CITY OF HOLLISTER

PARK FACILITY MASTER PLAN

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Prepared for:
CITY OF HOLLISTER
339 FIFTH STREET
HOLLISTER, CA 95023

Prepared by:

MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL
500 YGNACIO VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 300
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596

FEBRUARY 2019

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

An initial study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063[a]). If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines the impacts are, or can be reduced to, less than significant, a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration may be prepared instead of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b)). Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a mitigated negative declaration is appropriate when the project's initial study identifies potentially significant effects, but:

a. Revisions to the project plan were made that would avoid or reduce the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur; and

b. There is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment.

This Initial Study identifies potentially significant impacts on certain environmental resources. The Mitigated Negative Declaration proposes a range of mitigation measures to reduce all such effects to less than significant levels. Therefore, the City of Hollister (City) has prepared this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the project because all impacts resulting from the project are reduced to less than significant levels through the adoption and implementation of mitigation measures incorporated into the project. This IS/MND conforms to the content requirements of a negative declaration under CEQA Guidelines Section 15071.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over a proposed project. Where two or more public agencies will be involved with a project, CEQA Guidelines Section 15051 lists criteria for identifying the lead agency. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers." The project would be approved and carried out by the City of Hollister. Therefore, based on the criteria described above, the City of Hollister is the lead agency for the proposed project.

1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The City is proposing to implement the Hollister Park Facility Master Plan Project. The purpose of this IS/MND is to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the project and to provide mitigation where necessary to avoid, minimize, or lessen those effects. This document is divided into the following sections:

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This section provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section includes the project background and a detailed description of the proposed project. It also describes the process used for notifying and involving the public during project planning and for coordination with relevant agencies and organizations.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

This section describes the environmental setting for each of the environmental subject areas including cumulative impacts; evaluates a range of impacts classified as "no impact," "less than significant impact," "less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated," or "potentially significant impact" in response to the environmental checklist, and includes mitigation measures, where appropriate, to mitigate potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level; and provides an environmental determination for the project.

4.0 SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

This section lists the mitigation measures for the proposed project.

5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

This section identifies staff and consultants responsible for preparation of this document.

6.0 REFERENCES

This section identifies resources used in the preparation of the IS/MND.

2.0 Project Description

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

Hollister is located in northern San Benito County. California State Route 25 extends from northwest to southeast through the city and State Route 156 skirts the western and northern portions of Hollister. State Route Highway 156B extends through the city, entering from the west and north; within the city limits, it is also named San Juan Road, Fourth Street, and San Felipe Road. **Figure 2.0-1** shows the project regional location.

2.2 BACKGROUND

The City's current Park Facility Master Plan was completed in 2002. The City is updating the 2002 Park Facility Master Plan with the goal of providing parks and recreation facilities with safe, inclusive opportunities for all community members.

As part of this update process, the City prepared an inventory of existing park facilities, conducted demographic and context research, and conducted a public input process, including advertisements and notices, public meetings, an online survey, and hearings. Based on this research, the City prepared the 2018 Hollister Park Facility Master Plan (Master Plan) to recommend upgrades, expansions, and new park facilities to meet the needs of its residents. The plan also addresses funding mechanisms.

2.3 EXISTING SETTING

Hollister has 25 existing parks, located in the city. The City also has three community facilities: Dunne Park Club House, Hollister Community Center, and Veterans Memorial Building. Parks in Hollister are owned by the City, the Hollister School District, the San Benito High School District, or San Benito County.

The City has joint use agreements with both the Hollister School District and the San Benito High School District to allow for the public use of several school district–owned properties. Additionally, the City leases property from San Benito County at Veterans Memorial Park to provide tournament softball and skate park amenities to the public.

Parkland owned exclusively by the City of Hollister currently totals 84 acres. Residents have access to a total of 168.93 acres of park facilities. **Figure 2.0-2** shows existing parks in Hollister, including all parks and recreational facilities within city limits, City-owned recreation areas, school district–owned recreational areas at the seven school properties with joint use agreements, and the entire County-owned Veterans Memorial Park.

With the exception of proposed parks at the Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2, the Santa Ana Creek extension, the proposed development areas of Vista Park Hill, and additional amenities added to the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, all the parks in the Master Plan are currently existing or will be developed as part of approved subdivisions. The following describes the existing setting for proposed parks and park expansions, and **Table 2.0-1** summarizes existing facilities and amenities at each park for which improvements are anticipated under the Master Plan.

WATER RECLAMATION RECREATIONAL FACILITY

The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility (also known as the Riverside or Brigantino Park) is south of San Juan Road. The facility is developed with a parking area, turf, picnic areas, and

gravel walking paths. The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility was developed as a spray field for disposal of reclaimed water from the City of Hollister Domestic Water Reclamation Facility along with fields near the Hollister Municipal Airport. Currently, reclaimed water is sold for agricultural irrigation and the park is irrigated with groundwater. Photos of the facility are shown in **Figure 2.0-3**.

VISTA PARK HILL

Vista Park Hill is at the end of Hill Court, atop a hill north of the downtown area. The park is accessed via Hill Street or the unpaved access road. Existing park development and City-owned water tanks are located on the site. **Figure 2.0-4** shows the existing Vista Park Hill and the existing condition of the proposed development area of Vista Park Hill.

LEATHERBACK PROPERTY RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Leatherback property (6.4 acres) is owned by the City of Hollister Successor Agency to the former Redevelopment Agency and is located at the intersection of Hillcrest Road and McCray Street. The property is in the shape of an hourglass and includes properties between 111 Hillcrest Road and 901 McCray Street. The site was previously developed, first for agricultural processing and subsequently as a tar paper plant. Due to the former uses of the site, the entire site has been excavated to a depth of 4 feet to remediate hazardous materials contamination on the property. The site is currently fenced on all sides and not open to the public. Surrounding land uses are industrial and approved commercial, with residential subdivisions just beyond these industrial areas to both the east and west. Photos of the Leatherback property are shown in **Figure 2.0-5**.

HOLLISTER FIRE STATION NO. 2 PARK

Hollister Fire Station No. 2 is located at the intersection of Union Road and Airline Highway. The station is surrounded by property zoned for public use. The proposed park portion of the site (3.06 acres) is undeveloped and currently includes some vegetation and trees. Photos of the proposed park area at Hollister Fire Station No. 2 are shown in **Figure 2.0-6**.

SANTA ANA CREEK TRAIL

Santa Ana Creek runs through several neighborhoods in east Hollister. Much of the residential development in this area is recent. A park and a paved trail have been developed south of Santa Ana Road. The existing trail is aligned adjacent to the creek through a new subdivision, extending from Lucero Drive on the west to about 135 feet west of Cielo Court and Blenheim Court. The future extension of the Santa Ana Creek linear park and the existing site are shown in **Figure 2.0-7**.

OTHER PROPOSED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Dunne, Jerry Gabe Memorial, Las Brisas, and Tony Aguirre Memorial Parks are existing parks that will be upgraded with minor improvements such as security lighting, shade structures, picnic facilities, etc. See Table 2.0-1 for more details.

2.4 PROPOSED PROJECT

The project is an update to the Park Facility Master Plan. The Master Plan suggests broad conceptual locations for future park development, both inside city limits and within the city's sphere of influence and General Plan Planning Area. In addition to two new parks, the plan recommends a wide range of amenities such as picnic area improvements, security lighting, basketball and tennis courts, softball and soccer fields, gardens, public art exhibits, walking paths, dog parks, playground equipment, and adult exercise equipment at existing parks. Park design guidelines, sustainability, and other best practices are addressed in the Master Plan as well. It also discusses recommendations for joint use agreements, pedestrian and bicycle connections, and standards for dual stormwater/recreation facilities as well as funding mechanisms.

The Park Facility Master Plan includes detailed master plans for the existing Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and expansion of Vista Park Hill from a 5-acre park to an 19-acre park, as well as proposed components for development of new parks at the Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2. The existing Santa Ana Creek Trail would be extended to Hillcrest Road, but the timing is speculative because it would require acquisition or dedication of easements from future development after annexation and from existing developed unincorporated pockets of residential development. Lastly, the plan proposes construction of park amenities in currently developed areas of the existing Dunne, Jerry Gabe Memorial, Las Brisas, and Tony Aguirre Memorial parks.

Proposed park facility improvements evaluated in this IS/MND are shown in **Table 2.0-1**.

TABLE 2.0-1
PROPOSED PARK FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Park	Existing Features	Proposed Improvements	
Water Reclamation Recreational Facility (49.72-acre community park)	Picnic tables and benches Multi-use turf area Unpaved trail and walking area	Parking (275 spaces) Large and small dog parks Water play areas (with restrooms) Playground equipment (for ages 2–5 and 5–12) Basketball and tennis courts Softball and soccer fields Shade structure Amphitheater (with vendor areas) Natural exploration and education trail Future pedestrian and bicyclist bridge over San Benito River bed to east bank Sidewalks and walking paths	Exercise stations Sand volleyball courts ADA-accessible trail (eastern side of San Benito River) Amphitheater and sport field night lighting Wastewater disposal alternatives (Alternative 1: lift station and connection to 8-inch existing sewer main on San Juan Hollister Road; Alternative 2: holding tank; Alternative 3: septic system) Stormwater retention features 4,500-square-foot building for offices and meeting rooms
Vista Park Hill (5-acre community park to be expanded to	Picnic tables and benches Barbecues Shade structures	Signage ADA-accessible and hiking trails and pedestrian paths Traffic roundabout	Amphitheater Gazebo Turf and open play areas Half-court basketball

Park	Existing Features	Proposed Improvements	
19 acres)	Softball field with night lighting Play equipment Restrooms Walking trails and natural areas Scenic overlooks Drinking fountain	Disc golf course Parking Picnic and kitchen facilities Toddler, early childhood, and school-age play areas Softball area	Dog park Native plantings Wind sculptures Site art and movie screen
Leatherback Property (6.4 acres)	None (vacant)	Recreation hall Softball and soccer fields Basketball and tennis courts	Walking loop Group BBQ and shaded picnic area
Hollister Fire Station No. 2 (3.06 acres)	None (vacant, adjacent to fire station)	Outdoor fitness equipment circuit Walking loop Group or individual BBQ and shaded picnic area	Basketball courts Public art (along Airline Highway)
Santa Ana Creek Trail	None (natural feature)	Trail extension Regulatory signage Traditional or pervious concrete trail (8-foot width) Benches	Shaded areas Wayfinding signage ADA-accessible roadway crossings at trailheads
Dunne Park (4.75-acre neighborhood park)	Picnic tables and benches Group barbecues Softball fields Multi-use turf area Tennis courts Play equipment Rose garden, demonstration garden Club house Habitat area Restrooms	Security lighting Shade structure (trees, benches) Drinking fountain ADA accessibility for BBQ area	Public art Adult exercise equipment
Jerry Gabe Memorial Park (1.9-acre pocket park)	Picnic tables and benches Multi-use turf area Play equipment Off-leash dog fenced area	BBQ/picnic area Security lighting Shade structure Playground equipment (for ages 2–5 and 5–12)	Basketball/tennis court Public art Walking path Adult exercise equipment
Las Brisas Park (1.0-acre pocket park)	Picnic tables and benches Multi-use turf area Play equipment Paved walking path circuit	BBQ/picnic area Security lighting Shade structure Playground equipment (for ages 2–5 and 5–12)	Basketball/tennis court Flower garden Public art Adult exercise equipment

Park	Existing Features	Proposed Improvements	
Tony Aguirre Memorial Park (1.0-acre pocket park)	Picnic tables and benches Play equipment	BBQ/picnic area Security lighting Shade structure Flower garden	Public art Dog park Adult exercise equipment

WATER RECLAMATION RECREATIONAL FACILITY

The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility Master Plan proposes development to support a variety of activities and events. The facility would include two dog parks (for small and large dogs); water play areas; two age-designated playgrounds; softball and soccer fields; basketball and tennis courts; an amphitheater; multi-use trails; and a bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the San Benito River. The facility would include a 4,500-square-foot building with offices and meeting rooms for the City's maintenance and recreation staff. The facility would also include 275 parking spaces, restrooms, signage, sidewalks, landscaping, fencing, and stormwater retention features.

The City would use the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility to host sporting events, special events, and a variety of programs. Facilities would be available for rent by vendors, groups, and the public. The sport courts and fields would be lit at night. The amphitheater would hold between 750 and 1,000 people and would include amplified sound. **Table 2.0-2** shows the type of events expected at the park, the time of year the events would occur, and anticipated usage.

TABLE 2.0-2
WATER RECLAMATION RECREATIONAL FACILITY ANTICIPATED EVENT USAGE

Type of Activity/Event	Time of Year	Time of Day	Usage	Estimated Attendees
Adult Softball Leagues	March-November	6-10 p.m.	2-3 fields Monday through Friday	60 each night
Junior Giants Program	June-August	Weekdays 5-8 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.	1 field Monday through Friday 3 fields on Saturdays	60 each night Saturday 400
Run Club	April-July	4-6 p.m.	Mondays and Wednesdays	60 each night
Youth Flag Football	June-July	Weekdays 5-8 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.	Monday through Friday, Saturday	60 each night Saturday 200
Youth Soccer	July-September	Weekdays 5-8 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.	Monday through Friday	60 each night Saturday 300
South Bay Soaring	Year-Round	Sunday 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.	1st and 3rd Sunday of every month	30 each day
Monterey Bay Coursing	Year-Round	Saturday/Sunday	Every other month on the third weekend	30 each

Type of Activity/Event	Time of Year	Time of Day	Usage	Estimated Attendees
		7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.		day
Youth Tennis	April-May, June-August, Sept-Oct	4-5:30 p.m.		25 each day
Festivals	Year-Round	Various	Weekends, 3-4 festivals per year	750-1,000

The City has determined that sanitary sewer service would be extended from an existing pipe on the north side of San Juan Hollister Road. This would require temporary closure of the road to place the pipe under the road. Sanitary sewer service would also be provided to the existing roof truss business bordering the park to the east. The sewer line under San Juan Hollister Road is approximately 14.25 feet deep and the proposed extension would be installed to flow by gravity to the existing pipe.

Figure 2.0-8 shows the proposed Water Reclamation Recreational Facility site plan.

VISTA PARK HILL

The Vista Park Hill Master Plan proposes development of 14 acres of City-owned parkland immediately surrounding the existing 5-acre park, creating a 19-acre park in central Hollister. The improvements would be phased, beginning with Phase 1-A to improve circulation, accessibility, and amenities within the existing 5-acre park area. Phase 1-B would include construction of a road connection to North Street (Buena Vista Road) to improve overall park circulation and accessibility. Phase 2 would extend improvements to the area of the existing softball diamond. Phase 3 would improve most of the new acreage added to the park's usable recreation area, would include a network of walking trails, and would add active and passive recreational areas. The final component would be the Phase 3 expansion, which would extend park improvements to the northeast toward North Street. **Figure 2.0-9** shows the proposed Vista Park Hill Master Plan phasing and **Figure 2.0-10** shows the proposed site plan.

LEATHERBACK PROPERTY

The Leatherback property would be developed as a centralized City recreation facility. The City has not prepared a site plan for improvements on the site, but conceptual improvements would include a community recreation center (up to 35,000 square feet) with youth and/or senior facilities, softball and soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, a walking loop along the perimeter, and a barbecue/picnic area.

HOLLISTER FIRE STATION NO. 2 PARK

The City has not prepared a site plan for improvements on the Hollister Fire Station No. 2 site. Conceptual improvements would include an outdoor fitness equipment circuit, a walking loop along the perimeter, group and/or individual barbecue and shaded picnic areas, basketball courts, and public art along Airline Highway.

SANTA ANA CREEK TRAIL

The Santa Ana Creek Trail would extend the existing paved trail from its southern terminus near Cielo Court and Blenheim Drive to Hillcrest Road. The trail would include an 8-foot-wide traditional or pervious concrete trail surface, regulatory and educational signage, benches, landscaping, small shade structures, and wayfinding signage at access points and trailheads.

OTHER PARK IMPROVEMENTS

At this time, improvements at Dunne, Jerry Gabe Memorial, Las Brisas, and Tony Aguirre Memorial parks are conceptual. The City has not prepared site or construction plans. The improvements would be undertaken within the existing park areas, and no expansion of park areas is proposed at these parks. Conceptual improvements at these parks are expected to include the following:

- Dunne Park: The existing large barbeque pit would be removed and replaced with barbeque areas on flatter areas of the site for ADA accessibility. A concrete ping-pong table would be added east of the tennis courts, and shade trees and benches would be dispersed throughout the site.
- Jerry Gabe Memorial Park: Plans include a playground for children aged 5-12 at the north end of the park, with basketball and tennis courts added south of those uses. There would also be a barbeque and picnic area and a shade structure.
- Las Brisas Park: A shade structure would be added in the existing seating area between play areas; a flower garden would be added to the existing landscape area on the south side of the park; and basketball and tennis courts would be added at the east side of the park.
- Tony Aguirre Memorial Park: Shade structure and play equipment would be added near the existing playground equipment.

SUSTAINABILITY

Construction of new parks and the addition of amenities to existing parks would incorporate best practice guidelines, where feasible, to conserve water and energy. For example, low-impact development (LID) stormwater features could include permeable pavement, bioswales, and level spreaders to manage stormwater on-site and protect water quality. Hardy, low-water-use plants would be planted whenever possible and invasive species or varieties requiring excessive supplemental watering would be avoided. New park facilities could include design features to use recycled water for irrigation, recirculating aquatic features such as splash pads, and greywater for flush toilets.

Lighting fixtures and locations would be designed so as to not "overlight" an area. Parks may be evaluated for feasibility of dimming or motion sensor-activated lighting compliant with California Energy Conservation Commission Title 24 (CalGreen) regulations on a case-by-case basis. Light-emitting-diode and solar lighting may also be used.

PARK MAINTENANCE

The City of Hollister Public Works Parks Division would continue to be responsible for all park maintenance in the city, and these activities would occur at newly created parks. Facility maintenance activities include restroom cleaning; inspection litter and debris removal; repair of amenities such as benches, tables, and playground equipment; safety inspections of

playgrounds; ballfield turf repair and replacement as needed; and graffiti removal. Landscape maintenance consists of activities such as mowing and edging, irrigation system repair and replacement, replacing plants, shrubs, and trees, rodent control traps, fertilizing, and weed control (pre-emergent and post-emergent). Plant materials are also trimmed to maintain tree canopies to a minimum of 6 feet above ground level and less than 2 feet high for shorter plants and shrubs.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction of improvements at most of the parks in the Master Plan would occur from 2019 through 2021. Improvements at specific parks would be scheduled in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) dependent on funding availability. Most construction would likely occur between the months of April and October for the year that a project is included in the CIP.

Improvements at the Wastewater Reclamation Recreation Facility and Vista Park Hill would be phased and dependent upon securing grant funding. The Santa Ana Creek Trail is conceptual at this point, with portions of the trail in the county. The City anticipates that, as development is proposed in this area, the land would be annexed into the City. The City may choose to build portions of the trail as areas are annexed and developed or wait until the entire trail alignment has been annexed.

Table 2.0-3 shows the components constructed for phases of the Wastewater Reclamation Recreation Facility and Vista Park Hill improvements.

