles reporting the date the survey was conducted, the survey protocol, the survey results, and what measures were necessary (and completed), as applicable, to address any kit fox activity within the project limits.
- b. The qualified specialist shall conduct weekly site visits during site-disturbance activities (e.g., grading, disking, excavation, stock piling of dirt or gravel, etc.) that proceed longer than 14 days, for the purpose of monitoring compliance with required San Joaquin kit fox mitigation measures. Site-disturbance activities lasting up to 14 days do not require weekly monitoring by the specialist unless observations of kit fox or their dens are

made on-site or the qualified specialist recommends monitoring for another reason. When weekly monitoring is required, the specialist shall submit weekly monitoring reports to the City of Paso Robles.

Prior to or during project activities, if any observations are made of San Joaquin kit fox, or any known or potential San Joaquin kit fox dens are discovered within the project limits, the qualified biologist shall reassess the probability of incidental take (e.g., harm or death) to kit fox. At the time a den is discovered, the qualified biologist shall contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for guidance on possible additional kit fox protection measures to implement and whether or not a federal and/or state incidental take permit is needed. If a potential den is encountered during construction, all work shall stop until such time the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife determine that it is appropriate to resume work.

If incidental take of kit fox during project activities is possible, before project activities commence, the applicant must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (see contact information below). The results of this consultation may require the applicant to obtain a federal and/or state permit for incidental take during project activities. The applicant should be aware that the presence of kit foxes or known or potential kit fox dens at the project site could result in further delays of project activities.

In addition, the qualified specialist shall implement the following measures:

1. Within 30 days prior to initiation of site disturbance and/or construction, fenced exclusion zones shall be established around all known and potential kit fox dens. Exclusion zone fencing shall consist of either large flagged stakes connected by rope or cord, or survey laths or wooden stakes prominently flagged with survey ribbon. Each exclusion zone shall be roughly circular in configuration with a radius of the following distance measured outward from the den or burrow entrances:
 - i. Potential kit fox den: 50 feet
 - ii. Known kit fox den: 100 feet
 - iii. Kit fox pupping den: 150 feet
2. All foot and vehicle traffic, as well as all construction activities, including storage of supplies and equipment, shall remain outside of exclusion zones. Exclusion zones shall be maintained until all project-related disturbances have been terminated, and then shall be removed.
3. If kit foxes or known or potential kit fox dens are found on-site, daily monitoring by a qualified biologist during ground-disturbing activities shall be required.

- Mitigation Measure BIO-17:** During the site disturbance and/or construction phase, grading and construction activities after dusk shall be prohibited unless coordinated through the City of Paso Robles, during which additional kit fox mitigation measures may be required.
- Mitigation Measure BIO-18:** During the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, to prevent entrapment of the San Joaquin kit fox, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches in excess of 2 feet in depth shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Trenches shall also be inspected for entrapped kit fox each morning prior to onset of field activities and immediately prior to covering with plywood at the end of each working day. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they shall be thoroughly inspected for entrapped kit fox. Any kit fox so discovered shall be allowed to escape before field activities resume, or removed from the trench or hole by a qualified specialist and allowed to escape unimpeded.
- Mitigation Measure BIO-19:** During the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, any pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4 inches or greater, stored overnight at the project site shall be thoroughly inspected for trapped San Joaquin kit foxes before the subject pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If during the construction phase a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe will not be moved, or if necessary, be moved only once to remove it from the path of activity, until the kit fox has escaped.
- Mitigation Measure BIO-20:** Prior to, during, and after the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, use of pesticides or herbicides shall be in compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations. This is necessary to minimize the probability of primary or secondary poisoning of endangered species utilizing adjacent habitats, and the depletion of prey upon which San Joaquin kit foxes depend.
- Mitigation Measure BIO-21:** During the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, any contractor or employee that inadvertently kills or injures a San Joaquin kit fox or who finds any such animal either dead, injured, or entrapped shall be required to report the incident immediately to the City of Paso Robles. If any observations are made of injured or dead kit fox, the City shall immediately notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. In addition, formal notification shall be provided in writing within 3 working days of the finding of any such animal(s). Notification shall include the date, time, location, and circumstances of the incident. Any threatened or endangered species found dead or injured shall be turned over immediately to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for care, analysis, or disposition.
- Mitigation Measure BIO-22:** Prior to final inspection, should any long internal or perimeter fencing be proposed or installed around natural habitat areas, the City of Paso Robles shall do the following to provide for kit fox passage:

- a. If a wire strand/pole design is used, the lowest strand shall be no closer to the ground than 12 inches.
- b. If a more solid wire mesh fence is used, 8 × 12-inch openings near the ground shall be provided every 100 yards.

Upon fence installation, the contractor shall notify the City to verify proper installation. Any fencing constructed after issuance of a final permit shall follow the above guidelines

Mitigation Measure BIO-23: If construction activities are conducted during the typical nesting bird season (February 15 through September 15), preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by a qualified specialist prior to any construction activity to identify potential bird nesting activity. If nesting activity is identified during the preconstruction survey process, the following measures shall be implemented:

- a. If active nest sites of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are observed within the project study area, then the project shall be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid direct take of the identified nests, eggs, and/or young;
- b. If active nest sites of raptors and/or bird species of special concern are observed within the vicinity of the project site, then the California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be contacted to establish the appropriate buffer around the nest site. Construction activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence; and
- c. Active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist, and a letter report shall be submitted to the City of Paso Robles, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife documenting project compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and applicable project mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measure BIO-24: A qualified biologist shall conduct roosting bat surveys prior to any trimming or removal of trees. If roosting bats are present, work activities shall not occur within 100 feet of the active roost. If trees that provide bat roosting habitat are removed, the City of Paso Robles shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine the appropriate means of mitigation for loss of the roosting habitat. Removed trees shall be replaced by native trees that provide roosting habitat for bats.

Finding

Based on implementation of mitigation measures identified above, potential impacts to biological resources would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

This section contains setting information and conclusions/recommendations summarized from the *Cultural Resources Survey for the Paso Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, City of El Paso De Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California* (SWCA 2009c). This report is confidential and is on file with the City. The cultural resources study includes a cultural resources records search, Native American Sacred Lands File search, cultural resources survey of the project area, and the preparation of this cultural resources technical report documenting the results of the inventory and providing management recommendations. This report was used to inform the resources evaluation of the project site since this study included the project site, and on-site conditions are mostly unchanged from those observed during the 2009 surveys.

Setting

California prehistory is divided into three broad temporal periods that reflect similar cultural characteristics throughout the state: Paleoindian Period (ca. 9000–6000 B.C.), Archaic Period (6000 B.C.–A.D. 500), and Emergent Period (A.D. 500–Historic Contact). The Archaic Period is further divided into the Lower (6000–3000 B.C.), Middle (3000–1000 B.C.), and Upper (1000 B.C.–A.D. 500) Periods. These divisions are generally governed by climatic and environmental variables, such as the drying of pluvial lakes at the transition from the Paleoindian to the Lower Archaic period.

The project area lies in the Central Coast Archaeological Region, which is one of eight arbitrary organizational divisions of the state. This region extends southward from Monterey Bay through Big Sur to Morro Bay, and includes southern Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties, all of San Benito and Monterey Counties, and most of San Luis Obispo County. The project area is typically considered to be in an area historically occupied by the Salinan. Surrounding native groups include the Esselen and Coastanoan to the north, the Southern Valley Yokuts to the east, and the Chumash to the south.

Post-contact history for the state of California generally is divided into three specific periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1822), the Mexican Period (1822–1848), and the American Period (1848–present). Although there were brief visits by Spanish, Russian, and British explorers from 1529–1769, the beginning of Spanish settlement in California occurred in 1769 with a settlement at San Diego and the first (Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá) of 21 missions established from 1769–1823. The Mexican

Period is marked by an extensive era of land grants, most of which were in the interior of the state, and by exploration by American fur trappers west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The city of El Paso de Robles (Spanish for “the pass of oaks,” today often called simply Paso Robles) is situated on the former lands of the Rancho Paso de Robles. Once an outpost of Mission San Miguel Arcángel, the area has long been known for the many hot springs scattered throughout the rancho lands. The springs were well known to the Native Americans, who referred to the region as “Heaven’s Spot,” because of the springs reputed healing powers. The Franciscan fathers also believed the waters had special properties, claiming the springs could cure everything from arthritis to syphilis.

In 1844, Mexican Governor Micheltorena granted the 25,993-acre Rancho Paso de Robles to Pedro Navarez, who used the land to graze sheep and cattle. One year later, Navarez sold the property to Petronilo Ríos. In 1857, Ríos sold the rancho to a partnership consisting of Daniel and James Blackburn and Lazare Godchaux. Three years after purchasing the rancho, lands were divided up, with the present-day city boundaries falling under the holdings of the Blackburn brothers and brother-in-law, Drury James, who purchased Godchaux’s interest in the rancho.

Improvements at the rancho began immediately. James Blackburn built a residence near the old rancho adobe. The first bathhouse was established in 1864, near what is now the northeast corner of 10th and Spring Streets. Between 1871 and 1873, the bathhouse was expanded several times, to include rooms for billiards, tea, and reading, as well as areas for lawn bowling, tennis, and golf. In 1886, Blackburn and James, hired engineer F.P. McCray of Hollister to lay out a plan to subdivide lots surrounding the hotel and establish the town of Paso Robles.

The Southern Pacific Railroad arrived in October 1886, marking an important turning point in the development of Paso Robles. Rail transportation gave the town the opportunity to expand significantly, opening the resort to people previously unable to endure long stagecoach rides. Additionally, the arrival of the railroad allowed the town to expand its farming operations for long-distance shipping of crops, livestock, and byproducts. By the late 1800s the main agricultural crop of Paso Robles was almonds, earning the town the moniker “Almond City.”

As families arrived, lots were subdivided and sold. The Blackburns set aside land at the center of town to establish a civic center, school, churches, and parks. By 1889, when Paso Robles was incorporated, the town had grown from 523 to nearly 800 residents. By the 1940s, the population of El Paso de Robles had soared to over 3,000 residents. Following the end of World War II, population increases prompted the City to annex lands east of the Salinas River in an effort to expand the city boundaries. Since the 1950s, the city has continued to expand and grow its population, while maintaining a diverse economy that includes agriculture and industry.

Regulatory Setting

Federal

Cultural resources are considered during federal undertakings chiefly under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (as amended) through one of its implementing regulations, 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800 (Protection of Historic Properties), as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to Native Americans are considered under Section 101(d)(6)(A) of NHPA. Other federal laws include the Archaeological Data Preservation Act of 1974, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of 1978, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1989, among others.

Section 106 of NHPA (16 United States Code [USC] 470f) requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings (36 CFR 800.1). Under Section 106, the significance of any adversely affected cultural resource is assessed and mitigation measures are proposed to reduce any impacts to an acceptable level. Significant cultural resources are those resources that are listed on, or are eligible for listing on the NRHP per the criteria listed at 36 CFR 60.4.

State

CEQA requires a lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on historical resources. Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 of the Statutes of CEQA, Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5024.1, and Section 15064.5 of the Guidelines were used as the guidelines for the cultural resources study (Governor’s Office of Planning and Research 1998). PRC Section 5024.1 requires that any properties that can be expected to be directly or indirectly affected by a proposed project be evaluated for California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) eligibility. The purpose of the register is to maintain listings of the state’s historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from material impairment and substantial adverse change. The term “historical resources” includes a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the CRHR, a resource included in a local register of historical resources, and any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant (Section 15064.5[a] of the Guidelines). The criteria for listing properties in the CRHR were expressly developed in accordance with previously established criteria developed for listing in the NRHP.

Records Search and Field Surveys

The Central Coast Information Center (CCIC) records search indicates that 16 cultural resources studies have been conducted within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site, including a negative survey that included a majority of the project area. Because this survey took place in 1997, the entire property was resurveyed in 2009. Another study, which was also negative, was immediately adjacent to the 2009 study area. Seventeen cultural resources have been previously recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of the 2009 study area. All of these are historic built environment resources, and none are located within the 2009 study area. During the field surveys, no archaeological resources were observed.

One cultural resource was identified within the project area: the Schauf Property, El Paso de Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant. This historic-period resource is highly disturbed and, as a result, the recordation and NRHP eligibility evaluation of the property focused on three of its elements: the barn, refuse scatter, and WWTP office building.

The project site was used for farming until the mid-1950s. In addition to its use as a farm, the property was also reportedly used as a trash dump (1930s–1950s). The property was the Schauf residence and farm until it began to transition into the WWTP, beginning in the late 1940s. The Schauf residence is no longer extant.