TABLE 2.0-3
WATER RECLAMATION RECREATION FACILITY AND VISTA PARK HILL PHASING

Phase	Component
Wastewater Reclamation Recreation Facility	
Phase 1	Sports field upper parking lot
Phase 2	Playgrounds, splash pad, administration buildings
Phase 3	Lower areas
Phase 4	Bridge, roadway, and parking areas
Vista Park Hill	
Phase 1-A	Hill Street improvements, pedestrian access, parking lots, plaza, amphitheater, picnic areas, playground areas, restroom building
Phase 1-B	Primary vehicular access, park monument signage, ADA multi-use trail
Phase 2	Open turf play area, fenced off-leash dog park, basketball (half-court), community mural, gazebo, overlook platform, ADA multi-use walkway, landscaping
Phase 3	Open meadow, wind sculpture garden, demonstration garden, 9-hole disc golf course, hiking/walking trails, trail connections
Phase 3 Expansion	Landscaping, amenities

2.5 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW APPROACH

Many of the components of the Master Plan (e.g., parks inventory, needs assessment, recommendations for park design and amenities, and funding mechanisms) would not directly involve actions that would result in physical changes in the environment and therefore require analysis under CEQA. However, if adopted, the Master Plan would provide for the physical development of two new parks and improvements and additional amenities at existing parks. The facility improvements identified for specific parks in the Master Plan have the potential for environmental impacts, which are the focus of this IS/MND.

The Master Plan includes the recommendation that the City partner with the San Benito High School District to develop an aquatic facility, which would benefit both high school students and the general public. As no such agreement has yet been made, and a specific site for this facility is not proposed in the Master Plan, analysis of a future aquatic facility's environmental impacts would be speculative at this time. Any future development will be subject to compliance with Hollister's General Plan policies and regulations, as well as project-level review. Potential impacts will be evaluated and, if necessary, mitigated when specific project designs are completed.

2.6 PROJECT APPROVALS

Depending on final design details, the project may potentially require the following approvals and permits.

TABLE 2.0-4
PROJECT APPROVALS

Agency	Approval/Permit
City of Hollister	• Master Plan adoption • Adoption of IS/MND • Grading permit
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	• Streambed alteration agreement
California Department of Water Resources	• Section 401 permit
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	• Section 404 permit

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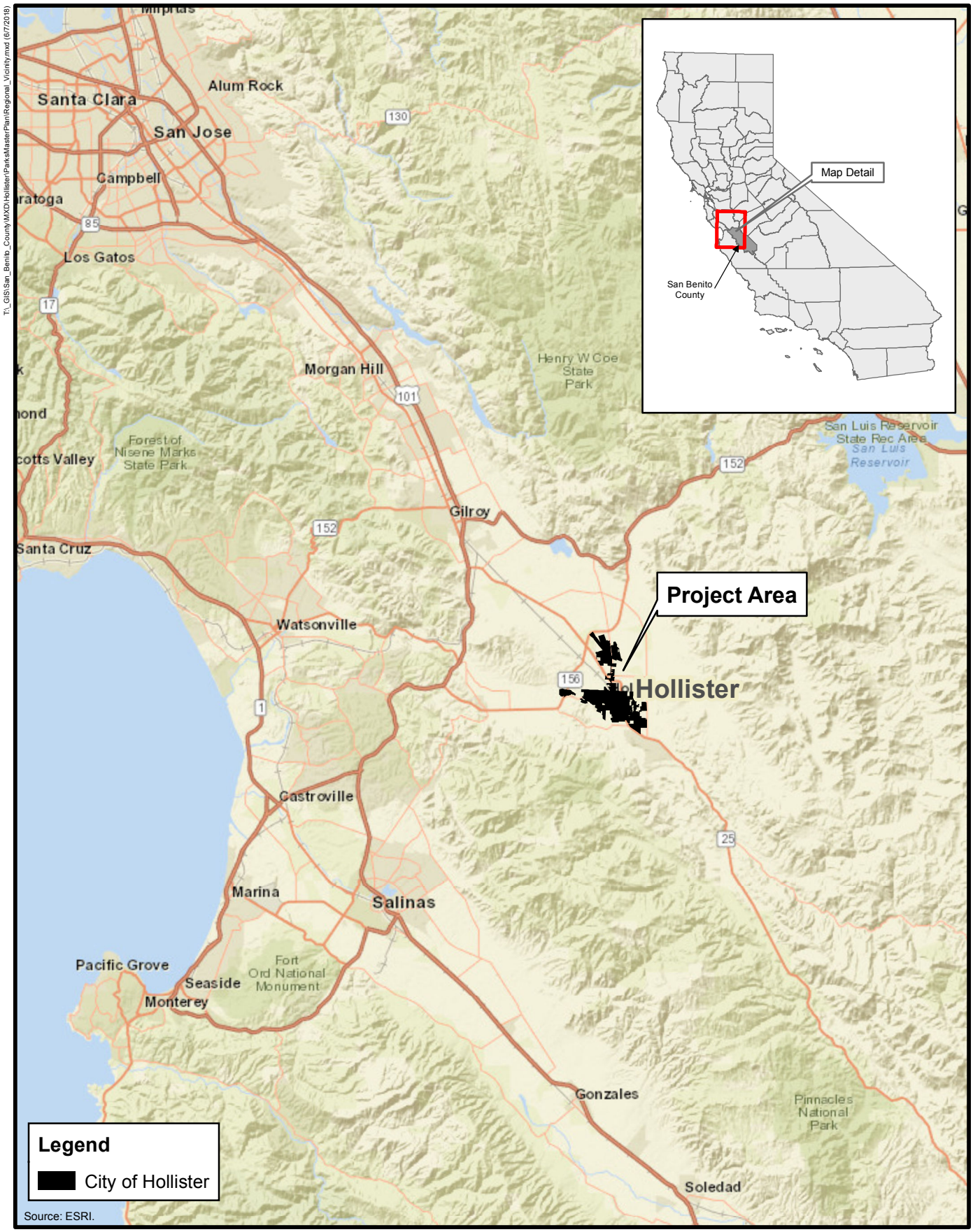

Figure 2.0-1
Regional Vicinity

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

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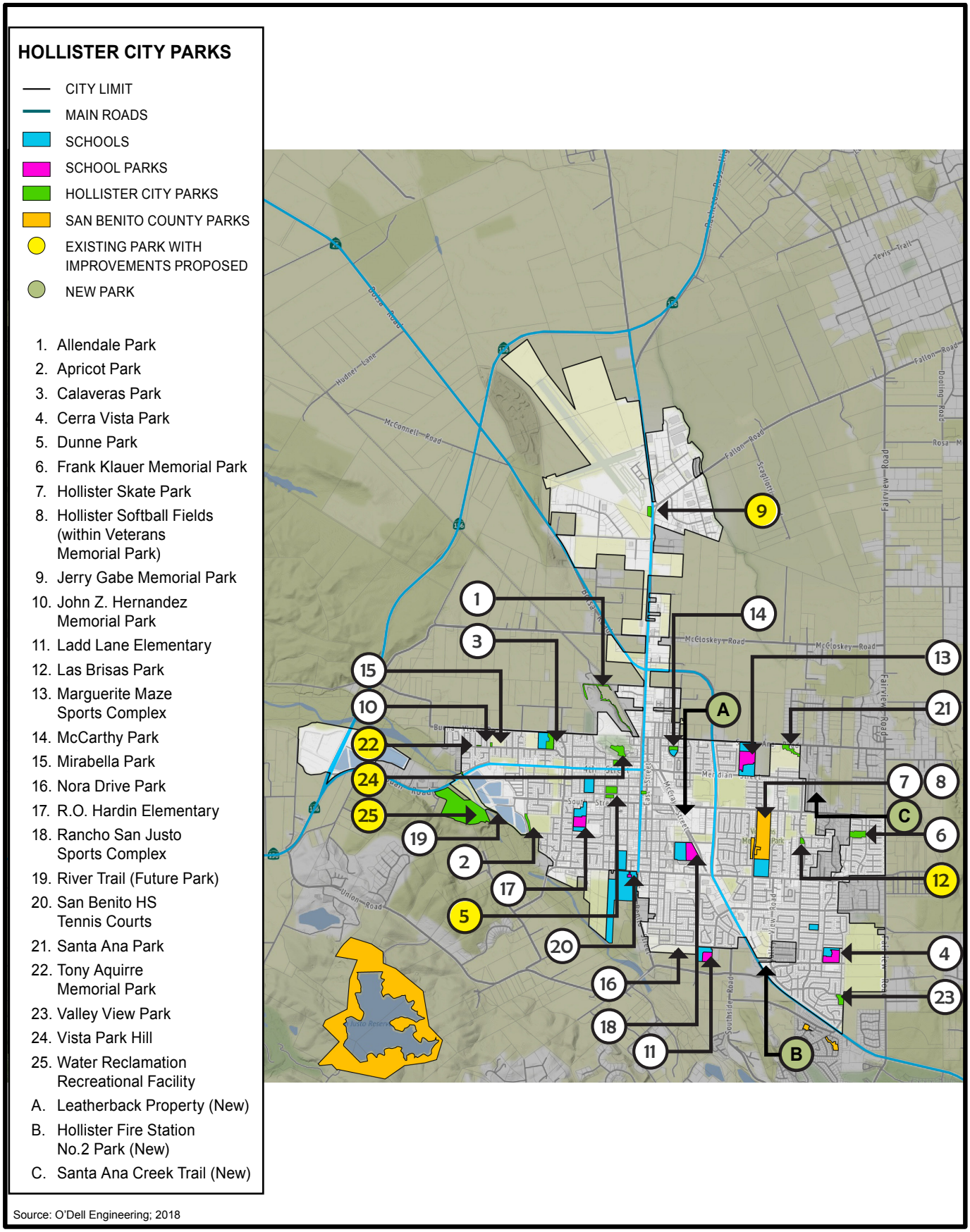

Not To Scale

FIGURE 2.0-2
Project Location

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Source: O'Dell Engineering; 2018, Michael Baker International; 2018

FIGURE 2.0-3
Water Reclamation Recreational Facility

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INTERNATIONAL

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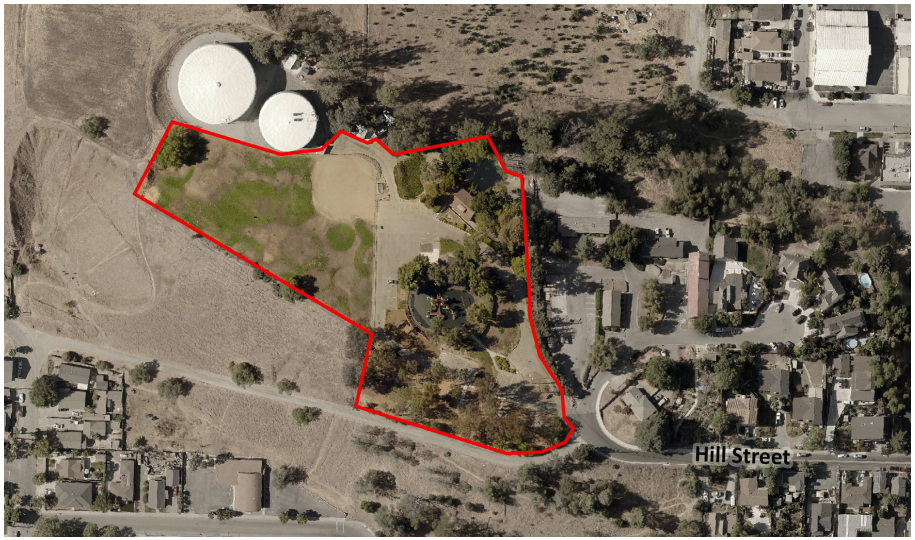

Source: O'Dell Engineering; 2018, Michael Baker International; 2018

FIGURE 2.0-4
Vista Park Hill

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Source: O'Dell Engineering; 2018, Michael Baker International; 2018

FIGURE 2.0-5
Leatherback Property

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Source: O'Dell Engineering; 2018, Michael Baker International; 2018

FIGURE 2.0-6

Proposed Park Area at the Hollister Fire Station No. 2

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Source: O'Dell Engineering; 2018, Michael Baker International; 2018

FIGURE 2.0-7
Santa Ana Creek Extension Area

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

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T:_CS\Work\Hollister, City of\2018 Park Facilities Master Plan\Figures

Source: City of Hollister; 2018

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FIGURE 2.0-8

Proposed Water Reclamation Recreational Facility Site Plan

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T:_CS\Work\Hollister, City of\2018 Park Facilities Master Plan\Figures

Source: O'Dell Engineering; 2018

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FIGURE 2.0-9

Proposed Vista Park Hill Master Plan Phasing

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T:_CS\Work\Hollister, City of\2018 Park Facilities Master Plan\Figures

Source: SSA Landscape Architects; 2018

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FIGURE 2.0-10

Proposed Vista Park Hill Site Plan

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3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Project Title:

Hollister Park Facility Master Plan

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

City of Hollister
339 Fifth Street
Hollister, CA 95023

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:

Mary Paxton, Program Manager
City of Hollister Development Services
(831) 636-4360

4. Project Location:

The Park Facility Master Plan covers 25 existing parks in the City of Hollister, in the City's sphere of influence, or in unincorporated San Benito County, and two future park sites in Hollister.

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

City of Hollister
339 Fifth Street
Hollister, CA 95023
Attn: Mary Paxton

6. General Plan Designations and Zoning:

The majority of the parks within the City have a general plan and zoning designation of Park. The Waste Water Reclamation Facility and Fire Station No. 2 property have general plan designations of Public and zoning designation of Public Facilities/Institutional. The Leatherback property has a Neighborhood Mixed Use general plan and zoning designation.

7. Description of Project:

The project is an update to the Park Facility Master Plan. The plan includes an inventory of existing facilities, a needs assessment, and recommendations for park improvements, including two new parks and a trail.

8. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Park facilities are located either in Hollister, in the City's sphere of influence, or in unincorporated San Benito County. Parks are surrounded by a variety of land uses depending on the individual park location.

9. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required:

In CEQA, the term *responsible agency* includes all public agencies other than the lead agency that may have discretionary actions associated with the implementation of the proposed project. The following agencies may have some role in implementing the proposed project and have been identified as potential responsible agencies:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

B. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors that would be potentially affected by this project and are mitigated to a "Less Than Significant" impact are indicated below.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☒ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology and Soils
☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology and Water Quality
☐ Land Use and Planning	☐ Mineral Resources	☒ Noise
☐ Population and Housing	☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation
☒ Transportation/Traffic	☐ Utilities and Service Systems	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance		

C. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because of the incorporated mitigation measures and 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	January 28, 2019 Date
Mary M. Paxton Printed Name	Program Manager Title

D. 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 cited. 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.

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) A "Less Than Significant Impact" applies when the proposed project would not result in a substantial and adverse change in the environment. This impact level does not require mitigation measures.

4) "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

5) "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The initial study must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Hollister is in San Benito County, southeast of Gilroy and east of San Juan Bautista. The city is situated in a basin that is surrounded on three sides by mountainous terrain; the Gabilan Mountains are located to the south and west and the Quien Sabe Range (part of the greater Diablo Range) are to the east. These mountains form a natural background to a landscape with a traditional downtown surrounded by suburban development and agricultural uses. The city limits are largely defined by Hollister's immediate agricultural surroundings.

The city's topography is relatively flat, with low foothills near the San Benito River. The visual character has transformed over time from a rural, agricultural community to a suburban community consisting of residential and commercial areas, with farmlands at the outer edges of the city.

SCENIC VISTAS

A scenic vista generally refers to an expansive view of important landscape features that are observable from a publicly accessible vantage point. The Hollister General Plan (2005a) does not designate scenic vistas at or in the immediate vicinity of the sites proposed for new or expanded facilities. Although there are no officially designated vistas in the city, distant views of the mountains are available from many locations throughout the city. For example, there are long-range views of the Gabilan Range to the south from San Juan Road (State Route 156B) from the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility. Views of the undeveloped portion of Vista Park Hill from residential areas to the south may be perceived by some individuals as scenic.

SCENIC HIGHWAYS

There are no officially designated state scenic highways in San Benito County. Eligible state scenic highways in the vicinity of Hollister include State Route (SR) 25, which runs north–south through Hollister, and SR 156, which runs along the western outskirts of Hollister (Caltrans 2011). Highway 25 borders the west side of the future Fire Station No. 2 park. None of the other parks or proposed parks are adjacent to any highway included in the Master Plan.

VISUAL CHARACTER

The visual character of existing parks for which improvements are proposed are defined by their park features, including trees, vegetation, and open space and park amenities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, and sports fields.

The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility consists of a parking lot at the park entrance on San Juan Road, expansive turf area comprising most of the site's 49 acres, a few picnic areas, and gravel walking paths around the perimeter. There is a small riparian feature in the center of the site, and the park is bordered on the west-southwest by a cattle pasture, a ridgeline with oak woodland and scrub habitat, annual grassland, and low-density housing developments. The park is readily visible from San Juan Road at the San Benito River bridge. All or portions of the existing Water Reclamation Recreational Facility may be visible from some rural residences to the south that are accessible by public roads (e.g., Union Road) because those locations are higher in elevation than the site. As shown in **Figure 2.0-3**, the site generally has a natural appearance.

Vista Park Hill is an existing park in central Hollister. It is on a hill and provides views of Hollister and has purpose-built scenic overlooks. The existing site contains features such as picnic tables and shade structures, play equipment, paths and trails, a lighted softball field, and some trees. The overall appearance is typical of an urban-style park, but open space areas on the south add a natural element. City-owned water tanks on the north are visually prominent. **Figure 2.0-4** shows the existing Vista Park Hill and the existing condition of the proposed expansion area of Vista Park Hill.

The Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2 sites are located in developed communities, with neighboring streets, residential and commercial areas, civic buildings, and other urban uses. Although the sites are vacant, their visual qualities tend to be dominated by surrounding development, and views are constrained by development and limited to roadways immediately adjoining the sites (see **Figure 2.0-5** and **Figure 2.0-6**).

The Santa Ana Creek Trail extension area is located at the transition between suburban development and agricultural and open space areas, creating a natural landscape with long-range views of the Quien Sabe Range to the north (see **Figure 2.0-7**).

Dunne, Jerry Gabe Memorial, Las Brisas, and Tony Aguirre Memorial Parks are existing facilities. Their visual qualities are defined by various features and structures typical of urban parks.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

There are long-distance views of the mountains from the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and Santa Ana Creek Trail extension sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, new vertical elements would include baseball field backstops and fences and light poles. These features would not be so tall or of a scale to create a solid barrier that would block long-distance views of the mountains from San Juan Road. Because the park is lower in elevation than adjacent residential development to the south, new features would not block views to the north. At the Santa Ana Creek Trail extension, the only new features would be trails, signage, and benches, which would be at ground level. Vistas would not be affected. Therefore, potential impacts on scenic vistas from the project would be **less than significant**.

b) ***No Impact.***

There are no officially designated state scenic highways in San Benito County. Eligible state scenic highways in the vicinity of Hollister include SR 25, which runs north–south through Hollister, and SR 156, which runs along the western outskirts of Hollister (Caltrans 2011). Neither highway is adjacent to any park or proposed park included in the Master Plan. Therefore, the proposed project would have **no impact**.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Implementation of the proposed project would result in a range of improvements to some city parks and the development of new park areas. Most of the park improvements proposed in the Master Plan would involve adding amenities such as new playground equipment, picnic areas, security lighting, shade structures, playing courts, drinking fountains, flower gardens, public art, walking paths, dog parks, and adult exercise equipment. At these locations, the addition of new structures would add to the existing features, increasing the perceived density of amenities. This may make the park appear larger relative to its surroundings. Therefore, the project would enhance the existing visual character by adding new park improvements. These additional features and improvements would be consistent with the aesthetic and visual character of the existing parks and neighborhoods.

At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Master Plan would result in substantial improvements to an existing park, which would change its visual character by adding new structures such as an amphitheater, office/maintenance building, and restrooms, and park features such as playgrounds, sports fields, and dog parks. The plan for this site was developed with special consideration given to the physical opportunities and constraints of the park, along with public feedback obtained from surveys and public meetings in 2017. Some of the improvements that have vertical features (e.g., baseball backstops) would be visible from San Juan Road, south of the San Benito River bridge. The entrance road, baseball diamonds, hard courts, and amphitheater would be new features that would be readily visible to publicly accessible residential development to the south, which overlooks the park. However, as shown in **Figure 2.0-8**, much of the site would remain as open turf and landscaped areas, which would help retain some of the natural appearance of the site.

At Vista Park Hill, the amenities proposed for the southern side of the site, which is higher in elevation than adjacent residences, would include trails and benches. These would not result in a substantial visual change relative to existing conditions. Views to the north are dominated by the water tanks. Most of the new structural features would be situated on the top of the hill, adjacent to existing features. The proposed amphitheater, along with other features, would be substantially shorter than the water tanks. Thus, new features would not appear visually intrusive.

The Master Plan would result in the creation of new parks in areas that are currently vacant land (e.g., Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2). These sites have limited visual attributes because of their infill locations. While new park features would be added, they would be limited in scale and would be integrated with surrounding urban form. Overall, the creation of these parks under the Master Plan would improve the visual character by adding trees, landscaping, and various park and recreational uses to sites that are vacant and underutilized.

Parks and recreational facilities are generally perceived as positive aesthetic amenities in a neighborhood or community. The City's General Plan contains numerous policies designed to promote the visual quality of Hollister, including design review and design principles, street trees, historical building code, signage, and neighborhood scale. These policies are primarily applicable to residential and commercial land development projects. Although there are no specific policies addressing the aesthetic value of parks, General Plan Goal LU3 encourages developing and maintaining attractive landscaping on public and private properties, open space, and public gathering spaces. The proposed project implements this goal.

Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings, and this impact would be **less than significant.**

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Master Plan implementation would result in new lighting fixtures at both existing parks and proposed new parks. Residential areas south of the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility that are higher in elevation than the park would have direct views of field and hardcourt lighting. As noted in the Master Plan, Hollister residents have reported that appropriate lighting is important for overall park maintenance and as a contributor to perceptions of safety. All new sources of lighting would comply with Hollister Municipal Code Section 17.16.090. Proposed exterior lighting would be shielded and directed downward to prevent light spillage onto adjacent properties or illumination of the night sky. Light would also be confined to the boundaries of the property to reduce light pollution and trespass onto adjacent properties. In addition, the proposed Master Plan includes the following best practices for lighting:

- Lighting of public spaces should conform to the Illuminating Engineering Society's guidelines. These include provision of sufficient lighting for users to discern changes in topography and surface type and discern physical details of approaching figures.

- Motion sensor–activated security lighting may be considered for all new park construction and existing park renovation as a method of security lighting. Parks may be evaluated for feasibility of dimming or motion sensor–activated lighting compliant with California Energy Commission Title 24 on a case-by-case basis.

- The Project for Public Spaces emphasizes the importance of not "overlighting" an area. Overlighting creates a harsh adjustment for the eyes and deeper shadows just outside the lighting candle for park users.

- Light fixtures should be installed to appropriate heights for usage. For example, neighborhood parks may benefit from lighting focused around the playground and pedestrian paths only, whereas lighting in larger parks may be required to light sports fields and large expanses. The neighborhood parks may therefore require lights installed to an appropriate pedestrian height, whereas sports field lighting will require greater height. Shields should be installed to direct light.

- LED and solar lights offer benefits of lower energy consumption with a minimum of construction disruption to the surrounding area. Solar lighting is appropriate for

providing light for pedestrian areas and pathways, not large-scale night lighting of parks.

Compliance with the City's Municipal Code and the Master Plan guidelines outlined above would ensure that light and glare impacts from the project would be **less than significant**.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. 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 nonagricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Hollister is located in the Hollister Valley, a fertile agricultural valley with high quality soils and a climate that is favorable to growing a wide variety of crops. The city's agricultural uses are divided into three classifications: fruit orchards; field crops and pasture; and vegetable and row crops. Fruit orchards are concentrated on the southern edges of the city near the San Benito River. Row crops, grain and field crops include wheat, alfalfa, barley, and hay and are grown on the northern and eastern edges of the city. Vegetable and row crops make up the largest portion of agricultural land in the city and are grown adjacent to the fruit orchards (Hollister 2005a).

According to the most recent Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program map for San Benito County, the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility is on land designated Prime Farmland (DOC 2018). The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility was developed as a spray field for disposal of reclaimed water from the Hollister Domestic Water Reclamation Facility. The site is already used as parkland and does not include agricultural uses.

The proposed locations of new or expanded parks at the Leatherback property, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and Vista Park Hill are classified as Urban and Built-Up Land and Other Land. Dunne, Jerry Gabe Memorial, Las Brisas, and Tony Aguirre Memorial Parks are existing parks, and

all are designated Urban and Built-Up Land (DOC 2018). These properties are not used for agricultural purposes.

The Santa Ana Creek Trail extension would extend through areas that are classified as Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance, as well as Grazing Land, and Urban and Built-Up Land (DOC 2018).

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) ***No Impact.***

Existing parks for which improvements are proposed under the Master Plan (Dunne, Jerry Gabe, Las Brisas, Tony Aguirre, and Vista Park Hill) and proposed new parks (Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2) are not Important Farmlands. Although the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility is designated Prime Farmland, it is not used for agriculture. Facilities at the Santa Ana Trail extension would be limited to a trail, benches, and signage along the creek. This would have a negligible, if any, effect on Important Farmlands. There would be **no impact**.

b) ***No Impact.***

There are no Williamson Act contracts covering any of the sites. None of the sites are designated for agricultural uses under the General Plan. Therefore, there would be **no impact** due to a conflict with a Williamson Act contract or zoning for agricultural use.

c–e) ***No Impact.***

None of the sites are located on land designated as forestland or zoned for forestry uses, and no site contains forestry operations. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3. AIR QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located in the North Central Coast Air Basin. The basin comprises a single air district, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD). MBARD recently adopted the 2012-2015 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The 2012-2015 AQMP is an update to the 2008 AQMP and incorporates portions of the 2008 plan by reference.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) *Less than Significant Impact.*

Projects related directly to population growth generate population-related emissions (e.g., motor vehicles, residential heating and cooling emissions). Population-related emissions have been estimated in the AQMP using population forecasts adopted by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG). Population-related projects that are consistent with these forecasts are consistent with the AQMP. For cumulative impacts, MBARD recommends that projects be assessed for consistency with the AQMP. AMBAG updated its regional population forecast in 2014, and the 2012-2015 AQMP reflects these projections.

The proposed Master Plan does not include the construction of any housing and would not directly induce any population growth. It would be consistent with the growth projections in the AQMP. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP and would have a less than cumulatively considerable impact on air quality.

In addition, as described below in **3.3(b)** and **3.3(c)**, construction and operational air quality emissions generated by the proposed project would not exceed MBARD's emissions thresholds. These thresholds are established to identify projects that have the potential to generate a

substantial amount of criteria air pollutants. Because the proposed project would not exceed these thresholds, the proposed project would not be considered by MBARD to be a substantial emitter of criteria air pollutants and would not contribute to any nonattainment areas in the North Central Coast Air Basin. Therefore, the project would be in compliance with the AQMP and impacts would be l**ess than significant**.

b) ***Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

SHORT-TERM CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Short-term air quality impacts are predicted to occur during grading and construction activities associated with implementation of the Master Plan. Temporary air emissions would result from the following activities:

- Particulate (fugitive dust) emissions from demolition, grading, and building construction activities
- Exhaust emissions from the construction equipment and the motor vehicles of the construction crew

Construction activities would involve demolition, grading, paving, building construction, and application of architectural coatings (for some park facilities/structures). Construction is anticipated to occur between 2019 and 2021. The analysis of daily construction emissions has been prepared utilizing the California Emissions Estimator Model version 2016.3.2 (CalEEMod). Refer to **Appendix AQ** for the CalEEMod outputs and results. **Table 3.3-1** presents the anticipated daily short-term construction emissions. It is noted that the construction emissions in **Table 3.3-1** are considered conservative, as it was assumed in CalEEMod that all parks would be constructed simultaneously (which represents the worst-case air quality emissions scenario).

ROG Emissions

In addition to gaseous and particulate emissions, the application of asphalt and surface coatings emits reactive organic gases (ROG), which are ozone precursors. In accordance with the methodology prescribed by MBARD, the ROG emissions associated with paving have been quantified with CalEEMod. Architectural coatings were also quantified with CalEEMod based upon the size of the proposed buildings. As indicated in **Table 3.3-1**, the project would result in a maximum of 14.29 lbs/day of ROG emissions during Year 2 (2021) construction activities. As such, construction ROG emissions would not exceed the MBARD threshold of 137 lbs/day. Therefore, a **less than significant** impact would occur with regard to ROG emissions.

Construction Equipment and Worker Vehicle Exhaust

Exhaust emission factors for typical diesel-powered heavy equipment are based on the CalEEMod program defaults. Variables factored into estimating the total construction emissions include level of activity, length of construction period, number of pieces/types of equipment in use, site characteristics, weather conditions, number of construction personnel, and the amount of materials to be transported on-site or off-site.

Exhaust emissions from construction activities include emissions associated with the transport of machinery and supplies to and from the project site; emissions produced on-site as the equipment is used; and emissions from trucks transporting materials and workers to and from the site. Emitted pollutants would include ROG, nitrogen oxides (NO_X), and particulate matter (PM_{10},

and $PM_{2.5}$). As shown in **Table 3.3-1**, MBARD thresholds would not be exceeded for any criteria pollutants.

Although construction pollutant emissions associated with the proposed project would be below MBARD thresholds, basic construction mitigation measures and NO_X reduction measures would be implemented as outlined in mitigation measure **MM AQ-1**. These measures include properly maintaining mobile and other construction equipment; watering exposed surfaces three times daily; covering stock piles with tarps; watering all haul roads twice daily; and limiting speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour. Compliance with mitigation measure **MM AQ-1** would further reduce emissions and a **less than significant** impact would occur in this regard.

TABLE 3.3-1
SHORT-TERM CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS

Emissions Source	Pollutant (pounds/day)[1,2]				
	ROG	NO_X	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	CO
Year 1 (2020)					
Construction Emissions[3]	*4.53*	*50.26*	*20.41*	*5.94*	*32.53*
MBARD Thresholds	*137*	*137*	*82*	*55*	*550*
Is Threshold Exceeded?	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***
Year 2 (2021)					
Construction Emissions[3]	*14.29*	*103.43*	*20.86*	*6.99*	*97.13*
MBARD Thresholds	*137*	*137*	*82*	*55*	*550*
Is Threshold Exceeded?	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***
Year 3 (2022)					
Construction Emissions[3]	*9.12*	*82.15*	*17.32*	*5.40*	*67.18*
MBARD Thresholds	*137*	*137*	*82*	*55*	*550*
Is Threshold Exceeded?	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***

ROG = reactive organic gases; NO_X = nitrogen oxides; PM_{10} = particulate matter 10 microns in diameter or less; $PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter 2.5 microns in diameter or less; CO = carbon monoxide

Notes:

1. *Based on CalEEMod modeling results, worst-case seasonal emissions for construction emissions have been modeled. Refer to Appendix AQ, Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Data, for assumptions used in this analysis.*
2. *MBARD, 2010 California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines, May 2011.*
3. *The emissions presented in this table are based on mitigation included in the CalEEMod model and as required by MBARD through basic construction mitigation measures. The mitigation includes the following: properly maintain mobile and other construction equipment; water exposed surfaces three times daily; cover stock piles with tarps; water all haul roads twice daily; and limit speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour.*

Total Daily Construction Emissions

In accordance with the MBARD guidelines, CalEEMod was utilized to model construction emissions for carbon monoxide (CO), ROG, NO_X, and PM_{10}. Construction would occur over approximately 32 months with the greatest amount of fugitive dust emissions being generated during the grading phase of construction. As indicated in **Table 3.3-1**, the proposed project would not result in an exceedance of any MBARD thresholds for ROG, CO, NO_X, PM_{10}, and/or $PM_{2.5}$ emissions during construction activities. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur. It should be noted that mitigation measure **MM AQ-1** would be implemented during construction to further reduce emissions. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Mitigation Measures

MM AQ-1 Construction Dust Control. The City shall ensure that the following dust control measures shall be implemented by the construction contractor to the extent necessary to eliminate visible dust:

- Water all active construction areas to maintain 12 percent soil moisture.
- All grading shall be suspended when winds exceed 20 miles per hour.
- All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site shall be covered.
- Pave, apply water three times daily, or apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas, and staging areas at construction sites.
- All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads shall be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited. Install sandbags or other erosion control measures to prevent silt runoff to public roadways.
- All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph.
- All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible.
- Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California ATCM Title 13, Section 2485 of the California Code of Regulations). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition prior to operation.

Timing/Implementation: During construction activities

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

Naturally Occurring Asbestos

Pursuant to guidance issued by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse, lead agencies are encouraged to analyze potential impacts related to naturally occurring asbestos (NOA). NOA can be released from serpentinite and ultramafic rocks when the rock is broken or crushed. At the point of release, the asbestos fibers may become airborne, causing air quality and human health hazards. These rocks have been commonly used for unpaved gravel roads, landscaping, fill projects, and other improvement projects in some localities. Asbestos may be released to the atmosphere due to vehicular traffic on unpaved roads, during grading for development projects, and at quarry operations.

Serpentinite and/or ultramafic rock are known to be present in 44 of California's 58 counties. These rocks are particularly abundant in the counties associated with the Sierra Nevada foothills, the Klamath Mountains, and Coast Ranges. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has established two Airborne Toxic Control Measures (ATCMs) that address NOA. The first one regulates surfacing materials and amends an older ATCM for asbestos-containing serpentine. The second ATCM, which applies to construction, grading, quarrying, and surface mining operations, requires more stringent dust control measures at these operations. The requirements for road construction and maintenance differ somewhat from those for general construction and grading (e.g., development of a shopping center). Other requirements of the proposed ATCM address post-construction stabilization of disturbed areas. These areas must be revegetated, paved, or covered with at least 3 inches of non-asbestos-containing material. NOA-containing material may be transported if the loads are adequately wetted or covered with tarps.

According to the Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology, *A General Location Guide for Ultramafic Rocks in California – Areas More Likely to Contain Naturally Occurring Asbestos Report* (2000), the project site is located in an area where NOA is not likely to be present. Thus, there would be **no impact**.

LONG-TERM OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Mobile Source Emissions

Mobile sources are emissions from motor vehicles, including tailpipe and evaporative emissions. Depending upon the pollutant being discussed, the potential air quality impact may be of either regional or local concern. For example, ROG, NO_X, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ are all pollutants of regional concern (NO_X and ROG react with sunlight to form ozone [photochemical smog], and wind currents readily transport PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$). However, CO tends to be a localized pollutant, dispersing rapidly at the source.

Project-generated vehicle emissions have been estimated using CalEEMod. Trip generation rates associated with the project were based on traffic data in the Hollister Park Facility Master Plan traffic impact analysis, prepared by Michael Baker International (2018). According to the traffic impact analysis, the proposed project would result in approximately 2,370 total daily trips. **Table 3.3-2** presents the anticipated mobile source emissions for the project. As shown, operational emissions generated by the proposed project would not exceed established MBARD thresholds for CO, ROG, NO_X, PM_{10}, and/or $PM_{2.5}$. Impacts from mobile source air emissions would be **less than significant**.

TABLE 3.3-2
LONG-TERM OPERATIONAL AIR EMISSIONS

Emissions Source	Pollutant (pounds/day)[1,2]				
	ROG	NO_X	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	CO
Unmitigated Long-Term Operational Air Emissions[1]					
Area Source Emissions	*0.46*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.05*
Energy Emissions	*0.00*	*0.05*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.04*
Mobile Emissions	*5.10*	*64.11*	*11.14*	*3.14*	*49.12*
Total Operational Air Emissions	*5.56*	*64.16*	*11.14*	*3.14*	*49.21*
MBARD Thresholds[2]	*137*	*137*	*82*	*55*	*550*
Is Threshold Exceeded?	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***

ROG = reactive organic gases; NO_X = nitrogen oxides; PM_{10} = particulate matter 10 microns in diameter or less; $PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter 2.5 microns in diameter or less, CO = carbon monoxide

Notes:

1. *Based on CalEEMod modeling results, worst-case seasonal emissions for operational emissions have been modeled. Refer to Appendix AQ, Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Data, for assumptions used in this analysis.*
2. *MBARD, 2010 California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines, May 2011.*

Area Source Emissions

Area source emissions would be generated due to an increased demand for consumer products, architectural coating, and landscaping. As shown in **Table 3.3-2**, area source emissions from the proposed project would not exceed MBARD thresholds for CO, ROG, NO_X, PM_{10}, or $PM_{2.5}$. Impacts from area source air emissions would be **less than significant**.

Energy Source Emissions

Energy source emissions would be generated as a result of electricity and natural gas (non-hearth) usage associated with the proposed project. The primary use of electricity and natural gas by the project would be lighting, appliances, and electronics. As shown in **Table 3.3-2**, energy source emissions from the proposed project would not exceed MBARD thresholds for CO, ROG, NO_X, PM_{10}, or $PM_{2.5}$. Impacts from energy source air emissions would be **less than significant**.

Total Operational Emissions

As indicated in **Table 3.3-2**, unmitigated operational emissions from the proposed project would not exceed MBARD thresholds. Thus, operational air quality impacts would be l**ess than significant**.

c) *Less than Significant Impact.*

CUMULATIVE SHORT-TERM EMISSIONS

The project site is located in the North Central Coast Air Basin, which is currently in nonattainment status with state standards for ozone and suspended PM_{10}. State standards are promulgated by CARB as mandated by the California Clean Air Act. MBARD has developed criteria pollutant emissions thresholds, which are used to determine whether or not the proposed project would violate an air quality standard or contribute to an existing violation during operations and/or construction. As discussed above, the project's construction-related emissions would not have the potential to exceed the MBARD significance thresholds for criteria pollutants.

Since these thresholds indicate whether an individual project's emissions have the potential to affect cumulative regional air quality, it can be expected that the project-related construction emissions would not be cumulatively considerable. Therefore, construction emissions associated with the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant cumulative air quality impacts and this impact would be **less than significant**.

CUMULATIVE LONG-TERM EMISSIONS

MBARD has not established separate significance thresholds for cumulative operational emissions. The nature of air emissions is largely a cumulative impact. As a result, no single project is sufficient in size to, by itself, result in nonattainment of ambient air quality standards. Instead, a project's individual emissions contribute to existing cumulatively significant adverse air quality impacts. MBARD developed the operational thresholds of significance based on the level above which a project's individual emissions would result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to the North Central Coast Air Basin's existing air quality conditions. Therefore, a project that exceeds the MBARD operational thresholds would also be a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact. As depicted in **Table 3.3-2**, the proposed project's operational emissions would not exceed MBARD thresholds. Therefore, operational emissions associated with the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant cumulative air quality impacts and this impact would be **less than significant**.

d) *Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.*

According to MBARD's CEQA guidelines, a sensitive receptor is generally defined as a site where human populations, especially children, seniors, and sick persons, are located where there is reasonable expectation of continuous human exposure. These typically include residences, hospitals, and schools. The nearest sensitive receptors are residential homes approximately 25 feet to the north of the Hollister Fire Station No. 2 site.

The proposed project consists of public park improvements and would not include significant new operational sources of toxic air emissions. However, due to the location of sensitive receptors in proximity to the Hollister Fire Station No. 2 site, and prevailing winds from the north, the proposed project would result in the exposure of some sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations of ROG, diesel particulate matter (DPM), and PM_{10} during construction of the Hollister Fire Station No. 2 park improvements. Implementation of mitigation measure **MM AQ-1** would reduce impacts to sensitive receptors to a **less than significant** level during project construction activities.

e) ***Less than Significant Impact.***

According to MBARD's CEQA guidelines, "Odors are objectionable emissions of one or more pollutants (sulfur compounds, methane, etc.) that are a nuisance to healthy persons and may trigger asthma episodes in people with sensitive airways." Nuisance odors are commonly associated with refineries, landfills, sewage treatment, agriculture, etc.