Impacts

- a. Although the project site has been active throughout the twentieth century, it does not retain any built structures identified as potentially eligible historic resources. Neither the property, nor any of the individual buildings, structures, sites, or features is eligible for listing in the NRHP or the CRHR, either separately or as a contributor to a larger historic district.

The project site is not associated with any significant event or trend in American history. The property has not been directly associated with persons significant in our past. The buildings and structures on the property are utilitarian resources that are ubiquitous to industrial operations; they do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, nor do they represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. Lastly, the property is not expected to yield important information about prehistory or history. Therefore, the property is not considered a historic property, as defined in Section 106 of the NRHP, nor does it qualify as a historical resource under CEQA.

- b. Ground-disturbing activity would be limited to the project site. Historic research conducted during the 2009 survey indicates that humans have inhabited the region since the prehistoric period, largely due to the numerous hot springs scattered throughout the Paso Robles area. The project area is located between El Camino Real and the Salinas River and includes a hot spring. As a result, there remains a potential for significant buried prehistoric or historic resources to be found within the project area.

To ensure that inadvertent disturbance to unknown sensitive cultural resources is avoided, monitoring of initial grading and excavation activities within native soils is recommended (SWCA 2009c). In the event cultural resources are observed during monitoring activities, a Native American monitor from the Salinan and/or Chumash Native American Tribes, or a rotation of Native American monitors, shall be present for further ground-disturbing activities.

- c. The project site has been routinely disturbed in association with past agricultural uses and it is highly unlikely that human remains are present on the project site. As discussed above, monitoring of initial grading and excavation activities within native soils is recommended during construction. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered, State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 would be followed.

Conclusion

The project area is considered moderately sensitive for the discovery of prehistoric or ethnohistoric period archaeological deposits, as well as for the discovery of historic material or deposits related to the numerous hot springs scattered throughout the Paso Robles area. Research conducted for the project indicates that people have continuously inhabited the region since the prehistoric period. The potential for the existence of buried archaeological materials within native soils is considered high. Monitoring during initial ground-disturbing activities within native soils is recommended to ensure that any unknown, discovered resources are protected.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: A qualified archaeologist shall monitor initial ground-disturbing construction activities within native soils. If buried cultural resources, such as historic period artifacts or nonhuman bone, are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work will stop within 100 feet of the find until the qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment measures. Treatment measures typically include development of avoidance strategies, capping with fill material, or mitigation of impacts through data recovery programs such as excavation or detailed documentation. If cultural resources are discovered during construction activities, the construction contractor will verify that work is halted until appropriate, site-specific measures, such as those listed above, are implemented. The City of Paso Robles will approve the measures to be

implemented before construction activities are resumed in the area of the find.

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: If human remains are discovered or recognized during site preparation, grading, or construction, there will be no further excavation or disturbance of the discovery site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the County of San Luis Obispo coroner has been informed and has determined that no investigation of the cause of death is required. If the remains are determined by the coroner to be of Native American origin, the descendants will be identified and notified through the Native American Heritage Commission.

Mitigation Measure CUL-3: If required, upon completion of all monitoring/mitigation activities, the consulting archaeologist shall submit a report to the City of Paso Robles and Central Coast Information Center summarizing all monitoring/mitigation activities and confirming that all recommended mitigation measures have been met.

Finding

Based on implementation of mitigation measures identified above, potential cultural resources impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. ENERGY				
Would the project:				
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The 2013 City of Paso Robles CAP is a long-range plan to reduce GHG emissions from City government operations and community activities within Paso Robles. The CAP seeks to achieve multiple community goals, such as lowering energy costs, reducing air pollution, supporting local economic development, and improving public health and quality of life. To achieve compliance with statewide GHG reduction targets the City has put into effect local policy provisions that would reduce GHG emissions. All standards presented in the CAP respond to the needs of development through achieving more efficient and

sustainable use of resources. Both the existing and the projected GHG inventories in the CAP were derived based on the land use designations and associated designations defined in the City General Plan.

Impact

- a. Project implementation would require minimal consumption of energy resources. During construction, fossil fuels, electricity, and natural gas would be used by construction vehicles and equipment. The energy consumed during construction would be temporary and would not represent a significant or wasteful demand on available resources.

Operation of the homeless navigation center would also consume electricity and natural gas/propane for water heating, laundry, and cooking. Project operation would also result in minimal additional vehicle trips to the project site. The project would meet or exceed Title 24, Part 6, California Energy Code baseline standard requirements for energy efficiency, based on the 2016 Energy Efficiency Standards requirements. Examples of design methods and technologies that could be implemented may include, but would not be limited to, glazing on windows, energy-saving lighting, high-efficiency appliances and water boilers (such as Energy-star labeled products), and enhanced insulation to minimize thermal gain and loss. Energy demands during project operation would be provided through existing infrastructure and would not substantially increase over existing demands. Operational energy use would not be wasteful or inefficient. There are no unique project characteristics that would result in a significant increase in energy usage, or an inefficient, wasteful use, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

- b. As discussed above, implementation of the project would not result in a significant new energy demand and there are no project components or operations that would conflict with any other state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Compliance with state laws and regulations, including the most recent California Building Code (CBC) requirements, would ensure the project does not obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or efficiency, through, for example, increasing statewide requirements that energy be sourced from renewable resources. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

The project site is located within an urbanized portion of the city, and is included in an area where urban development is both predicted and encouraged by the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The project is considered “infill development,” as it proposes to develop a property surrounded by urban uses with transportation, commercial/industrial, wastewater treatment, and residential uses, thereby enhancing the physical design of the urban environment by reducing the potential for increased development on the urban fringe. The project would provide a shuttle service to provide a convenient transit option for clients of the navigation center.

Conclusion

The project would comply with the California Energy Code requirements to reduce the on-site use of energy. As a result, the project would not result in a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, nor would it obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Finding

Potential energy impacts would be less than significant.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | | | | |
| i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ii. Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| iv. Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

This section contains setting information and conclusions/recommendations summarized from the *Geotechnical Engineering Report for Proposed Emergency Warming Center* (Beacon Geotechnical 2019).

The project site is located on a relatively level, gently sloped site at approximately 700 feet above sea level. The project site is underlain by flood plain and river channel deposits consisting of interbedded sand, gravel, silt, and clay sediments of varying thicknesses and consistencies. Stiff, well-consolidated sediments of the Paso Robles Formation typically underlie the alluvium at depths less than about 50 feet.

The project site is located within a seismically active area of central California that is prone to moderate to large earthquakes. Three active faults near the project site are the Rinconada Fault (2 miles southwest), San Andreas Fault (22 miles east), and Hosgri-San Simeon Fault (24 miles west).

Seismic Hazards

Areas with seismic (earthquake) hazards are identified by earthquake fault zones as established by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Act of 1972. The California Geological Survey (CGS; formerly the California Division of Mines and Geology [CDMG]) classifies faults as active, potentially active, or inactive according to standards developed for implementation of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Act. A fault that has exhibited surface displacement within the Holocene Epoch (the last 11,000 years) is defined as active. A fault that has exhibited surface displacement during Quaternary time (i.e., within the past 1.6 million years) but that cannot be proven to have moved or not moved during Holocene time is defined as potentially active.

The surface trace of the Rinconada Fault is mapped approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the project site. According to the CGS 1996 California fault database, the Rinconada Fault is a right lateral-strike slip fault. The Rinconada Fault is not zoned by the State of California Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Act.

Groundshaking

Groundshaking (or seismic shaking) caused by fault movement during an earthquake has the potential to result in the damage or destruction of buildings, infrastructure, and possible injury or loss of life. Groundshaking may occur as a result of movement along a fault located within the city or along a more distant fault. The intensity of groundshaking in a particular area is dependent on several factors, including

the earthquake magnitude, the distance from the epicenter, the duration of strong ground motion, local geologic conditions, and the fundamental period of the structure. Groundshaking can also trigger secondary seismic phenomenon such as liquefaction, lateral spreading, seismically induced settlement and slope instability, tsunami and seiche, and other forms of ground rupture and seismic responses.

Fault Rupture

Fault rupture refers to displacement of the ground surface along a fault trace, and is a potential hazard where future development would cross or be constructed astride known fault zones. Damage associated with fault-related ground rupture is normally confined to a narrow band along the trend of the fault, and fault displacement usually involves forces so great that it is generally not feasible (structurally and economically) to design and build structures to accommodate this rapid displacement. The greatest risk for fault displacement is generally thought to be along historically active and potentially active faults.

Liquefaction

Liquefaction is a phenomenon in which the strength and stiffness of a soil is reduced by earthquake shaking. Soils transform from a solid to a liquid state as a result of rapid loss of shear strength and increased pore water pressure induced by earthquake vibrations.

Based on review of the existing geotechnical data, the project site is underlain by a variable thickness of artificial fill and overlying alluvium over the Paso Robles Formation. It appears that the overlying alluvium may contain layers of potentially liquefiable soils under strong ground-motion shaking or at levels used for design under the 2016 CBC.

Tsunamis and Seiches

Tsunamis, also called seismic sea waves, are a series of waves generated by large, violent earthquakes occurring near the ocean. Seiches are oscillations of enclosed and semi-enclosed bodies of water, such as bays, lakes, or reservoirs, due to strong ground motion from seismic events, wind stress, volcanic eruptions, and local basin reflections of tsunami. Seiches could occur in any reservoir.

Landslide Hazards

Slope instability may result from natural processes, such as the erosion of the toe of a slope by a stream, or by ground shaking caused by an earthquake. Slopes can also be modified artificially by grading, or by the addition of water or structures to a slope. Areas that are generally prone to landslide hazards include: previous landslide locations, the bases of steep slopes, the bases of drainage channels, and developed hillsides where leach-field septic systems are used.

Clean Water Act

In 1987, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also referred to as the Clean Water Act [CWA]) was amended to add Section 402(p), which establishes a framework for regulating municipal and industrial stormwater discharges under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. On December 8, 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published final regulations that establish stormwater permit application requirements for construction projects that encompass 1 or more acres of soil disturbance. In 2003, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted a statewide General Permit that applies to all stormwater discharges associated with construction activity. The General Permit requires all dischargers where construction activities disturb 1 acre or more to:

1. Develop and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which specifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will prevent all construction pollutants from contacting

stormwater, and with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving off-site into receiving waters.

2. Eliminate or reduce non-stormwater discharges to storm sewer systems and other waters of the nation.
3. Perform inspections of all BMPs.

Construction activity subject to the General Permit includes clearing, grading, disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling, or excavation that results in soil disturbances of at least 1 acre of total land area. Construction activity that results in soil disturbances of less than 1 acre is subject to this General Permit if the construction activity is part of a larger common plan of development that encompasses 1 or more acres of soil disturbance or if there is significant water quality impairment resulting from the activity.

All dischargers must prepare and implement a SWPPP prior to disturbing a site. The SWPPP must be implemented at the appropriate level to protect water quality at all times throughout the life of the project. Non-stormwater BMPs must be implemented year-round. The SWPPP must remain on-site while the site is under construction, commencing with the initial mobilization and ending with the termination of coverage under the permit. The SWPPP has two major objectives: (1) to help identify the sources of sediment and other pollutants that affect the quality of storm water discharges, and (2) to describe and ensure the implementation of BMPs to reduce or eliminate sediment and other pollutants in stormwater and non-stormwater discharges. The SWPPP must include BMPs that address source control and, if necessary, must also include BMPs that address pollution control. Required elements of a SWPPP include: (1) site description addressing the elements and characteristics specific to the site; (2) descriptions of BMPs for erosion and sediment controls; (3) BMPs for construction waste handling and disposal; (4) implementation of approved local plans; (5) proposed post-construction controls, including description of local post-construction erosion and sediment control requirements; and (6) non-stormwater management.

Another major feature of the General Permit is the development and implementation of a monitoring program. All construction sites are required to conduct inspections of the site prior to anticipated storm events and after actual storm events. During extended storm events, inspections must be made during each 24-hour period. The goals of these inspections are: (1) to identify areas contributing to a stormwater discharge; (2) to evaluate whether measures to reduce pollutant loadings identified in the SWPPP are adequate and properly installed and functioning in accordance with the terms of the General Permit; and (3) to determine whether additional control practices or corrective maintenance activities are needed. Equipment, materials, and workers must be available for rapid response to failures and emergencies. All corrective maintenance to BMPs must be performed as soon as possible, depending upon worker safety.