Potential odors could arise from the diesel construction equipment used on-site, as well as from architectural coatings and asphalt off-gassing. Odors generated from the referenced sources are common in the man-made environment and are not known to be substantially offensive to adjacent receptors. Additionally, these construction-related odors would be short term in nature and would cease upon project completion. Any impacts to existing adjacent land uses would be short term and are considered **less than significant**.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4. 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 Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

A biological resources assessment was prepared for the proposed project by Sequoia Ecological Consulting, Inc. The assessment included a database review and site reconnaissance survey. Results of the assessment are presented in this section.

To assess the potential occurrence of special-status biological resources, electronic databases were accessed to determine recorded occurrences of sensitive plant and wildlife species. Databases queried include the California Native Plant Society (CNPS 2018), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation System (IPaC), USFWS National Wetlands Inventory, USGS National Hydrography Dataset, USFWS Critical Habitat, and the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). Results of the database search queries are included in **Appendix BIO** along with figures showing mapped occurrences and critical habitat

within a 5-mile radius of the project site. The National Wetlands Inventory and National Hydrography Dataset were reviewed to determine the presence, location, and extent of potentially jurisdictional wetlands and other waters within the project area and 5-mile buffer to evaluate both the potential presence of jurisdictional features that might be impacted by project activities and the potential for breeding habitat for federally listed amphibians within potential dispersal distance to the project area. A figure showing mapped wetlands and National Hydrography Dataset flowlines is included in **Appendix BIO.**

On August 22, 2018, Sequoia biologist Margaret Finch conducted a biological resources assessment survey of the study area to determine the potential presence of sensitive vegetation types, regulated aquatic habitats (e.g., wetlands and waterways), and special-status plant and wildlife species present or potentially present on the project sites, based on the results of the literature review, species life history requirements, and habitats present on-site. The survey covered the entire proposed project footprint. During the survey, the project sites were examined for (1) the potential to support special-status plant and wildlife species; (2) the potential presence of sensitive biological communities such as wetlands or riparian habitats; and (3) the potential presence of other sensitive biological resources protected by local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

OVERVIEW

Existing parks generally include grassy areas, developed playfields, playground equipment, and parking areas. These developed park areas provide little to no habitat value for special-status plant species. Grassy areas may support small mammal burrows and may provide habitat for special-status fossorial wildlife species. Forested areas on-site at these existing parks may provide nesting and foraging habitat for species covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

The City of Hollister Public Works Parks Division is responsible for all park maintenance in the city, and these activities would occur at newly created parks. Facility operations and maintenance activities include restroom cleaning; inspection litter and debris removal; repair of amenities such as benches, tables, and playground equipment; safety inspections of playgrounds; ballfield turf repair and replacement as needed; and graffiti removal. Landscape maintenance consists of activities such as mowing and edging, irrigation system repair and replacement, replacing plants, shrubs, and trees, rodent control traps, fertilizing, and weed control (pre-emergent and post-emergent). Plant materials are also trimmed to maintain tree canopies to a minimum of 6 feet above ground level and less than 2 feet high for shorter plants and shrubs.

Existing conditions at proposed new park sites and existing parks where improvements would be implemented are described below.

Water Reclamation Recreational Facility

The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, or Brigantino Park, is developed with a parking area, an irrigated field, picnic areas, and gravel walking paths. Although the field is mowed, it supports a low density of small mammal burrows. At the center of the park is a strip of riparian-associated vegetation, indicating subsurface water potentially associated with irrigation infrastructure. This area supports sandy substrate and a higher density of California ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) and other burrowing species.

The park is bordered on the west-southwest by a cattle pasture, a ridgeline with oak woodland and scrub habitat, annual grassland, and low-density housing developments. The San Benito River abuts the site to the east-northeast. In this location, the river has a wide, sandy floodplain, a steep cut bank, and abundant riparian vegetation. Burrowing activity was observed in the riparian corridor. Farther north and east lie the water treatment facility, open ponds, industrial areas, and higher-density housing developments.

The park provides little to no habitat value for special-status plant species due to the history of mowing, but there is a potential for special-status plant species in the San Benito riparian corridor to the east, within the project footprint. Similarly, the mowed area of the park provides only low-quality habitat value for special-status fossorial wildlife species, but the riparian corridors within and east of the park provide moderate-quality habitat for these species. Additionally, the San Benito River may provide aquatic habitat for special-status reptiles and amphibians, and the riparian corridor provides moderate-quality habitat for special-status birds, nesting MBTA species, and upland habitat for special-status amphibians and reptiles.

Vista Park Hill

Vista Park Hill is a hilltop park with a grassy, irrigated softball field, paved parking areas, playground equipment, unpaved biking trails, City-owned water tanks, and decorative landscaping. The ruderal habitat bordering the developed park is dominated by nonnative tree and shrub species. The north, east, and west sides of the hillside support annual grassland, portions of which had been disced prior to the reconnaissance survey. The park is on the north side of Hollister; land use beyond the hill is residential and commercial to the east, south, and west. Construction is under way directly north of the park, reducing potential habitat connectivity, and beyond this the land use is primarily agricultural.

The park provides little to no habitat value for special-status plant species. The softball field supports a moderate density of small mammal burrows and may provide low-quality habitat value for special-status fossorial wildlife species. The forested areas on-site may provide low-moderate quality nesting and foraging habitat for MBTA species. There are no aquatic resources on the site.

Leatherback Property

The Leatherback property is a disturbed, weedy, urban infill lot. The entire site has been excavated to a depth of 4 feet to remediate hazardous materials contamination on the property, and the substrate present is rocky soil and gravel. Vegetation on-site at the time of the reconnaissance survey included nonnative ruderal grasses and shrubs, which are periodically mowed, and some small trees. Surrounding land uses are industrial, commercial, and residential, with park facilities to the south.

A low-moderate density of ground squirrel burrows is present on the property, which may provide habitat for special-status species. The property provides little to no habitat for special-status plant species, as it is dominated by nonnative species and all topsoil has been removed.

Hollister Fire Station No. 2

Hollister Fire Station No. 2 is an undeveloped lot that supports ruderal vegetation and some trees, including a row of walnuts (*Juglans* sp.) parallel to Airline Highway. Although the soil is rocky and has been disced, it supports a low density of small mammal burrows. Surrounding land use is

agricultural, residential, and commercial. Located on the south side of Hollister, this site is less urban than some sites and has somewhat improved connectivity to potential wildlife habitat.

An ephemeral drainage with hydrophytic facultative shrub and tree species is located on the northwest side of the lot. The drainage is choked with vegetation, including nonnative Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*), and is not expected to support special-status plant species. However, this drainage may be jurisdictional and may support special-status wildlife species.

Overall, the property provides little to no habitat value for special-status plant species. It provides low-quality habitat value for special-status fossorial wildlife species, and seasonal upland aquatic and vegetative cover for wildlife. The wooded areas on-site may offer low- to moderate-quality nesting and foraging habitat for MBTA species.

Santa Ana Creek Trail

The Santa Ana Creek Trail occurs along a small, intermittent tributary to Santa Ana Creek. The riparian corridor is narrow throughout and consists of native and nonnative riparian shrubs and trees, including willow (*Salix* sp.), walnut, and Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*). The trail is in east Hollister, and the upland habitat adjacent to the site is a mix of residential developments, unimproved lots, and agricultural land use.

The site provides habitat for special-status fossorial wildlife, including amphibians. Refugia for amphibians is present within the stream and riparian corridor in the form of small mammal burrows, cobble, and fallen woody debris within the bed and bank of the creek. The stream may also provide seasonal aquatic, nonbreeding habitat for amphibians. A high density of ground squirrel burrows was also observed in portions of the upland abutting the creek, most notably in a parcel northwest of the site. The riparian woodland offers moderate-quality habitat for nesting MBTA species. The site provides low-quality habitat value for special-status plant species.

BIOTIC RESOURCES

Special-Status Plant Species

Twenty-eight special-status plant species were determined to occur in the vicinity of the study area, following a CNDDB and CNPS "nine-quad" search. No special-status plant species were observed during the reconnaissance-level surveys, although these surveys were not intended to detect these species and were conducted outside of blooming periods for many of the species.

Six species have a moderate potential to occur in the project area, as suitable habitat appears: alkali milk-vetch (*Astragalus tener* var. *tener*), San Joaquin spearscale (*Atriplex joaquiniana*), Congdon's tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *congdonii*), Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*), San Francisco popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys diffusus*), and California alkali grass (*Puccinellia simplex*). Each of these plants is listed as 1B.1 or 1B.2 under the CNPS ranking system, indicating that they are moderately to severely threatened throughout their range and are eligible for state listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). None of these plants are state or federally listed, but they meet the definition of Rare or Endangered under CEQA Guidelines Section15125(c) and/or Section 15380.

These species occur on valley or foothill grassland, often at wetland and riverine edges, and especially in sandy, silty, or alkaline soils. There is one CNDDB occurrence for alkali milk-vetch in the project vicinity; a specimen was collected from a nonspecific area in Hollister in 1897. There

are also six CNDDB records for San Joaquin spearscale within 5 miles of the project area, with the closest 1.4 miles north of the Vista Park Hill site.

Special-Status Animals

Eighteen special-status wildlife species were determined to occur in the vicinity of the study area after the IPaC and CNDDB search. Following field verification, ten species have a moderate or high potential to occur: California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa*), western pond turtle (*Emys [=Clemmys] marmorata*), San Joaquin coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum ruddocki*), American badger ((*Taxidea* taxus), San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica),* bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*), western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*), and western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*). In addition, the study area has potential to host non-special-status birds protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code (CFGC). No special-status species or nesting birds were observed during the reconnaissance-level surveys, although these surveys were not intended or adequate to detect these cryptic species.

California Tiger Salamander

The California tiger salamander (Central Valley distinct population segment [DPS]) is a state and federally threatened species. Adult tiger salamanders spend the majority of the year in underground refugia, especially burrows of California ground squirrels. This species breeds in vernal pools and other temporary ponds from November to February. Breeding migrations are strongly associated with precipitation events. Migrations from upland habitats to breeding ponds average 300 feet to 0.35 miles, with a maximum dispersal distance of 0.15 miles to 1.3 miles.

Twenty-six CNDDB occurrences of California tiger salamander are present within 5 miles of the study area, and the USFWS IPaC report identifies that the species may occur in the vicinity of the study area. The nearest known occurrence is 0.37 miles southwest of the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, where a potentially gravid adult was observed by surveyors. This is also the site of the nearest potential breeding pond. This is within dispersal distance for migrating individuals, and the grassland habitat present is appropriate for migration, although the hills immediately west of the facility may present some barrier to dispersal. The closest confirmed reproduction occurrence is 0.79 miles east of the Santa Ana Creek Trail, and there are no major barriers to dispersal between this occurrence and the Santa Ana Creek Trail site.

There is no suitable breeding habitat for California tiger salamander in the project area. However, suitable upland (burrow) habitat can be found at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, especially on the edges of the park and within the riparian habitat, and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, above the top of the bank. Suitable upland habitat on-site is within potential dispersal distance from known breeding habitat. Low-quality burrow habitat is present at all other sites.

California Red-Legged Frog

The California red-legged frog is federally threatened and is a state Species of Special Concern. California red-legged frog habitat includes lowlands and foothills in or near permanent or semi-permanent water sources such as lakes, stock ponds, and slow-moving streams with deep pools and dense shrubs or emergent aquatic vegetation (Stebbins 2003). Where water sources are not permanent, frogs require access to dry-season upland habitat in the form of mammal burrows. Post-metamorphic frogs may remain by breeding ponds or disperse into upland or nonbreeding aquatic habitats, up to 1.7 miles away from breeding sites.

There are 19 occurrences of California red-legged frog within 5 miles of the study area, and 5 occurrences within 1.7 miles. The USFWS IPaC report also identifies that the species may occur in the vicinity of the study area. The nearest occurrence is directly adjacent to the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, in the San Benito River, where both adults and juveniles were observed in 2001. There are also records of reproduction 1.23 miles southeast of the Hollister Fire Station No. 2 site.

The San Benito River near the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility has a high potential to provide nonbreeding aquatic habitat for CLRF, and breeding habitat may also be present if suitably slow flows or protected pools exist between February and April. Additionally, a potentially suitable breeding pond is present 0.37 miles southwest of the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, within dispersal distance for California red-legged frog. The hydrologic period of the Santa Ana Creek is too short for California red-legged frog breeding, but nonbreeding aquatic habitat is present.

Upland refugia for California red-legged frog, including burrows, dense vegetation, and other cover substrate, is present at all sites. However, due to barriers to dispersal and development on-site, there is a low potential for the species to occur at most sites. There is a moderate potential for these frogs to utilize upland refugia at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and Santa Ana Creek Trail, especially in areas with high densities of burrows and in riparian vegetation.

Coast Range Newt

The Coast Range newt is a state Species of Special Concern. It breeds in ponds, reservoirs, and slowly moving streams, and upland habitat includes oak woodland, chaparral, and grassland with burrows or other refugia. Home range and maximum dispersal distance is not well-studied, but Trenham (1998) recaptured adult newts up to 3,200 meters (1.98 miles) from the breeding pond where they were marked.

There is one CNDDB occurrence of Coast Range newt within 5 miles of the project area. The occurrence is dated 1998 and is located 2.3 miles southwest of Water Reclamation Recreational Facility at the San Justo Reservoir Dam. Suitable breeding habitat for Coast Range newt may be present in the San Benito River and in ponds in the greater project vicinity. Additionally, there is suitable upland habitat at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, especially on the northern edge of the park and in the riparian habitat, and along the Santa Ana Creek Trail.

Western Pond Turtle

The western pond turtle is a state Species of Special Concern. This species is typically found in ponds, marshes, ditches, streams, and rivers that have rocky or muddy bottoms. The turtle basks on logs, cattail mats, and mudbanks. Western pond turtle may overwinter under refugia in woodland, grassland, and open forest or in water, or may remain active in water during the winter season (Rathbun et al. 1992). Mating occurs in the spring time (March–April), and gravid females leave aquatic bodies to lay eggs in upland nests in the late spring through early/mid-summer, depending on environmental conditions. Within water bodies/drainages, male western pond turtle may range over 2.5 acres, while females range over 0.7 acres. Females can travel up to 0.25 miles from streams to search for suitable nesting habitat (Rathbun et al. 1992).

There are four CNDDB occurrences of western pond turtle within 5 miles of the study area, including one occurrence directly adjacent to the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, in the San Benito River, where one adult was observed in 2001. The next nearest occurrence is 1.2 miles east of the Santa Ana Creek Trail. Suitable aquatic habitat is not present within the project

footprint or within dispersal distances of most project sites. However, marginal upland wintering and nesting habitat is present in the riparian woodland and grassland at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, and turtles may disperse through the area in search of improved upland habitat. There is a moderate to high potential for the species to occur in the river or the upland habitat in the project footprint.

San Joaquin Coachwhip

The San Joaquin coachwhip is a state Species of Special Concern. Coachwhips inhabit open, dry habitats with little or no tree cover, including valley grassland, desert, chaparral, and saltbush scrub. They seek cover in small mammal burrows or thick vegetation (Stebbins 2003).

There is one CNDDB occurrence of San Joaquin coachwhip within 5 miles of the study area: one individual was observed in 1996 adjacent to the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, in the riparian scrub along the San Benito River. Suitable open habitat with small mammal burrows is present at each of the parks, but the species is generally not expected to occur due to urbanization and habitat fragmentation. However, San Joaquin coachwhip may occur at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, especially in the riparian corridors with small mammal burrows.

American Badger

American badger is a state Species of Special Concern that inhabits grassland and open areas including meadows, marshes, parks, and agricultural land. Badgers require environments with an amble supply of rodent prey and dry, friable soil, in which they dig burrows (Quinn 2008).

There are four CNDDB records within 5 miles of the study area. One CNDDB occurrence is from a non-specific location in Hollister; the next nearest occurrence is 0.45 miles east of the Santa Ana Creek Trail. Suitable friable soil for burrowing is present on-site at each park facility, but the urban and agricultural settings of most sites would preclude inhabitance. Still, there is a moderate potential for badger to occur at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and the uplands around the Santa Ana Creek Trail.

San Joaquin Kit Fox

The San Joaquin kit fox is a federally endangered and state threatened species. The kit fox occurs in alkali scrub/shrub and arid grassland with sparse vegetative cover and an abundant prey base of rodents, primarily in the San Joaquin Valley. The species relies on dens for breeding and cover, and prefers level, open areas with sandy soil. It does not occur in areas with saturated soils, periodic flooding, or bedrock, as these characteristics preclude denning (USFWS 2010).

There are seven CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the study area, and the USFWS IPaC report identifies that the species may be present within the study area. The nearest CNDDB record is from 1992 and located immediately southwest of the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility. There are low-density housing developments in the vicinity of this occurrence, but habitat connectivity to the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility remains. All other occurrences are east of the study area, in agricultural or grassland habitat with some connectivity to the Santa Ana Creek Trail. Suitable arid, open habitat is present at many of the park facilities, but urbanization is expected to deter this species in most cases. The species may occur at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility or the Santa Ana Creek Trail.

Western Red Bat

Western red bat is a state Species of Special Concern. This bat roosts in the foliage of trees and shrubs, especially in edge habitats adjacent to streams, fields, or urban areas, and is strongly associated with riparian habitats. It forages in open woodlands, grassland, shrubland, and agricultural settings.

There is one CNDDB occurrence of western red bat within 5 miles of the study area. The occurrence is from 1998, in a non-specific area in the vicinity of Hollister. Suitable mosaic habitat for roosting and foraging is present at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Vista Park Hill, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and Santa Ana Creek Trail. Open grassland areas in these sites may also be used for feeding. The species is most likely to occur at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, where anthropogenic disturbance is lower.

Migratory Birds and Raptors

Special-status birds such as bank swallow and western burrowing owl may occur in the study area. The study area has the potential to support nesting birds and raptors in the project footprint and beyond the project boundaries. Nesting birds and raptors are protected under the MBTA and CFGC. Activities that result in the direct removal of active nests or disturbance to nesting birds sufficient to result in the abandonment of active nests may be considered a significant impact under CEQA and a potential violation of the MBTA and the CFGC.

Bank Swallow

The bank swallow is a state-threatened species. Nesting bank swallows dig holes in cliffs and sandy banks along rivers, lakes, and coastal areas. Foraging occurs in open grassland, shrubland, or agricultural areas. There is one CNDDB record for nesting bank swallows along the San Benito River near Hollister, potentially adjacent to the current location of the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility. The record is from 1922 but is presumed extant. Suitable nesting habitat is present in this location, and the water treatment ponds east of the river and open habitat beyond the riparian corridor may increase suitability for the species. There is a low to moderate potential for breeding or nonbreeding bank swallows to occur at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility.

Western Burrowing Owl

Western burrowing owl is a state Species of Special Concern. Burrowing owl habitat consists of grassland, desert, and agricultural lands in grass, forb, and open shrubland habitats. Burrowing owls nest and seek year-round cover in burrows excavated by fossorial mammals, primarily California ground squirrels, but occasionally man-made structures.

There are four CNDDB occurrences for western burrowing owl within 5 miles of the study area. The nearest is 0.35 miles northeast of the Santa Ana Creek Trail. Suitable nesting or wintering habitat with ground squirrel burrows is present on-site at each park. Western burrowing owl may occur at Vista Park Hill, the Leatherback property, and Hollister Fire Station No. 2. These sites have low to moderate numbers of suitable burrows, but burrowing owls are less likely to occur due to the urban settings of these sites. There is a higher potential for burrowing owls to occur at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, where a higher density of ground squirrel burrows is present in the riparian corridors and adjacent open spaces.

Critical Habitat

Final critical habitat for California tiger salamander is located east of Hollister, 0.45 miles east of the Santa Ana Creek Trail site. Final critical habitat for California red-legged frog is located south of Hollister, 2.4 miles south-southwest of the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility.