Impacts

a, c, d. There are two known fault zones on either side of the Salinas River valley. The Rinconada Fault system runs on the west side of the valley, and grazes the City on its western boundary. The San Andreas Fault is on the east side of the valley and is situated about 30 miles east of Paso Robles. The City recognizes these geologic influences in the application of the Uniform Building Code (UBC) to all new development within the City. The recommendations of the 2019 geotechnical report would be applied in conjunction with the project. In addition, the project would be designed in accordance with the City's standard conditions of approval to address geologic influences. Based on standard conditions of approval, the potential for fault rupture and exposure of persons or property to seismic hazards is not considered significant. There are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones within the city limits. Through site borings of the in-place soils, the geotechnical report concluded that the potential for liquefaction and/or lateral spreading is

low at the project site. The geotechnical report also concluded that the potential for landslides is minimal at the project site due to the flat topography and exposed soil types at the site.

The proposed homeless navigation center will be constructed to current CBC requirements. Impacts resulting from ground shaking and liquefaction hazards would be mitigated to less than significant through compliance with existing codes and adherence with the recommendations of the project-specific geotechnical report, including engineered site preparation and adequate structural design. Any proposed construction would require the adoption of appropriate engineering design in conformance with the recommended geotechnical standards for construction.

- b.** On-site soils are considered to be moderately erodible (NRCS 2019). Due to the gentle slope of the topography, significant erosion is not expected; however, due to the presence of the Salinas River immediately to the east, construction BMPs would be implemented to avoid and minimize soil loss and erosion with a Construction SWPPP in conjunction with project's final design and grading plan. In addition, Mitigation Measure BIO-4 above requires the implementation of erosion control BMPs to reduce the potential for inadvertent release of sediment from construction areas to the Salinas River or other sensitive resource areas. With adherence to applicable regulation and the implementation of above-identified mitigation measures, impacts related to soil erosion would be less than significant.
- e.** No septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems are proposed as part of the project. No impact would occur.
- f.** The project site is located within the alluvial plain of the Salinas River, and it is unlikely that soils or bedrock containing significant paleontological resources would be disturbed by proposed grading and construction activities. No unique geologic features are present on the project. As a result, there would be no impact to paleontological resources or unique geologic features.

Conclusion

Risk from geologic and seismic hazards is low, and the recommendation of the mitigation identified below, which requires the recommendations of the geotechnical report be incorporated into the final design plans. Further, the project would require the adoption of appropriate engineering design in conformance with geotechnical standards for construction. Implementation of statutorily required standard measures and the above-identified mitigation measures, including the preparation and implementation of BMPs and a SWPPP, and erosion control measures, would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: The recommendations of the *Geotechnical Engineering Report for Proposed Emergency Warming Center*, prepared by Beacon Geotechnical in November 2019 and regarding geologic, seismic, and liquefaction conditions, shall be incorporated into the final design plans submitted to the City of Paso Robles for the project. The City shall ensure that all recommendations of the geotechnical report are incorporated into the final design.

Finding

Based on implementation of mitigation measures identified above, and compliance with existing regulations, potential geology and soils impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gasses? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

Certain gases in the earth’s atmosphere, classified as GHGs, play a critical role in determining the earth’s surface temperature. Solar radiation enters the earth’s atmosphere from space. A portion of the radiation is absorbed by the earth’s surface and a smaller portion of this radiation is reflected back toward space. This absorbed radiation is then emitted from the earth as low-frequency infrared radiation. The frequencies at which bodies emit radiation are proportional to temperature. Because the earth has a much lower temperature than the sun, it emits lower-frequency radiation. Most solar radiation passes through GHGs; however, infrared radiation is absorbed by these gases. As a result, radiation that otherwise would have escaped back into space is instead “trapped,” resulting in a warming of the atmosphere. This phenomenon, known as the greenhouse effect, is responsible for maintaining a habitable climate on earth. Without the greenhouse effect, the earth would not be able to support life as we know it.

Prominent GHGs contributing to the greenhouse effect are CO₂, methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Fluorinated gases also make up a small fraction of the GHGs that contribute to climate change. Fluorinated gases include chlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride; however, it is noted that these gases are not associated with typical land use development. Human-caused emissions of these GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are believed to be responsible for intensifying the greenhouse effect and leading to a trend of unnatural warming of the earth’s climate, known as global climate change or global warming. It is “extremely likely” that more than half of the observed increase in global average surface temperature from 1951 to 2010 was caused by the anthropogenic increase in GHG concentrations and other anthropogenic factors together.

Each GHG differs in its ability to absorb heat in the atmosphere based on the lifetime, or persistence, of the gas molecule in the atmosphere. CH₄ traps over 25 times more heat per molecule than CO₂, and N₂O absorbs 298 times more heat per molecule than CO₂. Often, estimates of GHG emissions are presented in CO₂e, which weighs each gas by its global warming potential. Expressing GHG emissions in CO₂e takes the contribution of all GHG emissions to the greenhouse effect and converts them to a single unit equivalent to the effect that would occur if only CO₂ were being emitted.

Climate change is global in nature. GHGs are global pollutants, unlike criteria air pollutants and TACs, which are pollutants of regional and local concern. Whereas pollutants with localized air quality effects have relatively short atmospheric lifetimes (about 1 day), GHGs have long atmospheric lifetimes

(1 to several thousand years). GHGs persist in the atmosphere for long enough time periods to be dispersed around the globe. Although the exact lifetime of any particular GHG molecule is dependent on multiple variables and cannot be pinpointed, it is understood that more CO₂ is emitted into the atmosphere than is sequestered by ocean uptake, vegetation, or other forms. Of the total annual human-caused CO₂ emissions, approximately 55% is sequestered through ocean and land uptakes every year, averaged over the last 50 years, whereas the remaining 45% of human-caused CO₂ emissions remains stored in the atmosphere.

The quantity of GHGs that it takes to ultimately result in climate change is not precisely known; suffice it to say the quantity is enormous, and no single project alone would measurably contribute to a noticeable incremental change in the global average temperature or to global, local, or microclimates. From the standpoint of CEQA, GHG impacts to global climate change are inherently cumulative.

Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2019, CARB released the 2019 edition of the California GHG inventory covering calendar year 2017 emissions. In 2017, California emitted 424.1 million gross metric tons of CO₂e including from imported electricity. Combustion of fossil fuel in the transportation sector was the single largest source of California's GHG emissions in 2017, accounting for approximately 41% of total GHG emissions in the state. This sector was followed by the industrial sector (24%) and the electric power sector, including both in-state and out-of-state sources (15%).

As discussed above, In November 2013, the City adopted a CAP that included a GHG inventory for the city. In 2005, the Paso Robles community emitted approximately 169,557 metric tons of CO₂e GHG emissions as a result of transportation activities that took place within the transportation, residential energy use, commercial and industrial energy use, off-road vehicles and equipment, solid waste, aircraft, and wastewater sectors. The largest contributors of GHG emissions were the transportation (40%), residential energy use (24%), and commercial/industrial energy use (20%) sectors. The remainder of emissions resulted from the solid waste (8%), off-road vehicles and equipment (8%), aircraft (less than 1%), and wastewater (less than 1%) sectors.

Emissions of CO₂ are byproducts of fossil fuel combustion. CH₄, a highly potent GHG, primarily results from off-gassing (the release of chemicals from nonmetallic substances under ambient or greater pressure conditions) and is largely associated with agricultural practices and landfills. N₂O is also largely attributable to agricultural practices and soil management. Carbon dioxide sinks, or reservoirs, include vegetation and the ocean, which absorb CO₂ through sequestration and dissolution (CO₂ dissolving into the water), respectively, two of the most common processes for removing CO₂ from the atmosphere.

Impact

- a. Under CEQA, an individual project's GHG emissions would generally not result in direct significant impacts. This is because climate change is global in nature. However, an individual project could be found to contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact. Projects that have GHG emissions above the noted thresholds may be considered cumulatively considerable and require mitigation. The project would develop a homeless navigation center and parking lot, and does not propose a use that would generate a substantial increase in vehicle trips or energy demand. Table 1-1 of the SLOAPCD *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* (2012) does not include homeless navigation centers as a land use category; therefore, the "Day-Care Center" land use category was used to estimate GHG emissions because it has similar operational characteristics (e.g., temporary occupancy, limited permanent employees, limited kitchen services, limited laundry services). Per Table 1-1 of the *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*, the shelter would need to exceed 93,000 square feet in floor area to exceed the SLOAPCD Annual GHG Bright-Line Threshold. As the navigation center is much smaller in size, at 7,525 square feet, the project is not

expected to exceed the SLOAPCD GHG Bright-Line Threshold of 1,150 metric tons of CO₂e per year, considering operational and amortized construction emissions. The project’s construction-related emissions would be short term and limited in nature, and operational GHG emissions associated with the proposed uses would not exceed the Bright-Line Threshold. Therefore, the project’s potential direct and cumulative GHG emissions would be less than significant and less than a cumulatively considerable contribution to regional GHG emissions.

- b. The project would be required to comply with existing state regulations to achieve the overall GHG emissions reduction goals identified in SB 32 and Executive Order S-3-05. The project would not conflict with the control measures identified in the City’s 2013 CAP or other state and local regulations related to GHG emissions and renewable energy. The project would be designed to comply with the California Green Building Code standards. Therefore, the project would be consistent with applicable plans and programs designed to reduce GHG emissions and potential impacts would be less than significant.

Conclusion

Project construction and operation would not exceed the SLOAPCD Bright-Line Threshold for GHG, nor would emissions be inconsistent with applicable plans and programs designed to reduce GHG emissions. Therefore, GHG impacts would be less than significant.

Finding

Potential impacts related to GHG emissions would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS				
Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

As defined in Chapter 6.95 of Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 25501(o), a hazardous material is "...any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. Hazardous materials include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material which a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment."

Regulatory Setting

Federal

Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (CWA). The CWA governs the control of water pollution in the United States. This act includes the NPDES program, which requires that permits be obtained for point discharges of wastewater. This act also requires that stormwater discharges be permitted, monitored, and controlled for public and private entities.

Resource Control and Recovery Act of 1974. The Resource Control and Recovery Act (RCRA) was enacted as the first step in the regulation of the potential health and environmental problems associated with solid hazardous and non-hazardous waste disposal. The RCRA, and the formation of the EPA to

implement the act, provide the framework for national hazardous waste management, including tracking hazardous wastes from point of origin to ultimate disposal.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), owners and operators of real estate where there is hazardous substance contamination may be held strictly liable for the costs of cleaning up contamination found on their property. No evidence linking the owner/operator with the placement of the hazardous substances on the property is required. CERCLA, also known as Superfund, established a fund for the assessment and remediation of the worst hazardous waste sites in the nation.

State

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7 of the California Water Code). The Porter-Cologne Act established a regulatory program to protect water quality and protect beneficial uses of the state's waters. The Porter-Cologne Act also established the SWRCB and nine regional boards as the main state agencies responsible for water quality in the state. Discharges of wastes (including spills, leaks, or historical disposal sites) where they may impact the waters of the state are prohibited under the Porter-Cologne Act, including the discharge of hazardous wastes and petroleum products. The assessment and remediation of these waters are regulated by the regional boards. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) administers such waters in the vicinity of the project.

Title 22, California Code of Regulations. Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations regulates the use and disposal of hazardous substances in California. It contains regulatory thresholds for hazardous wastes, which are more restrictive than the federal hazardous waste regulations.

California Health and Safety Code Sections 25500 et seq. The California community right-to-know hazardous material law applies to any facility that handles any hazardous material (e.g., chemical, chemical-containing products, hazardous wastes, etc.) in a quantity that exceeds reporting thresholds. The basic requirements of hazardous materials and community right-to-know regulations for covered facilities include:

- Determining whether the facility handles hazardous materials;
- Immediate reporting of releases of hazardous materials;
- Submission and update of a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (including an accurate chemical inventory, site map showing hazardous materials storage locations, emergency response plan, and notification procedures) as required by the local administering agency;
- Notification of the local administering agency of the handling of specified quantities of acute hazardous materials and submission of a Risk Management Plan (RMP), as required;
- Annual submission for manufacturing facilities of a Toxic Chemical Release Report (Form R) if threshold amounts of certain toxic chemicals are made or processed for use; and
- Requirements for hazardous materials storage imposed by local administering agencies, fire departments, and California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) standards.