Aquatic Resources

The study area contains two waterways and at least one ephemeral drainage. These features are potentially within the jurisdiction of the USACE under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, of the CDFW under Section 1602 of Fish and Game Code, and of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and Clean Water Act Section 401, and may require permits within jurisdictional limits:

- The San Benito River is a seasonal river that runs east-northeast of Brigantino Park at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility. Plans call for a bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the river. In this location, the channel width fluctuates between approximately 50 and 250 feet. The wide, sandy floodplain and bank support riparian shrub and tree species, including willow, cottonwood, and bay laurel. The bank is moderately steep and approximately 15 to 20 feet in height.

- The Santa Ana Creek Trail site is located along an intermittent, unnamed tributary to Santa Ana Creek. Herein the tributary will be named Santa Ana Creek, in accordance with City documents. Along the northern portion of the proposed trail, the creek channel is 3 to 6 feet wide, with a 3-foot-deep cut bank and cobble substrate. Upstream (farther south), the channel remains approximately 3 feet wide at bankfull, but the bank is approximately 15 feet deep and 20 feet across at the top of bank. The substrate throughout is soil with cobble and riprap, with some sections vegetated with annual grasses and sedges. The narrow riparian corridor supports riparian shrub and tree species, including walnut and willow.

- An ephemeral drainage is present on the Hollister Fire Station No. 2 site. The drainage is located on the northwest side of the site and flows east to west; it has an inflow via a metal culvert under Valaire Drive to the northeast and an outflow via a metal culvert beneath Airline Highway to the west. The primary hydrological source is urban runoff, and no connections to jurisdictional streams or wetlands were evident. The drainage supports hydrophytic vegetation, including willow, cottonwood, and *Phalaris* sp.

- The nearest occurrence of a sensitive aquatic community tracked by the CNDDB is North Central Coast Drainage Sacramento Sucker/Roach River, 3.2 miles northeast of the Santa Ana Creek Trail project area.

REGULATORY SETTING

FEDERAL

Federal Endangered Species Act (16 United States Code 1531–1544)

The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides protection for federally listed endangered and threatened species and their habitats. The USFWS administers the ESA. A project may obtain permission to take federally listed species in one of two ways: a Section 10 Habitat Conservation Plan to a private party, or a Section 7 Biological Opinion from the USFWS and/or the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued to another federal agency that funds or permits an action (e.g., the USACE). Under either section of the ESA, adverse impacts on protected species must be avoided, minimized, or mitigated.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

The MBTA (16 United States Code Sections 703–711), as administered by the USFWS, makes it unlawful to "pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird." This includes direct and indirect acts, with the exception of harassment and habitat modification, which are not included unless they result in direct loss of birds, nests, or eggs. The Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act defines a native migratory bird as a species present within the United States and its territories as a result of natural biological or ecological processes.

Clean Water Act – Section 404/10 Jurisdiction

The USACE regulates activities in waters of the United States pursuant to congressional acts: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (1977, as amended). Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act requires a permit for any work in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires a permit for discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Fill within wetlands is regulated under the Clean Water Act through a Nationwide Permit Program and an Individual Permit Program. The Clean Water Act also regulates discharges under a nationwide permit program established under Section 402, referred to as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Under this program, any person responsible for the discharge of a pollutant or pollutants into any waters of the United States from any point source must apply for and obtain a permit. The Section 402 program is focused on discharges such as wastewater discharges from industrial operations, sewage treatment plants, and stormwater.

STATE

California Endangered Species Act

The CDFW is responsible for administering the CESA. Section 2080 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits take of any species that the Fish and Wildlife Commission determines to be an endangered species or a threatened species. Section 15380 of the CEQA Guidelines designates that Species of Special Concern, as defined by the CDFW, should be included in CEQA review in addition to endangered or threatened species. The CESA does allow for take that is incidental to otherwise lawful development projects. Sections 2081(b) and (c) of the CESA allow the CDFW to issue an incidental take permit for a state-listed threatened and endangered species only if specific criteria are met.

Native Plant Protection Act

Under the Native Plant Protection Act (Fish and Game Code Section 1900 et seq.), the CDFW must establish criteria for determining whether a species, subspecies, or variety of native plant is endangered or rare. Under Section 1913(c) of the act, the owner of land where a rare or endangered native plant is growing is required to notify the CDFW at least 10 days in advance of changing the land use to allow for salvage of rare or endangered plants.

Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement

The CDFW regulates activities in watercourses, lakes, and in-stream reservoirs. Under Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code (referred to as the Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement), the CDFW regulates activities that would alter the flow—or change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank—of any perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral river, stream, or lake. Each of these activities requires a Section 1602 permit. Section 1602 requires the CDFW to be notified of any activity that might affect lakes and streams, and identifies the process through which an applicant can come to an agreement with the state regarding the protection of these resources—both during and following construction.

Fish and Game Code—Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513

Section 3503 states that it is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nests or eggs of any bird—except as otherwise provided by the Fish and Game Code or any regulation made pursuant thereto. Section 3503.5 protects all birds of prey (raptors) and their eggs and nests. Section 3513 states that it is unlawful to take or possess any migratory nongame bird as designated in the MBTA. These regulations could require that elements of the project (specifically vegetation removal or construction near nest trees) be reduced or eliminated during critical phases of the nesting cycle unless surveys by a qualified biologist demonstrate that nests, eggs, or nesting birds will not be disturbed, which may be subject to approval by the CDFW and/or the USFWS.

Fish and Game Code—Fully Protected Species

Sections 3505, 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 afford full protection to a number of specific wildlife species. Fully protected species cannot be taken or possessed under state law, even if federal take authorization is issued, except for the purpose of scientific research and relocation of bird species for the protection of livestock.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

Based on the results of the literature review and reconnaissance survey, several special-status plant and animal species have the potential to occur within or near the project area. Project activities have the potential to significantly impact these species, either through direct habitat modification and impacts, or indirectly through construction noise, dust, and increased anthropogenic disturbance. Activities that result in the take of protected species would be considered a significant impact under CEQA.

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS

Suitable habitat for six special-status plant species occurs in the project area: alkali milk-vetch, San Joaquin spearscale, Congdon's tarplant, Monterey spineflower, San Francisco popcornflower, and California alkali grass. These species are generally associated with aquatic features, which would be avoided to the greatest extent possible. However, there is a low potential for one or more of these species to occur at all project sites. If any of these plants are present in a proposed project footprint or access area, they may be directly impacted by excavation, compaction, degradation of habitat, or other construction activities. This would be considered a significant impact on special-status plants.

Implementation of mitigation measures **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-4** would be required during project planning and construction. Each mitigation measure specifies whether it will be implemented at all sites in the study area (Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Vista Park Hill, Leatherback property, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and Santa Ana Creek Trail) or only at specific sites. These mitigation measures would avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate for potential impacts.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-1 Minimize Project Footprint. All Sites. During project development, the work areas shall be reduced to the smallest possible footprint feasible in sensitive habitats. All areas to be avoided during construction activities, based on preconstruction surveys, shall be fenced and/or flagged as close to construction limits as feasible.

Timing/Implementation: During project design and upon commencement of construction activities

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-2 Rare Plant Surveys. All Sites. In the year prior to construction, a qualified botanist shall be retained to perform focused surveys to determine the presence or absence of special-status plant species with potential to occur in and adjacent to (within 100 feet, where appropriate) the proposed impact area, including new construction access routes. These surveys shall be conducted in accordance with CDFW Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts on Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (2009). These guidelines require that rare plant surveys be conducted at the proper time of year when species are both evident and identifiable. Therefore, field surveys shall be scheduled to coincide with known flowering periods, listed below.

- Alkali milk-vetch: March–June
- San Joaquin spearscale: April–October
- Congdon's tarplant: May–October
- Monterey spineflower: April–June
- San Francisco popcornflower: March–June
- California alkali grass: May–November

Timing/Implementation: The year prior to construction during the months for each species as listed above

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-3 Rare Plant Avoidance. All Sites. If any state-listed, federally listed, and/or CNPS List 1 or CNPS List 2 plant species are found within 100 feet of proposed impact areas during the surveys conducted pursuant to mitigation measure **MM BIO-2**, these plant species shall be avoided to the greatest extent possible and the following shall be implemented:

a) Any rare plant species that are identified adjacent to the study area, but not proposed to be disturbed by the proposed project, shall be demarcated or protected by barrier fencing to provide that construction activities and material stockpiles do not impact any special-status plant species. These avoidance areas shall be identified on proposed project plans.

b) If rare plant pieces are present within the work area or a 50-foot buffer, the CDFW and USFWS (if appropriate) shall be contacted. The City shall consult with the CDFW and USFWS to determine if additional mitigation measures such as relocating plants, saving seeds to seed banks, or paying into a mitigation fund are required.

Timing/Implementation: Upon commencement of construction activities

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-4 Restoration of Temporarily Disturbed Areas. All Sites. All exposed and/or disturbed areas resulting from construction activities shall be returned to their original contour and grade, and restored using locally native grass and forb seeds, plugs, or a mix of the two. Areas shall be seeded with species appropriate to their topographical and hydrological character. For example, temporarily disturbed wetlands shall be seeded with native hydrophytic species typical to the region, whereas upland areas shall be seeded with an upland grass and forb mix. Seeded areas shall be covered with broadcast straw and/or jute-netted.

Timing/Implementation: At completion of earth-distributing construction activities

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

Ongoing operation and maintenance activities are not expected to have direct impacts on special-status plant species. However, drift from foliar application of fertilizers and herbicides, and chemical runoff during rain events, may indirectly impact these plants if they are present adjacent to the parks. Additionally, direct impacts are possible if these species occur within park boundaries. Rare plant surveys, under mitigation measure **MM BIO-2,** and consultation with the CDFW and/or USFWS, under mitigation measure **MM BIO-3,** will minimize potential impacts on special-status plants within and adjacent to the project site. Additionally, implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO-5** would further minimize potential impacts to adjacent vegetation:

MM BIO-5 Fertilizer and Herbicide Application. All Sites. Application of fertilizer and weed control shall be confined to within the previously disturbed and developed park boundaries. Application shall not occur within 24 hours of rain events (40 percent or greater chance of rainfall) or when wind speeds are greater than 10 mph.

Timing/Implementation: During operation

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

SPECIAL-STATUS ANIMALS

Amphibians and Reptiles

Five special-status amphibian and reptile species have a moderate or high potential to occur in the study area: California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, and San Joaquin coachwhip.

Proposed project activities could result in significant impacts to these special-status amphibian and reptile species. Burrows, nest sites, and upland refugia in the construction footprint may be excavated or crushed by construction vehicles, directly impacting these species. Additionally, individuals migrating to and from breeding habitat or juveniles dispersing from breeding habitat to upland habitats may be crushed by construction vehicles, trapped in excavations, or blocked from dispersing by fencing and infrastructure. These impacts would constitute a significant impact. These species may also be indirectly impacted by the degradation of aquatic and upland habitat as a result of project activities.

Impacts would be minimized through the implementation of mitigation measures **MM BIO-1** and **MM BIO-4,** which would reduce temporary and long-term impacts on habitat**.** Additionally, implementing **MM BIO-6** through **MM BIO-20** will further minimize impacts to a less than significant level. These measures shall be implemented during project planning, construction, and operation at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, and any other site where suitable habitat is identified during preconstruction surveys:

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-6 Preconstruction Surveys. All Sites. Within two weeks of implementation of proposed project-related activities, a qualified biologist shall be retained to conduct a preconstruction survey to detect the presence of special-status amphibians and reptiles, including California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, and San Joaquin coachwhip. During the survey the biologist shall determine if suitable small mammal burrows (i.e., ground squirrel and gopher size) or other suitable refugia occur within 50 feet of the proposed impact area, including construction access routes.

If during preconstruction surveys project activities are determined to have the potential to take individual California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog, the City shall obtain take coverage from the USFWS and CDFW prior to the initiation of project activities.

MM BIO-7 California Red-Legged Frog Surveys. Select Sites. Within 48 hours of implementation of proposed project-related activities at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, a qualified biologist shall conduct one daytime and one nighttime visual encounter survey to detect the presence of California red-legged frog. The biologist shall visually assess aquatic features for the presence of adults, juveniles, and larvae, and determine if suitable breeding habitat occurs within 50 feet of

the proposed impact area, including construction access routes. If California red-legged frogs are found, the USFWS shall be consulted prior to initiating work for proper take coverage and avoidance and minimization measures.

MM BIO-8 Western Pond Turtle Visual Encounter Surveys. Select Sites. A preconstruction survey for western pond turtle shall be conducted within 24 hours of the onset of any proposed ground-disturbing activities occurring within 350 feet of work areas at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other sites where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys. If juvenile or adult turtles are found in the survey area, they shall be moved by a qualified biologist at least 500 feet away from the proposed disturbance area to a location with similar habitat. If a turtle nest is found in the survey area, construction activities shall not take place within 100 feet of the nest until the turtles have hatched or the eggs have been moved to an appropriate location. Any egg relocation shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in coordination with the CDFW. Any observation of western pond turtles in any life stage shall be recorded on CNDDB forms and sent to the CDFW.

MM BIO-9 Environmental Awareness Training. Select Sites. Prior to conducting work at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, all personnel shall attend an environmental awareness training. The training shall cover the life history and habitat requirements of special-status species with potential to occur on-site, including nesting birds, information on state and federal laws protecting wetlands and other water resources, and applicable avoidance and minimization measures.

MM BIO-10 Biological Monitoring. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, a qualified biologist shall monitor all ground-disturbance activities, including grading, that have the potential to impact special-status species.

MM BIO-11 Work Windows. Select Sites. To the extent feasible, all grading or digging in and near water features shall occur outside of the breeding and juvenile rearing season (avoid late November to August) at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where sites where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys.

MM BIO-12 Work Hours Restriction. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential upland habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, work would be restricted to commence no earlier than one half-hour after sunrise and end no later than one half-hour before sunset to avoid impacts on nocturnal special-

status amphibian species, if present. To avoid attracting wildlife to the sites, nighttime lighting shall not be utilized.

MM BIO-13 Rain Restrictions. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, operations of off-pavement work shall be minimized during significant rain events and 24 hours following significant rain events. Significant rain events are generally considered 0.10 inches of accumulation within 24 hours.

MM BIO-14 Vehicle Inspection. All Sites. Crews shall visually check under vehicles and equipment for special-status amphibians and reptiles and other wildlife before moving vehicles and equipment. If special-status wildlife is observed, no work will occur until a qualified biologist has coordinated with the CDFW and USFWS.

MM BIO-15 Handling Wildlife. All Sites. Wildlife shall not be handled or moved by construction crews, and shall be allowed to move out of the work area on their own accord or relocated by a qualified biologist. If encountered, California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog shall only be handled by a USFWS- and CDFW-approved biologist in coordination with the CDFW and USFWS. If a tiger salamander or frog is observed during construction, work shall immediately stop and the USFWS and CDFW shall be notified within 24 hours by the City Inspector or a qualified biologist. Any observations of California tiger salamander or red-legged frog in any life stage shall be recorded on CNDDB field sheets and sent to the CDFW by a qualified biologist.

MM BIO-16 Wildlife Escape Ramps. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, all steep-walled excavations and/or holes deeper than 12 inches shall be covered at night or an escape ramp shall be placed in them to facilitate escape of entrapped wildlife. The ramp may be constructed of earthen fill, wood planking, or other suitable material that is placed at an angle of no greater than 45 degrees. Trenches and holes shall be inspected every morning prior to construction activity and immediately prior to backfill.

MM BIO-17 No Monofilament Netting. All Sites. Erosion control materials shall not contain monofilament netting or other materials that could be harmful to wildlife.

MM BIO-18 Cover Pipes. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during pre-construction surveys, pipes and culverts greater than 4 inches in diameter shall be securely capped or covered to prevent wildlife from taking refuge. If pipes cannot be capped, they shall be inspected for wildlife prior to burial or removal from site.

Timing/Implementation: Prior and during construction, as outlined in each specific mitigation measure

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-19 Litter and Trash Management. All Sites. All food scraps, wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash from the work area shall be disposed in closed trash containers. Trash shall be removed completely from the work area weekly.

Ongoing facility operations and maintenance activities, including cleaning, equipment repair, landscaping, and trimming trees and shrubs, may also impact special-status amphibians and reptiles. If present within or adjacent to the facilities, these species may be crushed by vehicles operated on or off paved roadways or during ground disturbance activities associated with irrigation and landscaping. Herbicide and fertilizer applied to vegetation may harm amphibians and reptiles in the vicinity. Additionally, nighttime lighting along pathways and fields may affect behavior of nocturnal species, potentially attracting them to hazardous habitats.

Timing/Implementation: During project operation

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-20 Nighttime Lighting. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, nighttime lighting fixtures along walkways, sports fields, and other facilities shall be minimized in brightness and quantity to the extent practicable. Lighting shall be designed such that it does not shine into waterways and riparian habitat, to avoid attracting special-status amphibians and other wildlife to the facility.

Timing/Implementation: During project operation

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

Mitigation measure **MM BIO-5** will minimize potential impacts from chemical application. Mitigation measures **MM BIO-14** through **MM BIO-19** are also applicable to ongoing maintenance activities. Implementing these measures in addition to mitigation measure **MM BIO-20** would minimize impacts on special-status amphibians and reptiles to a less than significant level for this phase of work.

American Badger and San Joaquin Kit Fox

Suitable friable soil for American badger burrowing is present at each of the park facilities on-site, but the urban and agricultural settings of most sites would preclude inhabitance. Still, there is a moderate potential for badger to occur at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and the uplands around the Santa Ana Creek Trail. San Joaquin kit fox may be present within the study area. Suitable arid, open habitat is present at many of the park facilities, but urbanization is expected to deter kit fox in most cases. The

species may occur at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility or the Santa Ana Creek Trail.

Proposed project activities could result in significant impacts on American badger and San Joaquin kit fox. Active dens located in the construction footprint may be excavated or crushed by construction vehicles, directly impacting these species. Additionally, individuals dispersing through the construction sites or seeking refuge on-site may be crushed by construction vehicles, trapped in excavations, or blocked from dispersing by fencing and infrastructure. These impacts would constitute a significant impact. These species may also be indirectly impacted by the degradation of aquatic and upland habitat as a result of project activities.

Impacts would be minimized through the implementation of mitigation measures **MM BIO-1** and **MM BIO-4**, which would reduce temporary and long-term impacts on habitat, and measures **MM BIO-9, MM BIO-10,** and **MM BIO-14** through **MM BIO-19.** Additionally, **MM BIO-21** will further minimize impacts to a less than significant level. These measures would be implemented during project planning, construction, and operation at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, and any other site where suitable habitat is identified during preconstruction surveys.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-21 American Badger and San Joaquin Kit Fox Detection Surveys. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and Santa Ana Creek Trail, within 48 hours of implementation of proposed project-related activities, a qualified biologist shall be retained to determine if suitable denning habitat for American badger and San Joaquin kit fox occurs within 500 feet of the proposed impact area, including construction access routes. If suitable habitat exists, focused surveys shall be performed by a qualified biologist for the purposes of determining presence or absence of active den sites within the proposed impact area, including construction access routes and a 250-foot buffer (if feasible). If active breeding sites are identified within 250 feet of proposed project activities, a no-disturbance buffer shall be established prior to commencement of any project construction activities to avoid construction or access-related disturbances to badger breeding activities. Activities permitted within and the size of the no-disturbance buffers may be adjusted based on an evaluation by the qualified biologist. The buffer shall be imposed until a qualified biologist determines breeding activities have ended. If active dens are detected, the USFWS and CDFW shall be contacted, as appropriate, and CNDDB field forms shall be submitted to the CDFW.

Timing/Implementation: Prior and during construction, as outlined in each specific mitigation measure

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

Ongoing facility operations and maintenance activities are not likely to directly impact American badger and San Joaquin kit fox, as landscaping and human presence will discourage inhabitance. Still, these species may occur adjacent to facilities and may forage within or disperse through facilities. Implementing mitigation measures **MM BIO-14**

through **MM BIO-19** during this phase of work would minimize impacts to badger and kit fox to a less than significant level.

Migratory Birds and Raptors

Development of the park facilities may directly and indirectly impact nesting birds if they are present, including special-status birds such as bank swallow and western burrowing owl. The project also has potential to impact common bird species protected by the MBTA and Fish and Game Code.

Removal of vegetation and/or the destruction of nests, holes, and burrows could result in the direct take of bank swallow, burrowing owl, and other bird species. Bank swallow nest sites may be directly impacted by the proposed construction of a pedestrian bridge, while burrowing owl burrows in upland habitat may be destroyed by upland grading and excavation. Noise and dust from construction may also cause adult birds to abandon eggs or chicks if they are nesting in proximity to the construction zone, resulting in indirect take of these species. Implementation of mitigation measures **MM BIO-1, MM BIO-4, MM BIO-9, MM BIO-18, MM BIO-19,** and **MM BIO-22** through **MM BIO-25** would reduce potential impacts on protected nesting bird species during project planning, construction, and operation to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-22 Migratory Bird and Raptor Surveys. All Sites. If feasible, tree and vegetation clearing shall be conducted outside the migratory bird nesting season (February 15 through August 31). However, if vegetation clearing, mowing, and/or construction activities occur during the migratory bird nesting season, then preconstruction surveys to identify active migratory bird and/or raptor nests, including bank swallow nests, shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 14 days of construction initiation.

MM BIO-23 Burrowing Owl Surveys. All Sites. Focused surveys shall be performed by a qualified biologist for the purposes of determining presence or absence of burrowing owl burrows within the proposed impact area, including construction access routes, within two weeks of vegetation removal or ground disturbance activities. If clearing and construction activities begin during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), the survey area shall include a 500-foot buffer, where feasible. If clearing and construction activities begin during the nonbreeding season (September 1 through January 31), the survey area shall include a 250-foot buffer, where feasible.

MM BIO-24 Nest Avoidance. All Sites. If active nest sites are identified within the survey areas during the preconstruction surveys conducted pursuant to mitigation measures **MM BIO-22** and **MM BIO-23**, a no-disturbance buffer shall be established for all active nest sites prior to commencement of any proposed project construction activities to avoid construction or access-related disturbances to migratory bird nesting activities. A no-disturbance buffer constitutes a zone in which proposed project-related activities (i.e., vegetation removal, earth moving, and construction) cannot occur. The size of the no-disturbance buffers shall be determined by a qualified biologist based on the species, activities proposed near the nest, and

topographic and other visual barriers. Buffers shall remain in place until the young have fledged and/or the nest is inactive, as determined by the qualified biologist.

MM BIO-25 Burrowing Owl and Bank Swallow Avoidance. All Sites. If no burrowing owls or bank swallows are detected during preconstruction surveys performed pursuant to mitigation measures **MM BIO-22** and **MM BIO-23**, no further mitigation is required. If burrowing owls are detected, a qualified biologist shall be retained and the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation methodologies outlined in the CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012) shall be implemented prior to initiating proposed project-related activities that may impact burrowing owls. If bank swallows are detected, no work shall occur until nests are complete to maintain compliance with the Fish and Game Code, MBTA, and CESA. The CDFW shall be consulted for technical assistance on the appropriate buffer size for any bank swallow nests/colonies detected. Any observations of burrowing owl, bank swallow, or other special-status bird species shall be recorded on CNDDB field sheets and sent to the CDFW.

Impacts on special-status and MBTA bird species may also occur during operations and maintenance activities, including vegetation trimming, removal, and mowing. Pre-work nesting bird surveys and vegetation removal windows, pursuant to mitigation measure **MM BIO-22**, would be implemented to minimize impacts on nesting birds during this phase of work.

Timing/Implementation: Prior and during construction, as outlined in each specific mitigation measure

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

Western Red Bat

Suitable mosaic habitat for western red bat roosting and foraging is present at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Vista Park Hill, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and Santa Ana Creek Trail, and open grassland areas in these sites may also be used for feeding. The species is most likely to occur at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, where anthropogenic disturbance is lower. Removal of trees and shrubs at all sites may directly result in the take of roosting bats. Additionally, noise and dust from construction and degradation of open areas, which may impact roosting and foraging habitat, may indirectly result in the take of western red bat. Implementation of mitigation measures **MM BIO-1, MM BIO-4, MM BIO-9,** and **MM BIO-26** would reduce potential impacts on western red bat to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-26 Preconstruction Roost Assessment Survey. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Vista Park Hill, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and Santa Ana Creek Trail, within 48 hours of implementation of proposed project-related activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a daytime site reconnaissance of the area. The biologist, focusing on foliage in trees and shrubs, shall look for bats and evidence of bats, including existing roost

sites and guano deposits, as well as listening for roosting bats. If potential roost sites are identified, a nighttime emergence survey shall be conducted to determine species of roosting bats and relative bat activity, and to estimate the number of individual bats. This nighttime survey may be an active or passive acoustic monitoring survey. If occupied bat roost sites are identified, appropriate spatial and temporal buffers shall be implemented to minimize impact on roosting bats during project construction, under the guidance of the qualified biologist. Removal of potential maternity roost sites shall be avoided during the maternity roosting season (March 1 through July 31) or until a qualified biologist determines the roost has been vacated.

Timing/Implementation: Prior and during construction, as outlined in each specific mitigation measure

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

Impacts on western red bat are also possible during operations and maintenance activities**,** including tree and shrub pruning and removal. If western red bats are detected during the planning and construction phases of the project, preconstruction roost surveys and vegetation removal windows, pursuant to mitigation measure **MM BIO-26,** would effectively minimize impacts on bats during this phase of work.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated***.

Riparian habitat is present within and or adjacent to three of the project sites: the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, and Hollister Fire Station No. 2. No other sensitive natural communities were identified in the project area. The proposed project would be designed to avoid impacts on these resources, where feasible. The amount of habitat disturbance has not been calculated, as plans are not finalized, but any direct or indirect impacts on sensitive communities would be considered a significant impact. Impacts on sensitive natural communities would be minimized through the implementation of aforementioned mitigation measures, including mitigation measures **MM BIO-1** and **MM BIO-4**, as well as **MM BIO-27** and **MM BIO-28**.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-27 CDFW Jurisdictional Delineation. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, following issuance of 30% design, the City shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a CDFW jurisdictional delineation of waterways to determine whether the proposed project adversely impacts CDFW jurisdictional features and requires notification under Fish and Game Code Section 1602.

MM BIO-28 Wetlands Replacement Plans. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, removal of riparian vegetation shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible. In accordance with the Hollister General Plan, any unavoidable loss of riparian areas shall be replaced on-site or in immediately adjacent off-site areas along the river/stream corridor, in

coordination with the CDFW and the USACE. If the construction footprint falls within wetland boundaries, including within the streambank above the ordinary high water mark, additional permitting (for example, Clean Water Act Section 401 or 404, and/or Fish and Game Code Section 1600 permits) may be required.

Timing/Implementation: Prior to construction

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

Wetlands potentially under federal jurisdiction are present within or adjacent to three of the project sites: Water Reclamation Recreational Facility (San Benito River; seasonal stream), Santa Ana Creek Trail (Santa Ana Creek tributary; intermittent stream), and Hollister Fire Station No. 2 (unnamed ephemeral drainage). The proposed project would be designed to avoid impacts on these resources, where feasible. However, proposed construction of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the San Benito River may require disturbance to the bed or bank of the river if mid-span supports are utilized, and other impacts on these resources are possible. Impacts have not been calculated, as plans are not finalized. However, any direct or indirect impacts on federally protected wetlands would be considered a significant impact.

Impacts on federally protected wetlands would be minimized through the implementation of aforementioned mitigation measures, including mitigation measures **MM BIO-1, MM BIO-4**, **MM BIO-7,** and **MM BIO-28.** If the construction footprint at any site falls near or within potentially jurisdictional aquatic features, mitigation measures **MM BIO-29** through **MM BIO-31** would be implemented. Additional measures may be required if mid-span supports are constructed at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-29 Construction Best Management Practices. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Fire Station No. 2, and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, prior to initiation of construction activities within 250 feet of aquatic resources, construction best management practices shall be employed on-site to prevent degradation to on- and off-site features. Methods shall include the use of appropriate measures to intercept and capture sediment prior to entering aquatic resources, as well as erosion control measures along the perimeter of all work areas to prevent the displacement of fill material. All best management practices shall be in place prior to initiation of any construction activities and shall remain until construction activities are completed. All erosion control methods shall be maintained until all on-site soils are stabilized.

MM BIO-30 Fencing. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Fire Station No. 2, and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, the City shall require the contractor to install protective fencing between the construction limits and ephemeral drainages/other features to be avoided, as identified during the jurisdictional delineations performed pursuant to **MM BIO-27**, to

prevent accidental disturbance and to protect water quality during construction.

MM BIO-31 Dry Work Areas. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Area, Fire Station No. 2, and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, work shall coincide with the driest time of the year (generally between May 15 and October 15), if feasible. If water is present at the time of construction, water shall be diverted around the work area during construction operations.

Timing/Implementation: Prior and during construction, as outlined in each specific mitigation measure

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

The proposed project area does not fall within an Essential Connectivity Area (CDFW 2018). The proposed project would not significantly impact fish passage. However, construction within the riparian corridors on-site may temporary impact wildlife movement. The adoption of mitigation measures **MM BIO-1** and **MM BIO-2** would reduce potential impacts, and no additional mitigation measures are required.

e) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

With implementation of the aforementioned mitigation measures, the project is expected to be in compliance with Hollister General Plan policies intended to protect biological resources. Additionally, in accordance with the City's Street Tree Ordinance (Chapter 12.24 of the Municipal Code), the proposed project would retain native trees and street trees to the extent possible.

Potentially significant impacts will be avoided by implementing mitigation measures **MM BIO-32** (pursuant to the City's Street Tree Ordinance), **MM BIO-33** (pursuant to the Hollister General Plan, Chapter 7), and **MM BIO-34** (pursuant to the San Benito County General Plan, Section 8).

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-32 Street Trees. Select Sites. Trees proposed for removal shall be included in the improvement plans for each park and removal shall be approved through that process.

MM BIO-33 Mitigation Banking. All Sites. The City shall explore opportunities for regional planning and the use of concepts such as mitigation banking to offset the cumulative effects of development on the habitat of special-status species.

MM BIO-34 Mitigation of Oak Woodland. Select Sites. Oak woodland at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility will be preserved and protected to the extent possible. Where removal of these trees cannot be avoided, the City shall prepare a mitigation plan that identifies on- or off-site tree replacement.

Timing/Implementation: Prior to construction

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

f) *No Impact.*

The proposed project is not within the bounds of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. No mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
5. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The following summarizes the results of a cultural resources study prepared for the project. The study presents the findings of a Northwest Information Center (NWIC) records search (File No. 18-0239) on August 2, 2018, archaeological and built environment field survey on August 28, 2018, literature and historical map review, geoarchaeological sensitivity assessment, and Los Angeles Natural History Museum (LANHM) paleontological records search on September 6, 2018 (see Davis and Nayyar 2018; **Appendix CULT**).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The results of the cultural and paleontological resources records searches, literature review, geoarchaeological assessment, historical map search, and pedestrian survey are summarized below.

HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Water Reclamation Recreational Facility

In 1891 and 1907, the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility project area was owned by L. Scherer as part of a 122-acre farm that included the project area. The first known depiction of buildings on the Scherer farm is in 1919 when one residence, extant and located outside the project area, is shown. The second residence was located roughly in the area where MR 1 (see **Appendix A: Figure 10** and **Appendix B**) was identified during the field survey. The residence is pictured in a 1953 aerial photograph as directly adjacent to the project area and was demolished between 1974 and 1998.

The 1953 aerial photograph depicts at least 10 additional buildings constructed between 1919 and 1953 in the project area. One residence appears to be the Riverside Park Farmstead, previously recorded in 2007 in support of the City of Hollister Reclaimed Water Project Environmental Impact Report (2008) and recommended ineligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register); it was demolished circa 2008. On a 1955 map, another residence is depicted close to a cluster of nine buildings that appear on a 1953 aerial and on

the 1955 map. The buildings appear to be ancillary in nature and likely aided in orchard operations. This former residence and ancillary structures were in the area where MR 2 (see **Appendix A: Figure 10,** and **Appendix B**) was identified during the pedestrian field survey. The project area appears largely unchanged in 1974, with the exception of an additional residence constructed between 1953 and 1974 that was demolished circa 2008. By 1998, the project area had been cleared of an orchard. By circa 2008, the property appears to have been converted for park use and cleared of built environment resources.

Archaeological materials were observed in two locations in the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility project area. Artifacts observed are consistent with historic-period residences and ancillary structures that were constructed in the project area from 1919 to 1953. All artifacts are fragmented and consist of clear, lime green, cobalt, amethyst, brown, and light blue bottle glass, window glass, bone, buttons, freshwater shell, white earthenware, porcelain, coal, and ferrous metal.

No cultural resources were identified in the NWIC records search for the project area or the quarter-mile search radius.

California Register Evaluation

California Register evaluations were completed for the two historic-period archaeological sites, referred to as MR 1 and MR 2, located in the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility project area.

MR 1 and MR 2 are remnants of former residences and ancillary structures that were demolished and continuously impacted by the underground installation of the water reclamation facility, scattered during grass mowing, and other Brigantino Park maintenance activities. What little is known about the occupants of these residences does not indicate them as significant people or associate them with events that made a contribution to local, state, or national history. Relatedly, the resources do not have the potential to yield information that is important to history. The resources lack integrity due to continuous impacts over the years. The sites are recommended ineligible for the California Register.

Vista Park Hill

The Vista Park Hill project area was located on a 76-acre ranch from at least 1891 to 1907. By 1923, the project area included a small round reservoir, and by 1953, the project area was known as Park Hill and identified as part of a mine. A 1953 aerial photograph depicts a covered reservoir, but by 1971, the reservoir appears filled in and replaced by a water tank adjacent to the project area. The project area was shown as a park in a circa 1924 map of Hollister. No cultural resources were identified in the NWIC records search for the project area; six were identified within a quarter-mile search radius and include a roadway, railroad, refuse scatters, residential and commercial historic districts, and a prehistoric burial. No historical resources were identified in the project area.

Leatherback Property

The year 1919 marks the first depiction of features in the Leatherback property project area, when the property included two railroad spurs and associated buildings. By 1953, only one spur serviced the project area, which functioned as a part of an oil refinery with four oil tanks and four large buildings. By 1971, the project area no longer functioned for oil use but maintained the spur and buildings. The buildings were demolished circa 2010. No cultural resources were

identified in the NWIC records search for the project area; five were identified within a quarter-mile search radius and include a railroad, refuse scatters, residential and commercial historic district, and industrial and residential buildings.

Hollister Fire Station No. 2

The Hollister Fire Station No. 2 project area was part of larger ranch properties from 1891 to 1907. The surrounding area remained very rural until circa 1970 when residential developments began construction. The adjacent fire station was constructed circa 2000. No resources are depicted in the Hollister Fire Station No. 2 project area from 1891 until the present. No cultural resources were identified in the NWIC records search for the project area; one was identified within a quarter-mile search radius and included a roadway.

Santa Ana Creek Trail

No resources are depicted in the project area from 1891 until the present. In 1891, the creek ran through approximately 172 acres of land owned by William M. Winters. By 1907, the land had been subdivided and owned by the Board of Missions. A residence is first depicted adjacent to the creek in 1919 and remains extant. By 1953, approximately five buildings are depicted adjacent to the creek and the surrounding area is mainly developed with orchards. By 1974, the orchards were replaced by residential development. No cultural resources were identified in the NWIC records search for the project area or a quarter-mile search radius.

GEOARCHAEOLOGY

A geoarchaeological sensitivity assessment of the region was completed by Rosenthal, Meyer, Hildebrandt, and King (2003). The Hollister Valley filled with alluvium in the Late Holocene, contributing to elevated prehistoric archaeological buried site or geoarchaeological sensitivity in the valley. Surface landforms in the project areas are either historical alluvial deposits or Late Holocene alluvial terrace or basin deposits (Lindsey 1974). The project areas are mapped as having different surface and buried site potential; this information is presented in the findings subsection below.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

While no known fossil localities were identified in the LANHM, sensitive formations within each project area have known fossil localities in the vicinity.

Water Reclamation Recreational Facility

On the southern margin of the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility project area, there are exposures of unnamed Pliocene deposits geologically mapped as equivalent to the Ora Loma Formation. The closest Ora Loma Formation localities are LACM 7664-7667, to the east-southeast on Monocline Ridge in the Ciervo Hills in Fresno County. These localities produced fossil specimens of horses, *Dinohippus*, *Hipparion tehonense*, and *Neohipparion leptode*, as well as camel, *Alforjas*. Almost all of the proposed project area for the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility has surface deposits composed of younger Quaternary Alluvium, derived as fluvial overbank deposits from the San Benito River that currently flows adjacent to the northeast.

Vista Park Hill

The Vista Park Hill project area includes exposures of the Plio-Pleistocene Santa Clara Formation. The LANHM does not have any Santa Clara Formation localities on record, but the formation has produced vertebrate fossils in the past.

Leatherback Property

Quaternary deposits, similar to those at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility project area, occur at the surface at the Leatherback property project area, although alluvial fan deposits derived from more elevated terrain to the east may contribute more to the surface deposits. These younger Quaternary deposits typically do not contain significant vertebrate fossils in the uppermost layers, but older sedimentary deposits at relatively shallow depth may well contain significant fossil vertebrate remains.

Hollister Fire Station No. 2

Older Quaternary deposits, derived as alluvial fan deposits from the more elevated terrain to the east and south, occupy the surface at the Hollister Fire Station No. 2 project area. These deposits have the potential to produce significant vertebrate fossils, although the closest older Quaternary locality is LACM 7254, northeast of Chowchilla on the south side of Ash Slough. LACM 7254 produced an elephantoid, *Proboscidea,* fossil specimen.

Santa Ana Creek Trail

Older Quaternary deposits, derived as alluvial fan deposits from the more elevated terrain to the east and south, occupy the surface at the Santa Ana Creek Trail project area. These deposits have the potential to produce significant vertebrate fossils, although the closest older Quaternary locality is LACM 7254, located northeast of Chowchilla on the south side of Ash Slough. LACM 7254 produced an elephantoid, *Proboscidea* fossil specimen.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

No built environment resources over 50 years old were observed within the project areas. However, two historic-period archaeological resources, MR1 and MR2, were observed and recorded in the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility project area. Sensitivity for encountering resources varies across each project area, as described in the table below.

Project Area	Surface Prehistoric Archaeology Sensitivity	Buried Prehistoric Archaeology Sensitivity	Historic-Period Archaeology	Paleontological Sensitivity	Pedestrian Survey Observations
Water Reclamation Recreational Facility	Very Low	Low–Moderate	High	High in Pliocene deposits	Positive – Historic-period archaeology – MR 1 and MR 2
Vista Park Hill	Moderate	Very Low	Low	High in Plio-Pleistocene Santa Clara Formation	Negative
Leatherback Property	Low	High	Moderate	High within sedimentary deposits	Historic-period railroad debris

Project Area	Surface Prehistoric Archaeology Sensitivity	Buried Prehistoric Archaeology Sensitivity	Historic-Period Archaeology	Paleontological Sensitivity	Pedestrian Survey Observations
Hollister Fire Station No. 2	High	Very High	Low	High within older Quaternary deposits	Negative
Santa Ana Creek Trail	High	High	Low	High within older Quaternary deposits	No permission to enter; did not survey

REGULATORY SETTING

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

Under CEQA, public agencies must consider the effects of their actions on both historical resources and "unique archaeological resources." Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21084.1, a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.