Local

The County of San Luis Obispo (County) Division of Environmental Health (SLODEH) conducts inspections to ensure proper handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and proper remediation of contaminated sites. In addition, the Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and

Inventory Law of 1985 (Business Plan Act) requires that any business that handles or stores hazardous materials prepare a Hazardous Materials Business Plan. Under this law, businesses are required to submit inventories of on-site hazardous materials and wastes and locations where these materials are stored and handled. This information is collected and reviewed by the SLODEH for emergency response planning.

Impacts

- a. Heavy equipment related to trenching, grading, and construction of the project would require the use of fuel and petroleum-based lubricants, and would require regular maintenance of equipment. Both the frequency of maintenance and the large volumes of fluids required to service the equipment increase the risk of accidental spillage. However, as discussed in Section VI (Geology and Soils), statutorily required standard measures, including the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP that meets the requirements of the Statewide General Construction Permit, would ensure that potential impacts from accidental leaks or spills are less than significant.

Operation of the project would involve the transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, including diesel fuel, and commercially available cleaning products and herbicides/pesticides. The project would be required to conform to federal, state, and local laws regarding the transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials. In addition, the City is required to comply with local laws, and submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan to the SLODEH. Based on compliance with existing standards, operational impacts would be less than significant.

- b. Although remote, during any earth-moving operations (e.g., grading, trenching, etc.) within the project site, there is a possibility that unexpected hazardous materials could be encountered or unearthed. Hazardous materials in the construction area could create a risk to workers and the general public during excavation and transport. If contaminated soil is encountered and must be removed from the construction area, it must be transported according to federal and state regulations and be replaced with imported soil approved for backfilling, if necessary. In these cases, the contractor must comply with all applicable regulations.

Accidental releases of hazardous materials used on-site during operation of the homeless center (i.e., fuels, cleaning products, herbicides/pesticides) would have a limited potential to affect on-site workers, overnight guests, public health, and/or the environment. However, the potential exposure to these receptors due to the limited quantities of hazardous materials that would be stored and used on-site. The SLODEH requires a Hazardous Materials Business Plan and complete Exemption Form R for operation of the homeless navigation center because it stores and handles hazardous materials in limited quantities. Cal/OSHA requires construction projects to implement safe hazardous material handling, transfer, storage, and maintenance. Projects are required to have designated staging/maintenance areas, standard operating procedures, and emergency response planning for the use of hazardous materials on-site. Based on compliance with existing standards, impacts are considered less than significant.

- c. The proposed project is not located within 0.25 mile of a school. No impacts would occur.
- d. The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (California Department of Toxic Substances Control Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List – Site Cleanup [Cortese List]; accessed January 6, 2020). No impacts would occur.

- e, f. The project site is not located within 2 miles of any airport or airport safety zones, and it is not within the Airport Review area. The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. No impacts would occur.
- g. The project would not impair the implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. No impacts would occur.
- h. The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The project site is in an urbanized area. Open land that may be subject to wildland fire is located east of the project site, on the opposite side of the Salinas River. The river may act as a buffer for any wildland fires that may occur in this area. Impacts from wildland fires are considered less than significant.

Conclusion

Impacts resulting from storage and use of hazardous materials on the project site is less than significant with compliance of existing regulations.

Finding

Potential impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY				
Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would:				
i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. impede or redirect flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Surface Water Features

The Salinas River is located adjacent to and east of the project site. The majority of the existing site drainage is through unchanneled sheet flow eastward towards the Salinas River. A small, western portion of the project site drains westward onto Sulphur Springs, which ultimately drains to the Salinas River.

Groundwater Resources

Relatively shallow groundwater conditions are associated with the Salinas River. Borings conducted for the geotechnical report encountered perched groundwater at a depth of 12 feet below ground surface.

Water Supplies for Service Area

The City’s raw water source of drinking water consists of a combination of groundwater and treated surface water received from Lake Nacimiento, located approximately 15 miles northwest of the project site.

Flooding

The Salinas River watershed is periodically subject to major flooding. Intense but infrequent winter storms can result in significant watershed runoff. Flooding conditions are caused when preceding rains have saturated the watershed. Surging flood flows usually peak within hours and may last several days. These flood events have caused extensive damage to agricultural land, infrastructure, public and private buildings, and properties.

The National Flood Insurance Program 100-year floodplain is considered to be the base flood condition. This is defined as a flood event of a magnitude that would be equal to or exceeded at an average of once during a 100-year period. Floodways are defined as stream channels plus adjacent floodplains that must be kept free of encroachment as much as possible so that 100-year floods can be carried without substantial increases (no more than one foot) in flood elevations.

Floodplains near the project site include the Salinas River, which flows in a northern direction along the eastern edge of the project site. The eastern portion of the project site is within a designated 100-year floodplain (Figure 6).

Regulatory Setting

Federal

Clean Water Act. The CWA controls the discharge of toxic material into surface water bodies. Under this act, states are required to identify water segments impaired by pollutants and develop control strategies and management plans to reduce pollution and meet water quality standards.

State

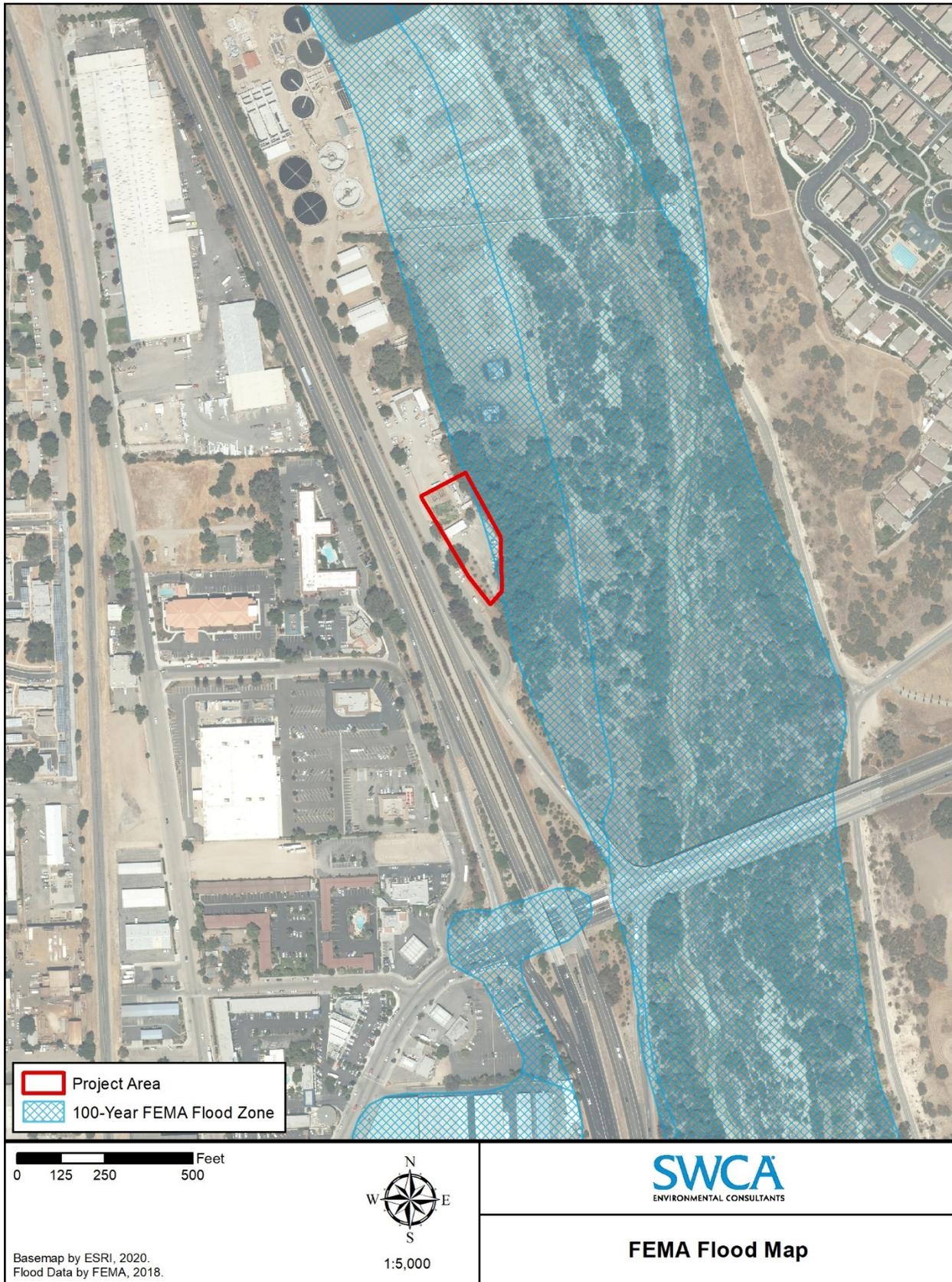
Since 1990, regulations have increasingly emphasized the control of water pollution from non-point sources, which include stormwater systems and runoff from point-source construction sites and industrial areas. In California, the SWRCB issued a statewide General Permit to regulate runoff from construction sites involving grading and earth moving in areas over 1 acre. The SWRCB is acting to enforce requirements of the federal CWA, pursuant to regulations issued by the EPA for the NPDES. This State Order (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ) requires construction projects covered under the General Permit to use the “best available technology economically achievable” and the “best conventional pollution control technology.” Each construction project subject to the permit is required to have a SWPPP prepared, which identifies likely sources of sediment and pollution and incorporates measures to minimize sediment and pollution in runoff water. These objectives are established based on the designated beneficial uses (e.g., water supply, recreation, habitat) for a particular surface water or groundwater.

The RWQCB regulates all municipal wastewater discharges to protect the quality and beneficial uses of groundwater and surface water resources, to maximize reclamation and reuse, and to eliminate waste associated health hazards. Municipal and industrial point-source discharges to surface waters are generally controlled through NPDES permits. Although the NPDES program is established by the federal CWA, the permits are prepared and enforced by the regional water boards through program delegation to California and implementing authority in the California Water Code. The RWQCB will issue NPDES permits and waste discharge requirements for municipal waste discharges to protect water quality.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1987. The Porter-Cologne Act provides the authority and method for the State of California to implement its water management program. The act establishes waste discharge requirements for both point- and non-point-source discharges affecting surface water and groundwater.

Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986. The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act prohibits the discharge or release of any significant amount of chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity into the drinking water supply by any person in the course of doing business.

Figure 6. FEMA Flood Zone Map



The Groundwater Management Act of 1992 (AB 3030). The Groundwater Management Act was designed to provide local public agencies with increased management authority over groundwater resources in addition to existing groundwater management capabilities. A key element of this law is the development and implementation of groundwater management plans.

Basin Plan. The Basin Plan is administrative law, and provides the basis of how the quality of surface waters and groundwaters are to be managed to comply with the CWA and Porter-Cologne Act. The Basin Plan includes numerical and narrative water quality objectives to protect the beneficial uses of the Salinas River. The project site drains to the Salinas River segment defined by the Nacimiento and the Santa Margarita Reservoirs. Constituents and properties regulated by the Basin Plan include bacteria, biostimulatory substances, chemical constituents, color, dissolved oxygen, floating material, oil and grease, pH, pesticides, radioactivity, salinity, sediment, settleable material, suspended material, tastes and odors, temperature, toxicity, and turbidity.

Impacts

- a. During project construction, grading operations on-site would remove existing vegetation, disturb erosive soil layers, and create temporary stockpiles of bare soil. These activities would expose small areas of soil within the project site to the erosive forces of rainfall and runoff as stormwater flows through the project site to the Salinas River. In addition, during construction, the use of equipment and storage of materials may result in the incidental leak or spill of fuels or oils, or the discharge of pollutants related to equipment and materials into the reservoir or tributaries to Salinas River. As discussed in Sections IV, Biological Resources, and VII, Geology and Soils, statutorily required standard measures, including the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP that meets the statutory requirements of the Statewide General Construction Permit, would ensure that impacts from site alteration, grading, and construction are less than significant. BMP examples generally include an effective combination of erosion and sediment controls, which include barriers such as silt fences, hay bales, drain inlet protection, gravel bags, etc. Existing vegetation should be preserved as much as possible. Areas of existing vegetation to be preserved would be identified and delineated on project plan sheets in the required SWPPP. All disturbed areas would be stabilized with vegetation or hard surface treatments upon completion of construction in any specific area. All inactive disturbed soil areas would be stabilized with both sediment and temporary erosion control prior to the onset of the rainy season (October 15 to April 15). With adherence to applicable standards and Mitigation Measure BIO-4 above, construction-related impacts to water quality would be reduced to less than significant.