Historical resource is a term with a defined statutory meaning (Public Resources Code Section 21084.1; determining significant impacts on historical and archaeological resources is described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5[a], [b]). Historic resources are usually 50 years old or older and must meet at least one of the criteria for listing in the California Register, in addition to maintaining a sufficient level of physical integrity.

Properties of local significance that have been designated under a local preservation ordinance (local landmarks or landmark districts) or that have been identified in a local historical resources inventory may be eligible for listing in the California Register and are presumed to be historical resources for purposes of the CEQA unless a preponderance of evidence indicates otherwise (Public Resources Code Section 5024.1 and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 4850). Unless a resource listed in a survey has been demolished, lost substantial integrity, or there is a preponderance of evidence indicating that it is otherwise not eligible for listing, a lead agency should consider the resource to be potentially eligible for the California Register.

Section 21083.2 requires agencies to determine whether proposed projects would have effects on unique archaeological resources. Treatment options under Section 21083.2 include activities that preserve such resources in place in an undisturbed state. Other acceptable methods of mitigation under Section 21083.2 include excavation and curation or study in place without excavation and curation (if the study finds that the artifacts would not meet one or more of the criteria for defining a unique archaeological resource).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) requires that excavation activities stop whenever human remains are uncovered and that the county coroner be called in to assess the remains. If the county coroner determines that the remains are those of Native Americans, the Native American Heritage Commission must be contacted within 24 hours. At that time, the lead agency must consult with the appropriate Native Americans, if any, as timely identified by the commission. Section 15064.5 directs the lead agency (or applicant), under certain circumstances, to develop an agreement with the Native Americans for the treatment and disposition of the remains.

In addition to the mitigation provisions pertaining to accidental discovery of human remains, the CEQA Guidelines also require that a lead agency make provisions for the accidental discovery

of historical or archaeological resources, generally. Pursuant to Section 15064.5(f), these provisions should include "an immediate evaluation of the find by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be an historical or unique archaeological resource, contingency funding and a time allotment sufficient to allow for implementation of avoidance measures or appropriate mitigation should be available. Work could continue on other parts of the building site while historical or unique archaeological resource mitigation takes place."

CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 regulates the procedure in the event of human remains discovery. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, in the event of human remains discovery, no further disturbance is allowed until the county coroner has made the necessary findings regarding the origin and disposition of the remains. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner is required to contact the Native American Heritage Commission. The commission is responsible for contacting the most likely Native American descendant, who will consult with the local agency regarding how to proceed with the remains. According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, all human remains are a significant resource.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) ***No Impact.***

The NWIC records search, archaeological and built environmental field survey, historic map, literature review, and California Register evaluations of two historic-period archaeological sites identified no historical resources as defined by CEQA Section 15064.5(a) within the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Vista Park Hill, Leatherback property, Hollister Fire Station No 2, and Santa Ana Creek Trail project areas. Therefore, the project does not have the potential to impact historical resources, and there would be **no impact**.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

The NWIC records search, archaeological field survey, historic map and literature review, and California Register evaluations of two historic-period archaeological sites, identified no archaeological resources within the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Vista Park Hill, Leatherback property, Hollister Fire Station No 2, and Santa Ana Creek Trail project areas. However, there is the potential, during ground disturbance, to uncover archaeological resources in these project areas, as well as in the additional six parks with minor proposed improvements; therefore, standard late discovery mitigation **MM CUL-1** is required to mitigated impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

MM CUL-1 Treatment of previously unidentified archaeological deposits. If prehistoric or historical archaeological deposits are discovered during construction, all work within 25 feet of the discovery shall be redirected and a qualified archaeologist shall assess the situation, consult with agencies as appropriate, and make recommendations regarding the treatment of the discovery. Impacts on archaeological deposits shall be avoided by the project, but if such impacts cannot be avoided, the deposits shall be evaluated for their eligibility for the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register). If the deposit is not California Register

eligible, no further protection of the finds is necessary. If the deposits are California Register eligible, they shall be protected from project-related impacts, or such impacts shall be mitigated. Mitigation may consist of, but is not necessarily limited to, systematic recovery and analysis of archaeological deposits, recording the resource, preparation of a report of findings, and accessioning recovered archaeological materials at an appropriate curation facility.

Timing/Implementation: *During grading and excavation*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Hollister*

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

The LANHM records search did not identified paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features. However, geologic deposits at the surface of the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Vista Park Hill, Leatherback property, Hollister Fire Station No 2, and Santa Ana Creek Trail project areas include the Ora Loma Formation, Plio-Pleistocene Santa Clara Formation, and older Quaternary deposits, which all have been known to produce vertebrate fossils. The project may require earthmoving activities. Should paleontological resources be discovered during project-related activities in the 11 parks with proposed improvements, the City would implement mitigation measure **MM CUL-2** to reduce impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

MM CUL-2 Treatment of previously unidentified paleontological deposits. In the event of a fossil discovery during excavation, the construction contractor shall notify the City of Hollister and shall immediately cease work in the area of the find. The contractor shall retain a qualified paleontologist to evaluate the resource and prepare a recovery plan for immediate implementation, including field survey, construction monitoring, sampling and data recovery procedures, museum storage coordination for any specimen recovered, and a report of findings. Recommendations in the recovery plan that are determined by the City to be necessary and feasible will be implemented before construction activities resume in the area where the paleontological resources were discovered.

Timing/Implementation: *During grading and excavation*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Hollister*

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The NWIC records search, archaeological field survey, historic map and literature review identified no human remains within the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Vista Park Hill, Leatherback property, Hollister Fire Station No 2, and Santa Ana Creek Trail project areas; however, ground-disturbing activities could uncover human remains during ground disturbance. The City is required to comply with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, compliance with which would ensure a **less than significant** impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Section 1803.5.3 of the 2016 California Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The Hollister Valley is a lowland basin surrounded by coastal mountains including the Gabilan Range to the west, the Quien Sabe Range (part of the greater Diablo Range) to the east, and the Lomerias Muertas (or Flint Hills) and the more distant Santa Cruz Mountains to the northwest (USGS 2016). The city was built on the elevated river terraces of the San Benito River floodplain.

FAULTS AND SEISMICITY

Hollister and environs are in a seismically active area. Four fault zones traverse the county in the vicinity of Hollister: the San Andreas, the Quien Sabe, the Tres Pinos, and the Calaveras. The San

Andreas fault system crosses San Benito County in a southeasterly direction along the Gabilan Range 2.5 miles west of the city. The Hayward/Calaveras fault runs south and north and bisects the city through downtown. The Quien Sabe fault is 3 miles to the east of the city and extends to the southeast. The Tres Pinos rault is a minor fault that is connected to the Calaveras rault in Hollister's downtown. It passes in a southeasterly direction through the city. All but the Tres Pinos fault are considered active faults. The Calaveras fault passes through the western portion of Vista Park Hill and directly through Dunne Park. At Dunne Park, the slope at the park is the fault scarp formed by the Calaveras fault.

A substantial portion of central and south east Hollister lie within the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones for the Hayward/Calaveras and Tres Pinos faults. These study zones were established under the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (Public Resources Code, Division 2, Chapter 7.5) and mapped by the California Geological Survey to require special investigation and to restrict development within areas where fault rupture may occur. Lead agencies are required by state law to comply with the requirements of the act, which includes regulating certain development projects within an Earthquake Fault Zone. The act requires a geologic investigation to demonstrate that proposed structures for human occupancy will not be constructed across active faults.[1]

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a.i) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Vista Park Hill and Dunne Park are in an Earthquake Fault Zone for the Calaveras fault. These are existing parks for which fault rupture hazard already exists. Although the proposed project would expand Vista Park Hill and add new amenities to this park as well as improvements at Dunne Park, it would not involve the development of new structures for human occupancy, as defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, nor would features be constructed that could affect fault features (e.g., the slope at Dunne Park). Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death due to fault rupture. The impact would be **less than significant**.

a.ii–iv) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Implementation of the Master Plan would result in a range of improvements to City parks and the development of new park areas. In general, these improvements would be at risk of seismic hazards, as occurs at existing parks. With the exception of a small building at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and the community Center on the Leatherback property, none of the improvements would involve occupied uses. The amphitheater at the facility would be an outdoor feature with tiered bench seating and an events lawn. Any structural projects would be subject to applicable regulations designed to reduce seismic hazards, which includes preparation of geotechnical studies to identify recommendations for foundation design, as well as soil improvement techniques, both of which help reduce seismic hazard risk. Master Plan implementation would also be subject to Hollister General Plan policies related to geotechnical and

[1] A "structure for human occupancy" is defined by Section 3601 of CCR Title 14 as "any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy, which is expected to have a human occupancy rate of more than 2,000 person-hours per year."

geologic review, and the design of safe structures and utilities. With implementation of standard applicable regulations, this impact would be **less than significant**.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Soils throughout Hollister vary. Implementation of the Master Plan would result in a range of improvements to City parks and the development of new park areas. In most instances, new park features would not result in new structural development, except for an amphitheater and a small building at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility. Any structural projects would be subject to applicable regulations regarding erosion control to prevent substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Individual future projects would be subject to further study to determine appropriate designs and measures to reduce or eliminate the potential for substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil. With these required standard measures, this impact would be **less than significant**.

c, d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Proposed improvements at existing parks would not be susceptible to greater soil hazards (if any) than currently exist. For the Hollister Fire Station No.2 site where a new park would be developed on vacant property, improvements would be limited to features that would not be vulnerable to expansive soil or unstable soil hazards. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, which proposes an amphitheater and a small building, these features could be subject to soil hazards that could affect structural stability. Improvements at the Leatherback Park include a community center and outdoor fields. The construction of a community center building would be subject to California Building Code (CBC) requirements, which include detailed soils and/or geotechnical studies in areas of suspected geological hazards such as unstable geologic units that may be subject to collapse, subsidence, landsliding, liquefaction, or lateral spreading. Potential impacts would be mitigated through implementation of accepted engineering techniques for managing unstable geologic units or soils. These geotechnical studies typically include recommendations for foundation design, as well as soil improvement techniques, both of which help mitigate these hazards. In addition, Master Plan implementation would also be subject to Hollister General Plan policies related to geotechnical and geologic review, and the design of safe structures and utilities. With implementation of standard applicable regulations, this impact would be **less than significant**.

e) ***No Impact.***

The project does not propose the use or construction of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

California is a substantial contributor of global greenhouse gases (GHGs), emitting over 400 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) per year (California Energy Commission 2019). Climate studies indicate that California is likely to see an increase of 3 to 4 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) over the next century. Methane (CH_4) is also an important GHG that potentially contributes to global climate change. GHGs are global in their effect, which is to increase the earth's ability to absorb heat in the atmosphere. As primary GHGs have a long lifetime in the atmosphere, accumulate over time, and are generally well-mixed, their impact on the atmosphere is mostly independent of the point of emission.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) constructed several emission trajectories of GHGs needed to stabilize global temperatures and climate change impacts. It concluded that a stabilization of GHGs at 400 to 450 ppm, carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2eq) concentration,[2] is required to keep global mean warming below 2 degrees Celsius (°C), which in turn is assumed to be necessary to avoid dangerous climate change.

Federal

To date, no national standards have been established for nationwide GHG reduction targets, nor have any regulations or legislation been enacted specifically to address climate change and GHG emissions reduction at the project level. Various efforts have been promulgated at the federal level to improve fuel economy and energy efficiency to address climate change and its associated effects.

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, among other key measures, requires the following, which would aid in the reduction of national GHG emissions:

[2] Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2eq) – A metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential.

- Increase the supply of alternative fuel sources by setting a mandatory Renewable Fuel Standard requiring fuel producers to use at least 36 billion gallons of biofuel annually by 2022.

- Set a target of 35 miles per gallon for the combined fleet of cars and light trucks by model year 2020, and direct the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to establish a fuel economy program for medium- and heavy-duty trucks and create a separate fuel economy standard for work trucks.

- Prescribe or revise standards affecting regional efficiency for heating and cooling products and procedures for new or amended standards, energy conservation, energy efficiency labeling for consumer electronic products, residential boiler efficiency, electric motor efficiency, and home appliances.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Endangerment Finding. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to regulate GHG emissions stems from the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA* (2007). The Supreme Court ruled that GHGs meet the definition of air pollutants under the existing Clean Air Act and must be regulated if these gases could be reasonably anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. Responding to the Court's ruling, the EPA finalized an endangerment finding in December 2009. Based on scientific evidence it found that six GHGs (CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, hydrofluorocarbons [HFCs], perfluorocarbons [PFCs], and sulfur hexafluoride [SF_6]) constitute a threat to public health and welfare. Thus, it is the Supreme Court's interpretation of the existing act and the EPA's assessment of the scientific evidence that form the basis for the EPA's regulatory actions.

Federal Vehicle Standards. In response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling discussed above, the George W. Bush Administration issued Executive Order 13432 in 2007 directing the EPA, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Energy to establish regulations that reduce GHG emissions from motor vehicles, non-road vehicles, and non-road engines by 2008. In 2009, the NHTSA issued a final rule regulating fuel efficiency and GHG emissions from cars and light-duty trucks for model year 2011, and in 2010, the EPA and NHTSA issued a final rule regulating cars and light-duty trucks for model years 2012–2016.

In 2010, President Barack Obama issued a memorandum directing the Department of Transportation, Department of Energy, EPA, and NHTSA to establish additional standards regarding fuel efficiency and GHG reduction, clean fuels, and advanced vehicle infrastructure. In response to this directive, the EPA and NHTSA proposed stringent, coordinated federal GHG and fuel economy standards for model years 2017–2025 light-duty vehicles. The proposed standards projected to achieve 163 grams per mile of CO_2 in model year 2025, on an average industry fleet-wide basis, which is equivalent to 54.5 miles per gallon if this level were achieved solely through fuel efficiency. The final rule was adopted in 2012 for model years 2017–2021, and the NHTSA intends to set standards for model years 2022–2025 in a future rulemaking. On January 12, 2017, the EPA finalized its decision to maintain the current GHG emissions standards for model years 2022–2025 cars and light trucks.

In addition to the regulations applicable to cars and light-duty trucks described above, in 2011, the EPA and NHTSA announced fuel economy and GHG standards for medium- and heavy-duty trucks for model years 2014–2018. The standards for CO_2 emissions and fuel consumption are tailored to three main vehicle categories: combination tractors, heavy-duty pickup trucks and vans, and vocational vehicles. According to the EPA, this regulatory program will reduce GHG emissions and fuel consumption for the affected vehicles by 6 to 23 percent over the 2010 baselines.

In August 2016, the EPA and NHTSA announced the adoption of the phase two program related to the fuel economy and GHG standards for medium- and heavy-duty trucks. The phase two program will apply to vehicles with model years 2018–2027 for certain trailers, and model years 2021–2027 for semi-trucks, large pickup trucks, vans, and all types and sizes of buses and work trucks. The final standards are expected to lower CO_2 emissions by approximately 1.1 billion metric tons and reduce oil consumption by up to 2 billion barrels over the lifetime of the vehicles sold under the program.

Clean Power Plan and New Source Performance Standards for Electric Generating Units. On October 23, 2015, the EPA published a final rule (effective December 22, 2015) establishing the carbon pollution emission guidelines for existing stationary sources: electric utility generating units (80 FR 64510–64660), also known as the Clean Power Plan. These guidelines prescribe how states must develop plans to reduce GHG emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric generating units. The guidelines establish CO_2 emission performance rates representing the best system of emission reduction for two subcategories of these units: (1) fossil fuel-fired electric utility steam-generating units and (2) stationary combustion turbines. Concurrently, the EPA published a final rule (effective October 23, 2015) establishing standards of performance for GHG emissions from new, modified, and reconstructed stationary sources: electric utility generating units (80 FR 64661–65120). The rule prescribes CO_2 emission standards for newly constructed, modified, and reconstructed affected fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units. The U.S. Supreme Court stayed implementation of the Clean Power Plan pending resolution of several lawsuits. Additionally, in March 2017, President Trump directed the EPA administrator to review the Clean Power Plan in order to determine whether it is consistent with current executive policies concerning GHG emissions, climate change, and energy.

Presidential Executive Order 13783. Presidential Executive Order 13783, Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth (March 28, 2017), orders all federal agencies to apply cost-benefit analyses to regulations of GHG emissions and evaluations of the social cost of carbon, nitrous oxide, and methane.

State

The state of California has adopted various administrative initiatives and legislation relating to climate change, much of which set aggressive goals for GHG emissions reductions statewide. Although lead agencies must evaluate climate change and GHG emissions of projects subject to CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines do not require or suggest specific methodologies for performing an assessment or specific thresholds of significance and do not specify GHG reduction mitigation measures. Instead, the guidelines allow lead agencies to choose methodologies and make significance determinations based on substantial evidence, as discussed in further detail below. No state agency has promulgated binding regulations for analyzing GHG emissions, determining their significance, or mitigating significant effects in CEQA documents. Thus, lead agencies exercise their discretion in determining how to analyze GHGs.

California Global Warming Solutions Act (Assembly Bill 32). The primary act that has driven GHG regulation and analysis in California is the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill [AB] 32) (Health and Safety Code Sections 38500, 38501, 28510, 38530, 38550, 38560, 38561–38565, 38570, 38571, 38574, 38580, 38590, 38592–38599), which instructs CARB to develop and enforce regulations for the reporting and verifying of statewide GHG emissions. The act directed CARB to set a GHG emissions limit based on 1990 levels, to be achieved by 2020. The bill set a timeline for adopting a scoping plan for achieving GHG reductions in a technologically and economically feasible manner. The heart of the bill is the requirement that statewide GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020.

CARB Scoping Plan. On December 11, 2008, CARB adopted its Scoping Plan, which functions as a road map to achieve GHG reductions in California required by AB 32 through subsequently enacted regulations. The Scoping Plan contains the main strategies California will implement to reduce CO_2eq emissions by 174 million metric tons (MT), or approximately 30 percent, from the state's projected 2020 emissions level of 596 million MTCO_2eq under a business as usual (BAU) scenario.[3] This is a reduction of 42 million MTCO_2eq, or almost 10 percent, from 2002 to 2004 average emissions, but requires the reductions in the face of population and economic growth through 2020. CARB's Scoping Plan calculates 2020 BAU emissions as the emissions that would be expected to occur in the absence of any GHG reduction measures. The 2020 BAU emissions estimate was derived by projecting emissions from a past baseline year using growth factors specific to each of the different economic sectors (e.g., transportation, electrical power, commercial and residential, industrial). CARB used three-year average emissions, by sector, for 2002 to 2004 to forecast emissions to 2020. The measures described in the Scoping Plan are intended to reduce the projected 2020 BAU to 1990 levels, as required by AB 32.

AB 32 requires CARB to update the Scoping Plan at least once every five years. CARB adopted the first major update to the Scoping Plan on May 22, 2014. It identifies the actions California has already taken to reduce GHG emissions and focuses on areas where further reductions could be achieved to help meet the 2020 target established by AB 32. The Scoping Plan update also looks beyond 2020 toward the 2050 goal, established in Executive Order S-3-05, and observes that "a mid-term statewide emission limit will ensure that the State stays on course to meet our long-term goal."

In December 2017, CARB approved the *California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan: The Strategy for Achieving California's 2030 Greenhouse Gas Target*. This update focuses on implementation of a 40 percent reduction in GHGs by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. To achieve this, the updated Scoping Plan draws on a decade of successful programs that addresses the major sources of climate changing gases in every sector of the economy:

- *More Clean Cars and Trucks:* The plan sets out far-reaching programs to incentivize the sale of millions of zero-emission vehicles, drive the deployment of zero-emission trucks, and shift to a cleaner system of handling freight statewide.

- *Increased Renewable Energy:* California's electric utilities are ahead of schedule meeting the requirement that 33 percent of electricity come from renewable sources by 2020. The Scoping Plan guides utilities to 50 percent renewables, as required under SB 350.

- *Slashing Super-Pollutants:* The plan calls for a significant cut in super-pollutants such as methane and HFC refrigerants, which are responsible for as much as 40 percent of global warming.