Following project completion, the project site would be covered with buildings, hardscapes, and landscaped areas. The use of hardscape and landscape plantings would act as an effective barrier to soil erosion by impeding direct contact between precipitation/irrigation and on-site soils. The proposed new/replaced impervious surface area qualifies the project for RWQCB Post-Construction Stormwater Requirements (PCRs). To meet these requirements, the project proposes the installation of nine bioretention basins around the periphery of the navigation center building and parking lot. Per applicable codes, the stormwater measures would treat 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event volume and retain 95th percentile, 24-hour storm event volume. Based on the stormwater retention plan, the impact will be less than significant.

- b. The project would not affect groundwater quality since this project would not directly extract groundwater or otherwise affect these resources, and the proposed uses do not utilize materials or methods that would result in reduced groundwater quality. The proposed bioretention facilities would ensure on-site groundwater infiltration would be similar to existing conditions. This impact would be less than significant.

- c. Construction and implementation of the project would not significantly alter the existing drainage pattern of the site, result in a significant increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff, or result in flooding exceeding existing conditions during rainfall because development would include nine bioretention facilities along the periphery of the shelter building and parking lot. Based on the location and design of the project, this impact would be less than significant.

As discussed in Sections IV, Biological Resources, and VII, Geology and Soils, and in response (a) above, construction and implementation of the project has the potential to result in discharges, potentially degrading the quality of waters within the Salinas River. Implementation of existing regulations, including a SWPPP that includes BMPs, would mitigate the potential for significant impacts.

- d. The eastern portion of the project site is located within the 100-year flood zone for the Salinas River. The project includes the development of a temporary homeless navigation center and parking lot. Based on the location of proposed improvements, stormwater runoff rates and flooding patterns of the Salinas River during and following storm events would not differ significantly from current conditions. In addition, the construction of facilities within flood hazard zones are subject to design standards incorporated in the City Municipal Code. Based on the location of the project, and compliance with existing standards, this impact is considered less than significant.

As discussed above, implementation of the project would not significantly affect existing flood patterns of the Salinas River, and would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death.

The city is not located in a coastal zone, where there would be risk of tsunami, or near a large body of water, where there would be risk of seiche. The landslide/mudflow risk is considered low. Based on the location of the project site, and negligible-to-low probability of these hazards, the impact is considered less than significant.

- e. See response to (b) above.

Conclusion

Implementation of the project has the potential to result in pollutant discharge into the waters of the Salinas River during construction and operation of the proposed temporary homeless navigation center. Implementation of BIO-4 and statutorily required standard measures, including the preparation and implementation of BMPs and a SWPPP, would reduce impacts to less than significant. A portion of the project site is within the 100-year floodplain and is therefore subject to City Municipal Code development standards, consistent with existing FEMA regulations. Based on implementation of standard requirements, potential impacts would be less than significant.

Finding

Based on implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-4 and statutory and standard measures identified above, and compliance with existing regulations, potential hydrology and water quality impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

The project site is zoned Commercial/Light Industrial (C3). The project site is currently an undeveloped City-owned parcel located just south of the existing WWTP. The relatively level site primarily consists of ruderals and grasses; three mature trees are located at the perimeter of the property, including a live oak tree, and three live oak trees less than 6 inches dbh are located interior to the project site. The site was previously used for agricultural purposes and contains approximately 10 remaining fruit trees. The project site is surrounded by an approximately 4-foot-tall barbed-wire fence. Areas to the north are occupied the existing WWTP, the Salinas River lies to the east of the project site, and Sulphur Springs Road and U.S. 101 border the site to the west. The immediate area consists of the WWTP, U.S. 101, single-family residential and commercial developments, and open space associated with the Salinas River.

Impacts

- a. The project would occur on an existing City-owned parcel, within an urbanized area, and would not physically divide an established community. No impacts would occur.
- b. The project is subject to the City General Plan and Zoning Code. These documents and ordinances include standards to protect aesthetic quality and scenic viewsheds, biological resources, cultural resources, and public health and safety. There are no habitat conservation plans that apply to the project site. The project will comply with the City’s adopted Oak Tree Ordinance by retaining the mature live oak tree. Specific requirements or policies identified in these documents are discussed in specific resource sections.

The project requires a General Plan Amendment to change the land use designation of the property from Commercial Service (CS) to Public Facilities (PF) and a zoning amendment to change the zoning designation from Commercial/Light Industry (C3) to Public Facilities (PF). With City approval of the General Plan Amendment and zoning amendment, the project would be consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Code. Based on project design and compliance with existing zoning and land use regulations, the project would be consistent with policies adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating environmental effects.

Conclusion

With City approval of the General Plan Amendment and zoning amendment, the project would be consistent with plans and policies and project impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is necessary.

Finding

Potential land use and planning impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is necessary.

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

Setting

Portions of the Salinas River provide mining opportunities for sand and gravel operations. No operations are located within the area proposed for development.

Impact

a-b. The project site does not support known mineral resources. The project would not result in impacts to mineral resources. No mineral resources in local plans or resource inventories. The project would not result in impacts to mineral resources.

Conclusion

Based on the location of the project site, potential impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is necessary.

Finding

Potential mineral resources impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is necessary.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Noise varies with time, geographic location, proximity to the source, and duration of the noise event. The effects of noise are considered in several ways: how a proposed project may increase existing noise levels, how those noise levels would affect surrounding land uses, and how a proposed land use may be affected by noise from existing and surrounding land uses. Certain land uses are considered more sensitive to ambient noise levels than others, due to the amount of noise exposure and the types of activities involved. In general, noise-sensitive land uses typically include but are not limited to:

- Residential development;
- Schools/daycare;
- Public assembly and entertainment;
- Commercial/retail;
- Industrial;
- Restaurants, and eateries; an
- Offices.

The project site is in Paso Robles on a City-owned parcel just south of the existing WTP. Surrounding uses include U.S. 101 and commercial and residential uses to the west, the existing WTP to the north, and open areas associated with Salinas River to the south and east. A neighborhood of single-family residences is located farther to the east across the Salinas River. Noise resulting from the existing WTP operations and traffic noise from U.S. 101 are the primary noise-producing sources in the immediate project area.

The closest residences are located approximately 0.2 mile to the east and west. Residences to the east are separated from the project site by the Salinas River and associated open space and rest on a bluff approximately 100 feet upslope from the project site. Residences to the west are separated from the project site by U.S. 101 and commercial development.

Impacts

- a, b.** The project area is currently subject to significant vehicle traffic noise associated with U.S. 101 throughout the day. Operation of the homeless navigation center would generate minimal amounts of vehicle and mechanical (e.g., heating, ventilation, and air conditioning [HVAC] systems) noise and would not be expected to generate significant daily traffic volumes that would produce noise impacts at any of the existing sensitive noise receptors within an approximately 1-mile radius of the project site. The increased traffic volumes that would result from the homeless navigation center would be expected to be unnoticeable to sensitive receptors when compared to existing ambient noise levels, particularly noise associated with traffic. The homeless navigation center is not expected to produce significant traffic volumes that would increase vehicular traffic noise levels.

Construction-Related Noise. Construction of the homeless navigation center would create temporary increases in the ambient noise level during construction. Construction noise, and how its perceived, would differ among the various phases of construction, depending on the particular activities, equipment used, and its proximity to sensitive noise receptors. During the initial phases of construction, it is estimated that most of the construction noise would be generated by grading and earthwork operations, using various heavy machinery. Once the site work is finished, construction noise would shift to that typically encountered when building structures (e.g., air compressors, circular saws, hammers, etc.), which are typically less noisy, as well as traffic noise generated by workers commuting to and from the jobsite. The Noise Element of the City General Plan includes noise reduction measures to be incorporated into contract specifications, including the use of sound-control devices on equipment, avoiding idling equipment, and public notification of proposed construction activities. Limiting construction activities to daytime hours would minimize the effect on nearby residents. Although noise impacts are expected to be less than significant, mitigation is recommended below to further reduce construction noise levels.

Stationary Noise. Minimal amounts of stationary noise generated by the continued operation of the homeless navigation center would occur from operation of HVAC (and similar) equipment. Other noise impacts associated with operation of the homeless center include employee vehicle travel, potentially the use of back-up emergency generators in case of power outage, and routine garbage collection. The nearest sensitive noise receptors (residential neighborhood) to the project site are located approximately 0.2 mile from the project site, at a minimum of 100 feet upslope from the facility. Operation of the proposed homeless navigation center would not result in a significant increase above current ambient conditions.

- c.** The project is not located within an airport land use plan area. No impacts would occur.

Conclusion

Implementation of the project would result in a short-term increase in noise due to the use of construction equipment, potentially affecting noise-sensitive uses in the area. Impacts resulting from noise would be reduced to less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures.

- Mitigation Measure NS-1:** Prior to initiation of construction activities, the project contractor shall include noise measures on the final design plans, which will include noise reduction practices for all phases of construction. The plan shall be

submitted to the City of Paso Robles for approval and shall include the following Noise Reduction practices:

- a. Limit the operation of heavy equipment and loud activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.;
- b. Shield especially loud pieces of stationary construction equipment;
- c. Locate portable generators, air compressors, etc. away from sensitive noise receptors;
- d. Limit grouping major pieces of equipment operating in one area to the greatest extent feasible;
- e. Ensure that all equipment items have the manufacturers' recommended noise abatement measures, such as mufflers, engine covers, and engine vibration isolators, intact and operational. Internal combustion engines used for any purpose on or related to the job shall be equipped with a muffler or baffle of a type recommended by the manufacturer; and
- f. Conduct worker training meetings to educate and encourage noise awareness and sensitivity. This training should focus on worker conduct while in the vicinity of sensitive receptors (e.g., minimizing and locating the use of circular saws in areas adjacent to sensitive receptors, being mindful of shouting and the loud use of attention-drawing language).

Finding

Based on implementation of the mitigation measure identified above, and compliance with existing regulations, potential noise impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.

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

Setting

The project is located within the city of Paso Robles on a City-owned parcel south of the existing WWTP. No housing is present on-site.

Impacts

- a. The project does not propose any new permanent housing. The homeless navigation center would be designed to provide temporary accommodations of the region’s existing homeless population. The homeless navigation center would require approximately three full-time employees, increasing to six employees during the winter, which would be accommodated by existing employees in the surrounding community. Therefore, the project will not induce substantial population growth. Workers during the construction phase would most likely come from surrounding communities and would not require any new short-term or long-term housing.
- b. The project would not remove or displace any existing housing. No impacts will occur.

Conclusion

No impacts would occur and no mitigation is necessary.

Finding

Potential population and housing impacts would be less than significant.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The project site is served by the Paso Robles Fire Department, City of Paso Robles Police Department, and the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District. Access to the project site will be from Sulphur Springs Road. The Paso Robles Fire Station is located approximately seven minutes from the project site.

Impacts.

- a, b. The proposed homeless center may result in a few additional calls for fire or police protection services. However, the project would implement safety features to reduce any potential increase in calls for service. Specifically, the perimeter of the site would be enclosed by a chain-link fence for security and security cameras would be installed. The project site would be properly lit with shielded lighting. A fire sprinkler system would be installed in accordance with applicable City code. As such, as any additional calls for service would not impose a significant demand for fire or police protection services, such that additional personnel or equipment would be required to accommodate these calls. No new public service facilities or personnel would be required. Anticipated impacts are considered less than significant and no mitigation measures are warranted.
- c. The project would not result in an increase in school-aged children in the area. Any children that temporarily stay at the shelter would be expected to be from the existing population. The proposed facility would not have a significant impact on local schools.
- d. The Paso Robles Events Center and Pioneer Park are located approximately 1 mile south of the project site. The project would not increase the use of area parks and may result in a decline in the use of parks by the existing homeless population, particularly at night. Impacts would be less than significant.
- e. No other public facilities would be significantly impacted.

Conclusion

A less-than-significant impact would occur and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Finding

Potential impacts to public services would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. RECREATION				
Would the project:				
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The Paso Robles Events Center and Pioneer Park are located approximately 1 mile south of the project site. The project site is within the Salinas River Trail Corridor.

Impact

a, b. The project would not affect use of area parks, or implementation of a future trail project within the Salinas River Trail Corridor. The project would not increase the demand for existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities beyond the facilities existing in the city, and may result in a decline in the use of parks by the existing homeless population, particularly at night. As a result, the project would not result in a physical deterioration of recreational facilities and impacts would be less than significant.

Conclusion

Less-than-significant impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Finding

Potential recreation impacts would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC				
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (3)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The project site is accessed by Sulphur Springs Road, which is accessed from the on-ramp for northbound U.S. 101. Sulphur Springs Road dead-ends at the existing WWTP and no other facilities or residences are located off this road. A security gate is located near the end of Sulphur Springs Road prior to the entrance of the WWTP.

Impacts

- a, b.** Project construction is not expected to produce significant vehicle volumes during construction activities. Construction equipment would use the U.S. 101/State Route 46 interchange to access Sulphur Springs Road. Although there would be some vehicle traffic associated with hauling heavy equipment and construction materials to the site, this would not occur throughout the duration of the project. Workers commuting to and from the jobsite would be associated with the largest increase in traffic volumes during construction, but this would be limited mainly to morning arrival and evening departures, which would occur only during established daylight working hours, and would not produce a large enough traffic volume to significantly alter existing levels of service (LOS) designations.

Operation of the homeless navigation center would require approximately three employees year-round and an additional three employees during winter, as well as the occasional delivery vehicle and garbage collection truck. The clients served by the navigation center are not expected to own cars and would rely on shuttle service to/from the navigation center and a location to be determined in town. The increase in vehicle trips required for operation of the navigation center and shelter facility would be minimal. Due to the minimal increase in operational trips, significant traffic impacts would not occur.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 does not apply until July 1, 2020, and the City has not elected to be governed by the provisions of this section in the interim. Though the project is not analyzed by vehicle miles traveled (VMT), due to the limited amount of vehicle traffic anticipated, intersections in the project vicinity are not anticipated to experience a measurable decrease in performance as a result of the project.

- c.** The project does not propose any design features that would substantially increase traffic hazards. The project would install a new 24-foot-wide driveway on Sulphur Springs Road. The driveway would be designed in accordance with City requirements for emergency access and located on a straight portion of the dead-end road. As a result, impacts would be less than significant.
- d.** The project site is located the end of dead-end road, which only serves as access to the project site and WWTP. The project would not conflict with emergency access routes during construction or operation of the upgrades. The new driveway would be designed in accordance with applicable City standards for emergency access.

Conclusion

No significant impacts would occur and no mitigation is recommended.

Finding

Potential transportation and traffic impacts would be less than significant.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

As discussed in Section V, Cultural Resources, the *Cultural Resources Survey for the Paso Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, City of El Paso De Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California* (SWCA 2009c) was prepared for the WTTP and includes this project site. The CCIC records search indicates that 16 cultural resources studies have been conducted within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site, including a negative survey that included a majority of the project area. Because this survey took place in 1997, the entire property was resurveyed in 2009. Another study, which was also negative,

was completed immediately adjacent to the 2009 study area. Seventeen cultural resources have been previously recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of the 2009 study area. All of these are historic built environment resources, and none are located within the 2009 study area. During the field surveys, no archaeological resources were observed.

The City sent out tribal consultation opportunity letters to the six tribal groups on the City’s tribal consultation list, pursuant to the requirements of AB 52. Responses were received from the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, the Xolon Salinan Tribe, and the Northern Chumash Tribal Council. As of the date of this draft report, no tribes have identified significant tribal resources in the project impact area. Consultation efforts remain ongoing and an update on the conclusion will be provided with the final version of this document.

Impact

a, b. Generally, the project site is not located in an area that is considered culturally significant. Only one cultural resource was identified within the project area and it was a historic resource: the Schauf Property, El Paso de Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant. Although no significant potential archaeological or cultural resources have been identified that would be impacted by development of the plan area, Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-3 require that a qualified archaeologist be on-site during ground-disturbing activities to survey the activities and make appropriate recommendations for the treatment and/or disposition of any unexpected archaeological resources encountered. Therefore, with the implementation of these mitigation measures, this project will result in less-than-significant impacts on tribal cultural resources.

Conclusion

No archaeological resources are known to occur on the project site, which has been subject to ground disturbance during past agricultural uses. With the implementation of identified mitigation, potential impacts to previously unidentified archeological resources would be reduced to a less than significant impact.

Finding

With the implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-3, potential impacts to tribal cultural resources would be reduced to less than significant.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The project proposes to use existing water lines along Sulphur Springs Road as its water source. Based on available information, the proposed water source is not known to have any significant availability or quality problems. Wastewater from the proposed homeless navigation center would be connected to the City's wastewater treatment system via the sewer line along Sulphur Springs Road, after passing through a proposed on-site lift pumping station. Solid waste collection service will be provided by a licensed commercial solid waste disposal service and waste would be disposed of at the Paso Robles Landfill, located east of the city limits. The landfill has an estimated lifespan through approximately 2051 and has the daily capacity to accept waste produced from the project.

Impacts

- a. The project would not result in a substantial increase in demand on water, wastewater, or stormwater collection, treatment, or disposal facilities and would not require the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater, or stormwater facilities beyond the proposed on-site irrigation and wastewater (e.g., shower, restroom, laundry) facilities. Per the City General Plan Environmental Impact Report, Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), and Sewer System Management Plan, the City's water and wastewater treatment facilities are adequately sized, including planned facility upgrades, to provide water needed for this project and treat effluent resulting from this project. The project would not result in a substantial increase in energy demand, natural gas, or telecommunications; no new or expanded facilities would be required. Aside from a new Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) electric transformer proposed at the northwest corner of the project site, the installation of a wastewater lift pump west of the

proposed shelter, and a new water meter west of the proposed shelter building, no utility relocations would be required. Therefore, potential impacts associated with the relocation or construction of expanded utility systems would be less than significant. Therefore, this project would not result in the need to construct new facilities.

- b. The City's municipal water supply is composed of groundwater from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, an allocation of the Salinas River underflow, and a surface water allocation from the Nacimiento Lake pipeline project. The City's UWMP identified adequate capacity to serve the project site based on the site's current zoning of Commercial/Light Industry (C3), of which most permitted uses have a higher water demand than the proposed homeless navigation center. The shelter's plumbing fixtures would meet California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) requirements, including the installation of low-flow and self-closing fixtures. Based on these factors, water use for this project has been accounted for and impacts to water supplies are less than significant.
- c. The project site is located immediately south of the City's WWTP. The project would include the installation of a wastewater lift pump west of the proposed shelter building. In 2019, the City completed construction of a Tertiary Treatment Facilities project at the WWTP. Per the City's Wastewater Collection System Master Plan and Renewal Strategy, the City's wastewater treatment facility has adequate capacity to serve this project as well as existing commitments and yet-to-be-developed parcels within the City.

Construction activities could result in the generation of solid waste materials from both construction and demolition activities. In accordance with Paso Robles Code, the project contractor would recycle and/or salvage for reuse a minimum of 65% of the non-hazardous construction and demolition waste.

During operation, solid waste collection service will be provided by licensed commercial solid waste disposal service and waste would be disposed at the Paso Robles Landfill, located east of the city limits. Per the City's Master Plan of Sustainable Opportunities at the Paso Robles Landfill, the City's landfill has adequate capacity to accommodate construction-related and operational solid waste disposal for this project. The landfill has an estimated lifespan through approximately 2051 and has adequate daily capacity to accept waste produced from the project.

- e. As discussed above, construction and demolition waste would be recycled and/or salvaged in accordance with the Paso Robles Code. The project would not result in a substantial increase in waste generation during project construction or operation. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

Conclusion

No significant impacts would occur and no mitigation is recommended.

Finding

Potential impacts to utilities and service systems would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XX. WILDFIRE

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

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

Setting

With the exception of riparian vegetation associated with the Salinas River, the project site is generally surrounded by urbanized uses, including U.S. 101, the WTTP, State Route 46, and residential development east of the project site across the Salinas River. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the project site is not located within a State Responsibility Area (SRA). Further, the project site is not located Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the City General Plan Safety Element.

Impact

- a–d.** The project site is not located within or near a state responsibility area and is not designated as a very high, high, or moderate fire hazard severity zone. Therefore, this section and guideline questions (a) through (d) do not apply. The project would be reviewed by the City of Paso Robles Fire Department and designed in accordance with the applicable Fire Codes. Given these considerations, there would be no impact associated with an SRA or Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Conclusion

No impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Finding

Potential wildfire impacts would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. | Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. | Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. | Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- a.** As discussed in the preceding sections, the project has the potential to significantly degrade the quality of the environment, including effects on animals or sensitive habitats, or to eliminate unknown, subsurface prehistoric resources. During construction, ground disturbance and construction of the project may affect biological resources, including sensitive and special-status habitats and species. Grading activities may adversely affect subsurface cultural resources (if present). Mitigation measures are identified to reduce potential impacts a less-than-significant level, including, but not limited to, avoidance of sensitive habitats where feasible, preconstruction

wildlife surveys, construction monitoring by qualified biologist, restoration of impacted habitat, and protection of mature live oak trees. Mitigation also requires a qualified archaeologist be present during ground-disturbing activities to address unexpected cultural resources in the event they are discovered.

- b.** When project impacts are considered along with, or in combination with other impacts, the project-related impacts would not be significant. With the implementation of mitigation, construction and operation of the project would not result in significant emissions of air pollutant or GHGs that would be cumulatively considerable. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to reduce project-related impacts to a less-than-significant level. Based on implementation of identified project-specific mitigation measures, the cumulative effects of the proposed project would be less than significant.
- c.** Implementation of the project would result in the generation of pollutants, which may affect air quality, and would result in a short-term increase in the ambient noise level during construction. Mitigation measures have been developed that would reduce these project-specific impacts to a less-than-significant level; therefore, the project would not result in substantial, adverse environmental effects to human beings, either directly or indirectly.

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MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
<i>Air Quality</i>					
AQ-1	<p>Prior to commencement of grading, demolition, and construction activities, the contractor shall include the following Best Available Control Technology measures for diesel-fueled construction equipment on final grading and construction plans. These measures will reduce reactive organic gases, nitrogen oxides, and diesel particulate matter emissions from construction equipment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain all construction equipment in proper tune according to manufacturer's specifications; Fuel all off-road and portable diesel-powered equipment with California Air Resources Board (CARB)-certified motor vehicle diesel fuel (non-taxed version suitable for off-road); Use diesel construction equipment meeting CARB's Tier 3 certified engines or cleaner off-road heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State Off-road Regulation; Use on-road heavy-duty trucks that meet the CARB's 2012 or cleaner certification standard for on-road heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State On-Road Regulation; Construction or trucking companies with fleets that do not have engines in their fleet that meet the engine standards identified in the above two measures (e.g., captive or nitrogen oxide-exempt area fleets) may be eligible by proving alternative compliance; All on- and off-road diesel equipment shall not idle for more than 5 minutes. Signs shall be posted in 	Incorporation of specifications on grading and construction plans	Prior to construction	Designated monitor to ensure compliance	City, Air Pollution Control District

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>the designated queuing areas and or job sites to remind drivers and operators of the 5 minute idling limit;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Diesel idling within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors is not permitted; h. Staging and queuing areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors; i. Electrify equipment when feasible; j. Substitute gasoline-powered in place of diesel-powered equipment, where feasible; and k. Use alternatively fueled construction equipment on-site where feasible, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane, or biodiesel. 				
AQ-2	<p>Prior to commencement of grading, demolition, and construction activities, the contractor shall include the following measures to control fugitive dust on final grading and construction plans. These measures will reduce fugitive dust (PM₁₀) emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prohibit dust opacity greater than 10% from any project source beyond the property line; b. Prohibit visible fugitive dust on-site that equals or exceeds 20% opacity for 3 minutes or more in any 1 hour; c. Provide for monitoring dust and construction debris during construction; d. Designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering or other measures as necessary to prevent transport of dust off-site. Duties should include holiday and weekend periods when work may not be in progress (but strong winds are forecast); e. Provide the name and telephone number of such 	Incorporation of specifications on grading and construction plans	Prior to construction	Designated monitor to ensure compliance	City, Air Pollution Control District

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>persons to the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District prior to construction commencement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Identify complaint handling procedures; g. Fill out a daily dust observation log; and h. Provide a list of all heavy-duty construction equipment operating at the site. The list shall include the make, model, engine size, and year of each piece of equipment. <p>Dust Control measures shall contain the following items or equivalent measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible. b. Water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency shall be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water shall be used whenever possible. c. All dirt stockpile areas shall be sprayed daily as needed. d. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than 1 month after initial grading shall be sown with a fast-germinating native grass seed and watered until vegetation is established. e. All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation shall be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District. f. All parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible after 				

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>initial site grading. In addition, building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.</p> <p>g. Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall be posted to not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site.</p> <p>h. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, or other loose materials are to be covered or shall maintain at least two feet of free board (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 23114.</p> <p>i. Wheel washers shall be installed where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto streets, or trucks and equipment leaving the site shall be washed off.</p> <p>j. Parking lots and driveways shall be swept at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water shall be used when feasible.</p> <p>k. Permanent dust control measures shall be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil-disturbing activities.</p>				
AQ-3	<p>Naturally occurring asbestos has been identified by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as a toxic air contaminant. Serpentine and ultramafic rocks are very common in the state and may contain naturally occurring asbestos. Under the CARB Air Toxics Control Measure (ATCM) for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations, prior to construction permit issuance, a geologic investigation shall be prepared to determine the presence of naturally occurring asbestos. If naturally occurring asbestos is found at the site, the City must comply with all requirements outlined in the Asbestos ATCM before grading begins. These requirements may include, but are</p>	<p>Incorporation of specifications on grading and construction plans</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>	<p>Designated monitor to ensure compliance</p>	<p>City, Air Pollution Control District</p>

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>not limited to: (1) preparation of an “Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan,” which must be approved by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) before grading begins, and (2) an “Asbestos Health and Safety Program,” as determined necessary by the SLOAPCD. Prior to final inspection or occupancy, whichever occurs first, when naturally occurring asbestos is encountered, the City shall receive verification from the SLOAPCD that the above measures have been incorporated into the project.</p>				
<i>Biological Resources</i>					
BIO-1	<p>Survey timing, site preparation, construction activities, planting installation, maintenance, monitoring, and reporting of the vegetation/restoration efforts shall be done in accordance with applicable regulations. The following measures shall be incorporated by the contractor during construction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prior to construction, locations/boundaries of sensitive communities shall be flagged by a qualified biologist. The areas to be protected shall be shown on all applicable construction plans. b. Prior to any grubbing or vegetation removal, exclusionary fencing shall be erected at the boundaries of confirmed sensitive habitat areas to avoid equipment and human intrusion adjacent habitats, including the seasonal wetland feature located within the southern portion of the project study area. The fencing shall remain in place throughout construction activities. c. Prior to construction, the City shall specify an on-site mitigation strategy to mitigate for impacts to sensitive communities that may be impacted. Restoration of permanently affected riparian areas, if any, shall occur at a minimum 1:1 ratio, and shall 	Retain qualified biologist	Prior to construction	<p>If required, Mitigation and Monitoring Plan to be approved by resource agencies; implemented prior to, during, and following construction. Success to be monitored per plan, and reports to be submitted pursuant to resource permit requirements</p>	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>occur within the bank and riparian edge of the Salinas River. This on-site mitigation strategy shall follow permit conditions in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suitable on-site mitigation locations based on soil type, hydrologic conditions, and proximity to existing habitat; 2. Seed collection requirements and protocol; 3. Soil seed bank conservation strategies; 4. Mitigation site preparation techniques; 5. Seeding regime; 6. Mitigation site maintenance schedule, including weed abatement strategies, erosion control monitoring, etc.; and 7. Monitoring requirements. 				
BIO-2	<p>Prior to start of construction, a qualified biologist shall conduct a worker orientation program for construction staff. The training shall include information on and emphasize the presence of special-status species and habitats identified within the project vicinity during previous field surveys and preconstruction surveys, including, but not limited to, oak trees, riparian and wetland habitat, California red-legged frog, western spadefoot toad, southwestern pond turtle, coast horned lizard, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, nesting raptors and ground-nesting birds, least Bell's vireo, and roosting bats. The training shall also include applicable local, City of Paso Robles, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulatory policies and provisions regarding their protection, and measures to be implemented to avoid and/or minimize impacts.</p>	Retain qualified biologist	Prior to construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
BIO-3	Construction monitoring shall be conducted by the City of Paso Robles or a designated, qualified biologist at a frequency and duration appropriate for the project construction, based on the species and applicable regulations.	Retain qualified biologist	Prior to and during construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City
BIO-4	Prior to and during construction, the project shall implement erosion control best management practices. To reduce the potential for inadvertent release of sediment from construction areas to the Salinas River or other sensitive resource areas, the contractor shall install appropriate erosion control devices (i.e., straw wattles, silt fence) around the perimeter of areas of the project site experiencing disturbance of the ground surface. Any storm drains and gutters leading to drainage and/or wetland areas shall be protected by installation of erosion control measures or shall be blocked to prevent water entry. Erosion control devices shall be checked on a daily basis to ensure proper function.	Identify measures on grading and construction plans	Prior to and during construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City
BIO-5	Prior to construction, the City of Paso Robles shall ensure preparation and implementation of a Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan that includes provisions for avoiding and/or minimizing impacts to sensitive habitat areas, including wetland and riparian areas and water bodies due to equipment-related spills during project implementation. The City shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the City shall ensure that the plan allows a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measure to take should a spill occur. The plan shall include the following provisions: a. All equipment fueling shall be conducted within designated staging areas of the project site. Such	Prepare Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan	Prior to construction	Document compliance with plan in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>areas shall consist of roadway or ruderal habitat. At no time shall any equipment fueling be conducted within 100 feet of any wetland and riparian habitat area or water body;</p> <p>b. An overview of the containment measures to appropriately store and contain all fuels and associated petroleum products during the project shall be included in the plan. This shall include provisions for equipment staging areas, such as the need for drip pans underneath parked equipment and designated storage areas for fuel dispensing equipment with visqueen lining or similar and secondary containment; and</p> <p>c. A description of the response equipment that will be on-site during construction and exact procedures for responding to any inadvertent spills including miscellaneous fuel and/or lubricant spills from construction equipment and vehicles during operations. Final specifications of a Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City prior to project implementation.</p>				
BIO-6	<p>The City of Paso Robles shall ensure that all grading and construction plans include the following measures specific to live oak tree protection:</p> <p>a. Protection Fencing: Protection fencing shall be shown in orange ink on the grading plan. Protection fencing shall consist of 4-foot-high chain link, snow, or safety fence (staked with t-posts 8 feet on center) at the edge of the critical root zone or line of encroachment for each tree or group of trees. The fence shall be installed prior to initiation of grading and construction activities. The contractor shall be responsible for maintaining an erect fence</p>	Identify measures on grading and construction plans	Prior to and during construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>throughout the construction period. An arborist, upon notification, shall inspect the fence placement once erected. The fence shall not be moved prior to arborist inspection and/or approval. If orange plastic fencing is used, a minimum of four zip ties shall be used on each stake to secure the fence. All efforts shall be made to maximize the distance from each protected tree. Weather-proof signs shall be posted by the general contractor on the fences every 50 feet with the following information: “Tree Protection Zone. No personnel, equipment, materials, and vehicles are allowed. Do not remove or re-position this fence without calling [Name of Arborist, Phone Number].”</p>				
	<p>b. Soil Aeration Methods: Soils within the critical root zone that have been compacted by heavy equipment and/or construction activities shall be returned to their original state before all work is completed. Methods include water jetting, adding organic matter, and boring small holes with an auger (18 inches deep, 2 to 3 feet apart, with a 2- to 4-inch auger) and the application of moderate amounts of nitrogen fertilizer. The arborist(s) shall advise.</p>				
	<p>c. Chip Mulch: All areas within the critical root zone of the trees that can be fenced shall receive a 4- to 6-inch layer of chip mulch to retain moisture, retain soil structure, and reduce the effects of soil compaction.</p>				
	<p>d. Trenching within the Critical Root Zone: All trenching within the critical root zone of native trees shall be hand dug. All major roots shall be avoided whenever possible. All exposed roots larger than 1-inch diameter shall be clean cut with sharp pruning tools and not left ragged. A mandatory meeting between the arborist(s) and grading</p>				

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>contractor(s) shall occur prior to start of work.</p> <p>e. Grading within the Critical Root Zone: Grading shall not encroach within the critical root zone unless authorized. Grading shall not disrupt the normal drainage pattern around the trees. Fills shall not create a ponding condition and excavations shall not leave the tree on a rapidly draining mound.</p> <p>f. Exposed Roots: Any exposed roots shall be recovered the same day they are exposed. If this is not feasible, exposed roots shall be covered with burlap or another suitable material and wetted down twice per day until reburied.</p> <p>g. Equipment Operation: Vehicles and all heavy equipment shall not be driven under the trees, as this will contribute to soil compaction. Vehicles and equipment shall not be parked under the tree canopy, and all areas behind protection fencing are off-limits unless preapproved by the arborist.</p> <p>h. Existing Surfaces: The existing ground surface within the critical root zone of all oak trees shall not be cut, filled, compacted, or pared unless shown on the grading plans and approved by the arborist.</p> <p>i. Construction Materials and Waste: No liquid or solid construction waste or materials shall be dumped or stored on the ground within the critical root zone of any native tree.</p> <p>j. Arborist Monitoring: An arborist shall be present for the following activities: preconstruction fence placement inspection; all grading and trenching within the critical root zone of the tree to be retained; and any other encroachment the arborist feels necessary and as authorized by the City;</p> <p>k. Preconstruction Meeting and Compliance Letter: An on-site preconstruction meeting with the</p>				

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>arborist, City of Paso Robles, and earth-moving construction crew shall be required. Prior to final inspection, a letter from the arborist shall be required verifying the health/condition of all impacted trees and providing any recommendations for any additional mitigation. The letter shall verify that the arborist was on-site for all grading and/or trenching activity that encroached into the critical root zone of the selected native trees, and that all work done in these areas was completed to the standards set forth above.</p> <p>l. Pruning: Class 4 pruning includes crown-reduction pruning (reduction of tops, sides, or individual limbs). A trained arborist shall perform all pruning. No pruning shall take more than 25% of the live crown of any native tree. Any trees that may need pruning for road or structure clearance shall be pruned prior to any grading activities to avoid any branch tearing.</p> <p>m. Landscape: All landscape within the critical root zone shall consist of drought-tolerant or native varieties. Lawns shall be avoided. All irrigation trenching shall be routed around critical root zones, otherwise above ground drip-irrigation shall be used.</p> <p>n. Utility Placement: All utilities, sewer, and storm drains shall be placed down the roads and driveways and, when possible, outside the critical root zones. The arborist shall supervise trenching within the critical root zone. All trenches in these areas shall be exposed by air spade or hand dug with utilities routed under or over roots larger than three inches in diameter.</p> <p>o. Fertilization and Cultural Practices: As the project moves towards completion, the arborist may</p>				

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>suggest either fertilization and/or mycorrhiza applications that will benefit tree health. Mycorrhiza offers several benefits to the host plant, including faster growth, improved nutrition, ground drought resistance, and protection from pathogens.</p>				
BIO-7	<p>Prior to construction, the City of Paso Robles shall obtain all necessary permits, approvals, and authorizations from jurisdictional agencies. These may include, but may not be limited to: (1) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Nationwide Permit 12; (2) Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Water Quality Certification; and (3) California Department of Fish and Wildlife Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement for activities within the tops of banks or outer edges of riparian canopies (whichever extends furthest from the streambeds) of drainages. The City shall adhere to all conditions included within these permits, approvals, and authorizations.</p>	<p>Obtain necessary resource agency permits</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>	<p>Document permits in file</p>	<p>City</p>
BIO-8	<p>Prior to construction, any riparian and wetland areas shall be shown on all construction plans. All riparian vegetation planned for removal shall also be specified and shown on the construction plans.</p>	<p>Identify sensitive habitat areas on grading and construction plans</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report</p>	<p>City</p>
BIO-9	<p>Prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall permanently remove, from the project area, any individuals of exotic species, such as bullfrogs, crayfish, and centrarchid fishes, to the maximum extent possible, in compliance with the California Fish and Game Code.</p>	<p>Retain qualified biologist</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>	<p>Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report</p>	<p>City</p>
BIO-10	<p>During construction, all trash that may attract predators shall be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris shall be removed from</p>	<p>Include measure on grading and construction plans</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>Document compliance in periodic and final construction</p>	<p>City</p>

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	work areas.			monitoring report	
BIO-11	Unless otherwise specified in resource agency permits, at least 30 days prior to the onset of activities, the City of Paso Robles shall obtain a letter of permission from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to relocate any southwestern pond turtles, western spadefoot toads, or coast horned lizards that are present within the project study area. In the event special-status species are observed, qualified specialists shall perform a capture and relocation effort. If present, the qualified biologist shall capture and relocate any pond turtles, spadefoot toads, and coast horned lizards to safe locations outside of the area of impact, pursuant to California Department of Fish and Wildlife conditions. Observations of Species of Special Concern or other special-status species shall be documented on California Natural Diversity Database forms and submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife upon project completion.	Obtain necessary resource agency permits and authorizations; retain qualified specialist	Prior to and during construction	Document permits in file; document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City
BIO-12	Unless otherwise specified in resource agency permits, at least 7 days prior to onset of activities, a qualified biologist shall survey the work site for the presence of California red-legged frog, coast horned lizard, southwestern pond turtle, and western spadefoot toad. If special-status species, including mature individuals, tadpoles, or eggs are found, the approved specialist shall contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine if moving any of these life stages is appropriate. In making this determination, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall consider if an appropriate relocation site exists. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife approves moving animals, the approved specialist shall be allowed	Obtain necessary resource agency permits and authorizations; retain qualified specialist	Prior to and during construction	Document permits in file; document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	sufficient time to move special-status species from the work site before work activities begin. Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved specialists shall participate in activities associated with the capture, handling, and monitoring of California red-legged frogs, unless otherwise specified in resource agency permits.				
BIO-13	A qualified biologist shall monitor the work site during construction. The qualified biologist shall be experienced in the identification and protection of California red-legged frogs, coast horned lizard, southwestern pond turtle, western spadefoot toad, and least Bell's vireo. The qualified biologist shall be on-site to perform preconstruction surveys, instruct workers, and monitor activities within sensitive habitat areas and during relocation of special-status species. The qualified biologist shall have the authority to halt any action that might result in impacts that exceed the levels anticipated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife during review of the proposed action. If work is stopped, the appropriate regulatory agency (e.g., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife) shall be notified immediately by the qualified biologist. The qualified biologist shall also submit a report to the City of Paso Robles documenting the implementation of any required mitigation measures.	Obtain necessary resource agency permits and authorizations; retain qualified biologist	Prior to and during construction	Document permits in file; document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City
BIO-14	During construction, in order to reduce the potential for amphibious species and other wildlife species entering the construction area, standing water shall not be created as a result of construction activities.	Include measures on construction plans	Prior to and during construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
BIO-15	<p>Prior to construction, the project site shall be surveyed by a qualified specialist for identification of woodrat middens. In the event woodrat middens are observed, and the middens cannot be avoided during project activities, then the middens shall be removed as follows, under supervision of the specialist. Due to the health risks surrounding this activity, removal by hand is not recommended.</p> <p>a. Upon completion of clearing the vegetation surrounding the woodrat shelter, the operator shall gently nudge the intact middens with equipment or long-handled tools. The operators shall place their equipment within the previously cleared area and not within the undisturbed woodrat shelter area. The objective is to alarm the woodrats so that they evacuate the midden and scatter away from the equipment and into the undisturbed habitat.</p> <p>b. Once the woodrats have evacuated the midden, the operator shall gently pick up portions of the structure with a front loader and move it to the undisturbed adjacent habitat. The objective of moving the structure is to provide the displaced woodrats with a stockpile of material to scavenge while they build a new midden. Jeopardizing the integrity of the structure is not an issue.</p>	Include measures on construction plans; retain qualified specialist	Prior to and during construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City
BIO-16	<p>To prevent inadvertent harm to San Joaquin kit fox, prior to construction, a qualified specialist shall perform the following monitoring activities:</p> <p>a. Within 30 days prior to initiation of site disturbance and/or construction, the qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-activity (i.e., preconstruction) survey for known or potential kit fox dens and submit a letter to the City of Paso Robles reporting the date the survey was conducted, the survey protocol, the</p>	Include measures on construction plans; retain qualified specialist	Prior to and during construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>survey results, and what measures were necessary (and completed), as applicable, to address any kit fox activity within the project limits.</p> <p>b. The qualified specialist shall conduct weekly site visits during site-disturbance activities (e.g., grading, disking, excavation, stock piling of dirt or gravel, etc.) that proceed longer than 14 days, for the purpose of monitoring compliance with required San Joaquin kit fox mitigation measures. Site-disturbance activities lasting up to 14 days do not require weekly monitoring by the specialist unless observations of kit fox or their dens are made on-site or the qualified specialist recommends monitoring for another reason. When weekly monitoring is required, the specialist shall submit weekly monitoring reports to the City of Paso Robles.</p> <p>Prior to or during project activities, if any observations are made of San Joaquin kit fox, or any known or potential San Joaquin kit fox dens are discovered within the project limits, the qualified biologist shall reassess the probability of incidental take (e.g., harm or death) to kit fox. At the time a den is discovered, the qualified biologist shall contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for guidance on possible additional kit fox protection measures to implement and whether or not a federal and/or state incidental take permit is needed. If a potential den is encountered during construction, all work shall stop until such time the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife determine that it is appropriate to resume work.</p> <p>If incidental take of kit fox during project activities</p>				

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	<p>is possible, before project activities commence, the applicant must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (see contact information below). The results of this consultation may require the applicant to obtain a federal and/or state permit for incidental take during project activities. The applicant should be aware that the presence of kit foxes or known or potential kit fox dens at the project site could result in further delays of project activities.</p> <p>In addition, the qualified specialist shall implement the following measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within 30 days prior to initiation of site disturbance and/or construction, fenced exclusion zones shall be established around all known and potential kit fox dens. Exclusion zone fencing shall consist of either large flagged stakes connected by rope or cord, or survey laths or wooden stakes prominently flagged with survey ribbon. Each exclusion zone shall be roughly circular in configuration with a radius of the following distance measured outward from the den or burrow entrances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Potential kit fox den: 50 feet ii. Known kit fox den: 100 feet iii. Kit fox pupping den: 150 feet 2. All foot and vehicle traffic, as well as all construction activities, including storage of supplies and equipment, shall remain outside of exclusion zones. Exclusion zones shall be maintained until all project-related disturbances have been terminated, and then shall be removed. 				

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	3. If kit foxes or known or potential kit fox dens are found on-site, daily monitoring by a qualified specialist during ground-disturbing activities shall be required.				
BIO-17	During the site disturbance and/or construction phase, grading and construction activities after dusk shall be prohibited unless coordinated through the City of Paso Robles, during which additional kit fox mitigation measures may be required.	Include measures on construction plans	During construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City
BIO-18	During the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, to prevent entrapment of the San Joaquin kit fox, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches in excess of 2 feet in depth shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Trenches shall also be inspected for entrapped kit fox each morning prior to onset of field activities and immediately prior to covering with plywood at the end of each working day. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they shall be thoroughly inspected for entrapped kit fox. Any kit fox so discovered shall be allowed to escape before field activities resume, or removed from the trench or hole by a qualified specialist and allowed to escape unimpeded.	Include measures on construction plans	During construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City
BIO-19	During the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, any pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4 inches or greater, stored overnight at the project site shall be thoroughly inspected for trapped San Joaquin kit foxes before the subject pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If during the construction phase a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe will not be moved, or if necessary, be moved only once to remove it from the path of activity, until the kit fox has escaped.	Include measures on construction plans	During construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
BIO-20	Prior to, during, and after the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, use of pesticides or herbicides shall be in compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations. This is necessary to minimize the probability of primary or secondary poisoning of endangered species utilizing adjacent habitats, and the depletion of prey upon which San Joaquin kit foxes depend.	Include measures on construction plans	Prior to, during, and following construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City
BIO-21	During the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, any contractor or employee that inadvertently kills or injures a San Joaquin kit fox or who finds any such animal either dead, injured, or entrapped shall be required to report the incident immediately to the City of Paso Robles. If any observations are made of injured or dead kit fox, the City shall immediately notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. In addition, formal notification shall be provided in writing within 3 working days of the finding of any such animal(s). Notification shall include the date, time, location, and circumstances of the incident. Any threatened or endangered species found dead or injured shall be turned over immediately to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for care, analysis, or disposition.	Include measures on construction plans	During construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City
BIO-22	Prior to final inspection, should any long internal or perimeter fencing be proposed or installed around natural habitat areas, the City of Paso Robles shall do the following to provide for kit fox passage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If a wire strand/pole design is used, the lowest strand shall be no closer to the ground than 12 inches. b. If a more solid wire mesh fence is used, 8 × 12-inch openings near the ground shall be provided every 100 yards. 	Include measures on construction plans	During construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
	Upon fence installation, the applicant shall notify the City to verify proper installation. Any fencing constructed after issuance of a final permit shall follow the above guidelines				
BIO-23	<p>If construction activities are conducted during the typical nesting bird season (February 15 through September 15), preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by a qualified specialist prior to any construction activity to identify potential bird nesting activity. If nesting activity is identified during the preconstruction survey process, the following measures shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If active nest sites of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are observed within the project study area, then the project shall be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid direct take of the identified nests, eggs, and/or young; b. If active nest sites of raptors and/or bird species of special concern are observed within the vicinity of the project site, then the California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be contacted to establish the appropriate buffer around the nest site. Construction activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence; and c. Active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist, and a letter report shall be submitted to the City of Paso Robles, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife documenting project compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and applicable project mitigation measures. 	Include measures on construction plans	During construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
BIO-24	A qualified biologist shall conduct roosting bat surveys prior to any trimming or removal of trees. If roosting bats are present, work activities shall not occur within 100 feet of the active roost. If trees that provide bat roosting habitat are removed, the City of Paso Robles shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine the appropriate means of mitigation for loss of the roosting habitat. Removed trees shall be replaced by native trees that provide roosting habitat for bats.	Retain qualified specialist	Prior to construction	Document compliance in periodic and final construction monitoring report	City
<i>Cultural Resources</i>					
CUL-1	A qualified archaeologist shall monitor initial ground-disturbing construction activities within native soils. If buried cultural resources, such as historic period artifacts or nonhuman bone, are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work will stop within 100 feet of the find until the qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment measures. Treatment measures typically include development of avoidance strategies, capping with fill material, or mitigation of impacts through data recovery programs such as excavation or detailed documentation. If cultural resources are discovered during construction activities, the construction contractor will verify that work is halted until appropriate, site-specific measures, such as those listed above, are implemented. The City of Paso Robles will approve the measures to be implemented before construction activities are resumed in the area of the find.	Retain qualified archaeologist	During construction	Document compliance in construction monitoring report	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
CUL-2	If human remains are discovered or recognized during site preparation, grading, or construction, there will be no further excavation or disturbance of the discovery site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the County of San Luis Obispo coroner has been informed and has determined that no investigation of the cause of death is required. If the remains are determined by the coroner to be of Native American origin, the descendants will be identified and notified through the Native American Heritage Commission.	Retain qualified specialist, comply with regulations	During construction	Document compliance in construction monitoring report	City
CUL-3	If required, upon completion of all monitoring/mitigation activities, the consulting archaeologist shall submit a report to the City of Paso Robles and Central Coast Information Center summarizing all monitoring/mitigation activities and confirming that all recommended mitigation measures have been met.	Prepare final monitoring report	Following completion of monitoring activities	Document compliance in construction monitoring report, submit to City and CCIC	City
<i>Geology and Soils</i>					
GEO-1	The recommendations of the <i>Geotechnical Engineering Report for Proposed Emergency Warming Center</i> , prepared by Beacon Geotechnical in November 2019 and regarding geologic, seismic, and liquefaction conditions, shall be incorporated into the final design plans submitted to the City of Paso Robles for the project. The City shall ensure that all recommendations of the geotechnical report are incorporated into the final design.	Include recommendations on construction plans.	Prior to construction	Ensure recommendations are included during final plan check	City

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Administrative Action	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting	Party Responsible for Verification
<i>Noise</i>					
NS-1	<p>Prior to initiation of construction activities, the project contractor shall include noise measures on the final design plans, which will include noise reduction practices for all phases of construction. The plan shall be submitted to the City of Paso Robles for approval and shall include the following Noise Reduction practices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Limit the operation of heavy equipment and loud activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; b. Shield especially loud pieces of stationary construction equipment; c. Locate portable generators, air compressors, etc. away from sensitive noise receptors; d. Limit grouping major pieces of equipment operating in one area to the greatest extent feasible; e. Ensure that all equipment items have the manufacturers' recommended noise abatement measures, such as mufflers, engine covers, and engine vibration isolators, intact and operational. Internal combustion engines used for any purpose on or related to the job shall be equipped with a muffler or baffle of a type recommended by the manufacturer; and f. Conduct worker training meetings to educate and encourage noise awareness and sensitivity. This training should focus on worker conduct while in the vicinity of sensitive receptors (e.g., minimizing and locating the use of circular saws in areas adjacent to sensitive receptors, being mindful of shouting and the loud use of attention-drawing language). 	Prepare Noise Control Plan	Prior to and during construction	Document compliance in construction monitoring report	City