- *Cleaner Industry and Electricity:* California's renewed cap-and-trade program extends the declining cap on emissions from utilities and industries and the carbon allowance auctions. The auctions will continue to fund investments in clean energy and efficiency, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

[3] "Business as usual" refers to emissions that would be expected to occur in the absence of GHG reductions. See http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/inventory/data/bau.htm. Note that there is significant controversy as to what BAU means. In determining the GHG 2020 limit, CARB used the above as the "definition." It is broad enough to allow for design features to be counted as reductions.

- *Cleaner Fuels:* The Low Carbon Fuel Standard will drive further development of cleaner, renewable transportation fuels to replace fossil fuels.

- *Smart Community Planning:* Local communities will continue developing plans which will further link transportation and housing policies to create sustainable communities.

Achieving the 2030 target under the updated Scoping Plan will also spur the transformation of the California economy and fix its course securely on achieving an 80 percent reduction in GHG emissions by 2050, consistent with the global consensus of the scale of reductions needed to stabilize atmospheric GHG concentrations at 450 ppm carbon dioxide equivalent, and reduce the likelihood of catastrophic climate change.

Monterey Bay Air Resources District Thresholds

Global climate change is a cumulative impact; a project contributes to this impact through its incremental contribution of GHG emissions combined with the cumulative increase of all other sources of GHGs. MBARD's GHG threshold is defined in terms of CO_2e, a metric that accounts for the emissions from various GHGs based on their global warming potential. If annual emissions of GHGs exceed these threshold levels, the proposed project would result in a cumulatively considerable contribution of GHG emissions and must implement mitigation measures.

A proposed stationary source project would not have a significant GHG impact, if operation of the project would:

- Emit less than the significance level of 10,000 metric tons per year (MT/yr) CO_2e, or
- In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4(b)(3), the project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions , e.g., sources subject to the Cap-and-Trade requirements pursuant to Title 17, Article 5 (California Cap on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Market-based Compliance Mechanisms).

Stationary source projects include equipment, processes, and operations that require an MBARD permit to operate. Project GHG emissions include direct and indirect source emissions. Direct emissions occur as a result of on-site equipment, as well as off-site sources directly related to the project, such as emissions from worker commute trips and haul truck trips. Indirect emissions occur as a result of a project's actions but are produced from sources not owned or controlled by the project, such as off-site emissions from electricity generation, water conveyance, and waste disposal.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) *Less Than Significant Impact.*

The proposed project would result in direct and indirect emissions of CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O, and would not result in other GHGs that would facilitate a meaningful analysis. Therefore, this analysis focuses on these three forms of GHG emissions. Direct project-related GHG emissions include emissions from construction activities, area sources, and mobile sources, while indirect sources include emissions from electricity consumption, water demand, and solid waste generation. Operational GHG estimations are based on energy emissions from natural gas usage and automobile emissions. Project-related GHG emissions were quantified with CalEEMod, as recommended by MBARD. CalEEMod relies upon vehicle trip rates and project-specific land use

data to calculate emissions. The project proposes a total forecast trip generation of approximately 2,370 daily trips for all parks in the Park Facility Master Plan, per the traffic impact analysis provided in **Appendix TRAF.** Below, **Table 3.7-1** presents the estimated CO_2, N_2O, and CH_4 emissions of the proposed project. CalEEMod outputs with the GHG emissions data are in **Appendix AQ.**

TABLE 3.7-1
ESTIMATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Source	CO_2	CH_4		N_2O		Total $MTCO_2eq^3$
	MT/yr^1	MT/yr^1	$MTCO_2eq^2$	MT/yr^1	$MTCO_2eq^2$	
Direct Emissions						
• Construction (amortized over 30 years)	110.68	0.02	0.54	0.00	0.00	111.24
• Area Source	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
• Mobile Source	3,696.24	1.09	27.27	0.00	0.00	3,724.6
Total Direct Emissions[3]	*3,806.93*	*1.11*	*27.81*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*3,835.85*
Indirect Emissions						
• Energy	46.55	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.15	46.75
• Solid Waste	6.59	0.39	9.74	0.00	0.00	16.72
• Water Demand	98.89	0.07	1.73	0.00	0.73	101.42
Total Indirect Emissions[3]	*152.03*	*0.46*	*11.52*	*0.00*	*0.88*	*164.89*
Total Project-Related Emissions[3]	***4,000.74 $MTCO_2eq$***					
MBARD GHG Threshold of Significance[4,5]	***10,000 $MTCO_2eq$***					
Is the Threshold of Significance Exceeded?	***No***					

Notes:

1. *Emissions calculated using CalEEMod.*
2. *Carbon dioxide equivalent values calculated using the EPA website, Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, http://www2.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator, accessed January 2016.*
3. *Totals may be slightly off due to rounding.*
4. *MBARD, 2010 California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines, May 2011.*
5. *Although the project itself is not considered a "stationary source" project, MBARD does not have specific GHG thresholds for recreational park projects and the project would have yearly GHG emissions; thus the 10,000 $MTCO_2e$ threshold was applied.*

*Refer to **Appendix AQ, Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Data**, for detailed model input/output data.*

DIRECT PROPOSED PROJECT-RELATED SOURCES OF GREENHOUSE GASES

- *Construction Emissions*. Construction GHG emissions are typically summed and amortized over the lifetime of the project (assumed to be 30 years), then added to the operational emissions.[4] The proposed project would result in 3,336.60 $MTCO_2eq/yr$ (amortized over 30 years which is the expected life cycle of the project), which represents a total of approximately 111.24 $MTCO_2eq$ from construction activities, see **Table 3.7-1**.

[4] The project lifetime is based on the standard 30-year assumption of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast Air Quality Management District, *Minutes for the GHG CEQA Significance Threshold Stakeholder Working Group #13,* August 26, 2009). MBARD recommends that construction emissions be quantified and disclosed but does not provide specific guidance. Therefore, South Coast's approach was conservatively used.

- *Area Source*. Area source emissions were calculated using CalEEMod and project-specific land use data. As noted in **Table 3.7-1**, the proposed project would result in a nominal amount (0.01 $MTCO_2eq/yr$) of area source GHG emissions.
- *Mobile Source*. CalEEMod relies upon trip data in the traffic impact analysis and project-specific land use data to calculate mobile source emissions. The proposed project would directly result in approximately 3,725.6 $MTCO_2eq/yr$ of mobile source-generated GHG emissions; refer to **Table 3.7-1**.

INDIRECT PROPOSED PROJECT-RELATED SOURCES OF GREENHOUSE GASES

- *Energy Consumption*. Energy consumption emissions were calculated using CalEEMod and project-specific land use data. Electricity would be provided to the project site via Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). The proposed project would indirectly result in approximately 46.75 $MTCO_2eq/yr$ due to energy consumption; refer to **Table 3.7-1**.
- *Solid Waste*. Solid waste associated with operations of the proposed project would result in an approximately 16.72 $MTCO_2eq/yr$; refer to **Table 3.7-1**.
- *Water Demand*. The proposed project's operations would result in a demand of approximately 95.41 million gallons of water per year. Emissions from indirect energy impacts due to water supply would result in approximately 101.42 $MTCO_2eq/yr$; refer to **Table 3.7-1**.

TOTAL PROPOSED PROJECT-RELATED SOURCES OF GREENHOUSE GASES

As shown in **Table 3.7-1**, the total amount of project-related GHG emissions from direct and indirect sources combined would be 4,000.74 $MTCO_2eq/yr$. As such, the project's GHG emissions would be below MBARD'S 10,000 $MTCO_2eq/yr$ threshold. Emissions would not exceed the GHG significance threshold of 10,000 $MTCO_2eq/yr$, and a **less than significant** impact would occur.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

As stated above, the proposed project would not result in a significant impact regarding GHG emissions. It is generally the case that an individual project of this size and nature is of insufficient magnitude by itself to influence climate change or result in a substantial contribution to the global GHG inventory (CAPCOA 2008). GHG impacts are recognized as exclusively cumulative impacts; there are no noncumulative GHG emission impacts from a climate change perspective (CAPCOA 2008). The additive effect of project-related GHGs would not result in a reasonably foreseeable cumulatively considerable contribution to global climate change. In addition, the proposed project as well as other cumulative related projects would be subject to all applicable regulatory requirements, including federal, state, and local policies, which would further reduce GHG emissions. The proposed project would result in a less than significant impact regarding GHG emissions. Therefore, the proposed project's cumulative GHG emissions would be considered **less than significant**.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
8. 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles or a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

A wide variety of agricultural and industrial hazardous materials are handled and stored in the city. At the existing parks, the use of hazardous materials is limited to maintenance activities such

as restroom cleaning and landscape maintenance, which does not involve the use of a substantial number or type of hazardous materials. The use and storage of hazardous materials in the city is regulated under Hollister's Hazardous Waste Ordinance, which is contained in Chapter 8A of the Municipal Code. In addition, the General Plan has several policies (HS 1.2, HS 1.12, HS 1.13, HS 1.14, HS.R) addressing hazardous materials use and cleanup of contaminated sites.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SITES

Under Government Code Section 65962.5, both the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) are required to maintain databases of sites known to have hazardous substances present in the environment. Both agencies maintain such databases on their websites, known as GeoTracker and EnviroStor, respectively. There is only one Cortese List site in Hollister, which is a PG&E maintenance station at 1980 Santa Ana Road (DTSC 2018). This site is approximately 2,800 feet from the proposed Santa Ana Creek Trail extension, which is the closest site covered under the Park Facility Master Plan. None of the proposed park site locations are on the Cortese List.

AIRPORTS

Hollister Municipal Airport is in the northeast part of the city. The Land Use Compatibility Plan for the airport delineates the Airport Influence Area (AIA) and Routine Overflight Zone for the airport and review areas for specific safety zones (SBCALUC 2012). Jerry Gabe Memorial Park is immediately adjacent to the southeast end of Runway 13/31 and south of airport-related buildings on the west side of San Felipe Road. The park is located in the Zone 2 (inner approach/departure zone) Safety Zone. Jerry Gabe Park is an existing 1.9-acre pocket park with picnic tables and benches, a multi-use turf area, play equipment, and an off-leash dog fenced area. None of the other existing parks or proposed new parks evaluated in this Initial Study are within a safety zone.

WILDLAND FIRE HAZARD

None of the existing parks for which improvements are proposed or new park site locations are in a moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zone (Cal Fire 2007). The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility is east of a moderate fire hazard severity zone, near a wildland-urban interface.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Implementation of the Park Facilities Master Plan would result in a range of improvements to City parks and the development of new park areas. Most of the park improvements covered in the Master Plan would involve adding amenities to existing, developed parks, such as installation of new playground equipment, picnic areas, security lighting, shade structures, playing courts, drinking fountains, flower gardens, public art, walking paths, dog parks, and adult exercise equipment. Similar amenities would be constructed at new parks, and the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility would also include sports fields, an amphitheater, nighttime lighting, and a small building with offices and meeting rooms. Project construction would involve the routine transportation, storage, use, and disposal of small quantities of hazardous materials such as construction equipment fuels

and lubricants, hydraulic fluid, and solvents. During operation, facility maintenance activities would include restroom cleaning, inspection and repair of amenities such as benches, tables, playground equipment, safety inspections of playgrounds, and ballfield turf repair and replacement as needed, and graffiti removal. Landscape maintenance would consist of activities such as irrigation repair and replacement, mowing and edging, litter and debris removal, replacing plants, shrubs, and trees, rodent control, and weed control (pre-emergent and post-emergent). These types of activities, which already occur, would continue to involve only limited use and storage of hazardous materials. No new types of operations that would substantially increase the type or amount of hazardous materials used in park operations are proposed.

The storage and handling of these materials would be managed in accordance with the City policies described above and with applicable state and federal laws for safe handling of hazardous substances, which include spill control plans, storing incompatible hazardous materials separately, using secondary containment for hazardous materials storage, requiring contractors to use trained personnel for hazardous materials handling, and obtaining a permit with the Hollister Fire Department to verify that the Hollister Municipal Code Chapter 8.20 is being implemented. With these standard required measures, the routine transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction and operation would not create substantial hazards to the public or the environment. Therefore, the impact would be **less than significant**.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The operation of enhancements to existing parks and new features at new parks would not involve the use of hazardous materials that would create a significant hazard to the public as a result of upset or accident conditions, as explained above.

Construction activities at new sites have the potential, although unlikely, to encounter soil contamination from past uses of a site. For example, at the Leatherback property, the site was formerly used as a manufacturing facility. The buildings and equipment have been removed from the site. Previous investigation of the site indicated soil contamination, which was removed, and the site was remediated (ATC Associates 2011). Prior to development of park uses at the Hollister Fire Station No. 2 and Vista Park Hill sites and at the Santa Ana Creek Trail extension, appropriate hazardous materials evaluation would be undertaken, consistent with existing City General Plan Policies HS1.2 and HS1.12. These standard measures include preparation of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment to identify recognized environmental conditions, and, if required, subsequent studies such as a Phase II Subsurface Investigation or soil sampling analysis. Preparation of these reports and implementation of their project-specific recommendations would ensure hazardous materials issues on the sites (e.g., soil contamination), if any, are dealt with appropriately to ensure the public and environment are not inadvertently exposed to contaminants (if any) that may be in soil. Through implementation of standard measures included in the City's General Plan, listed above, any potential hazardous materials contamination-related impacts would be **less than significant.**

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The Hollister School District serves students in the Hollister planning area and in areas adjacent to the planning area. There are currently six elementary schools and two middle schools in the district. Many of these schools are within 0.25 miles of sites that are covered under the Master Plan. However, project construction and operation would not

result in hazardous emissions or handling of hazardous waste as described above under checklist items a) and b), above. Project construction would comply with all state and federal laws governing hazardous materials during demolition and construction. Impacts would be **less than significant.**

d) ***No Impact.***

None of the park sites proposed for improvements or locations where new parks are proposed are on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. There would be **no impact**.

e, f) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The only park within a Hollister Municipal Airport safety zone is Jerry Gabe Memorial Park, which is an existing park. Proposed improvements would include a security lighting, shade structure, basketball/tennis court, public art, a walking path, and adult exercise equipment. These features would not pose a safety hazard for aircraft operations and would not attract a substantial additional number of visitors compared to existing conditions that could be exposed to aircraft operations hazards. The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, which would involve the greatest amount of enhancements, including playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, sports fields, an amphitheater, nighttime lighting, and a small building, among other features, would attract additional visitors compared to existing conditions. However, the new features would not pose a safety hazard to airport operations or expose people on the ground to safety hazards because the park is outside the Airport Influence Area and safety zones. Therefore, the impact would be **less than significant**.

g) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The project would not result in any interference with emergency response or evacuation plans, as park projects under the Master Plan would comply with all applicable fire and building code requirements and standards. Project construction could result in temporary lane closures on streets adjacent to park development sites. However, one lane would remain open at all times, and traffic control plans prepared and implemented per California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) standards would ensure the steady flow of traffic. Therefore, the project would have a **less than significant** impact on emergency response times.

h) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

None of the sites covered in the Master Plan is in a fire hazard severity zone (FHSZ) as delineated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility is east of a moderate FHSZ, near a wildland-urban interface. Proposed features at the facility would include new impervious surfaces such as parking lots, tennis and basketball courts, and a small building, which would reduce the amount of turf (and fire hazard) compared to existing conditions. In addition, turf areas would be irrigated, which would also reduce fire hazard. The impact would be **less than significant**.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐		☒	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

SURFACE WATER AND DRAINAGE

The principal surface water features in the Hollister planning area are the San Benito River and Santa Ana Creek. The San Benito River flows from southeast to northwest in the southern portion of the Hollister planning area. The remainder of the planning area drains northerly to Santa Ana Creek, which flows into San Felipe Lake, located approximately 7 miles north of the Hollister Municipal Airport. San Felipe Lake and the San Benito River are tributary to the Pajaro River, which ultimately drains into Monterey Bay.

The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility is adjacent to the San Benito River. In the vicinity of the park, the channel varies from approximately 50 to 250 wide. Flows in the river are seasonal. The proposed Santa Ana Creek Trail is along a segment of Santa Ana Creek east of Meridian Street and north of Hillcrest Road. Santa Ana Creek is a small, intermittent creek in the project area. There is a small ephemeral drainage on the northwest side of the Hollister Fire Station No. 2 site lot. Other than these three features, there are no surface waters on or near the other locations evaluated in this document.

GROUNDWATER

Hollister overlies a portion of the Gilroy-Hollister groundwater basin (DWR Basin No. 3-3). Groundwater recharge occurs mostly through infiltration from the San Benito River and Tres Pinos Creek south of Hollister. Sources of groundwater recharge include local rainfall and surface water in creeks, direct recharge with imported water released to creek channels, indirect recharge from the percolation of imported water used for irrigation, direct recharge using local surface water stored and then released from reservoirs, and percolation of treated wastewater (SBCWD 2016). There is a groundwater well at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility that is used for irrigating the turf areas.

FLOOD HAZARDS

Portions of Hollister are built on the prehistoric floodplain of the San Benito River. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (2009) Flood Insurance Rate Maps, a small area at the southeast corner of the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility is in Zone AE. Most of that park, however, is outside the flood zone. The proposed Santa Ana Creek Trail segment is located along a Zone AE.

There are no enclosed bodies of water that would pose a dam failure inundation or seiche risk. The park sites are generally flat, and there are no slopes nearby that could pose a mudflow hazard. Hollister is not at risk of tsunami.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a, c, d) *Less Than Significant Impact.*

Implementation of the Park Facility Master Plan would result in a range of improvements to City parks and the development of new park areas. Project construction has the potential to result in increased erosion, sedimentation, and discharge of polluted runoff from the project site. Individual projects would need to demonstrate consistency with the SWRCB Construction General Permit (CGP), including developing and implementing a

stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) and employing best management practices (BMPs) for the prevention of erosion and the control of loose soil and sediment. If a SWPPP is not required for individual projects, the City would still implement appropriate best management practices, consistent with applicable standards and regulations.

The post-construction stormwater management requirements outlined in Central Coast RWQCB Resolution No. R3-2013-0032 require site-specific design measures and water quality treatment measures for projects that create and/or replace 2,500 square feet or more of impervious surfaces. A stormwater control plan would not be required for most components of the Park Facility Master Plan. Appropriate design measures would be incorporated into project planning.

For example, the proposed Water Reclamation Recreational Facility's main parking lots would be organized around central landscaped medians. Each median may function as a bioswale, absorbing runoff water and promoting infiltration into the soil. With implementation of applicable stormwater treatment design measures and compliance with existing regulations, the Master Plan would have a **less than significant** impact on water quality standards and waste discharge requirements during operation.

During park operations, fertilizer, herbicides, grass clippings, and other byproducts of maintenance work, if left unmitigated could cause harmful effects to local water quality. As required by State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 2015-0019 all park sites must incorporate methods of preventing operational generated trash up to 5 mm in size, from entering local waterbodies. Additionally, City of Hollister Resolution 2017-214, which has been submitted to the Central Coast RWQCB, adopts mechanical or structural methods of implementing full trash capture compliance. Maintenance activities at the parks follow requirements to ensure that fertilizer and herbicides are not over-sprayed or run off, and that grass clippings and maintenance debris are retained and handled appropriately. This impact would be **less than significant**.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

A portion of Hollister's water supply is groundwater. Development of recreational facilities under the proposed Master Plan would not result in a depletion of groundwater supplies or affect recharge, however, because the demand for water would be minimal (see item (e) in subsection 18, Utilities and Service Systems). There would be a minimal increase in impervious surfaces (see item (e), below), and no new facilities would be constructed in areas that provide substantial recharge. Therefore, the proposed project would not adversely affect groundwater recharge. This impact would be **less than significant**.

e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The amount and rate of stormwater discharged to a collection system and the potential effects on capacity would be a function of changes in impervious surface. Expansion of Vista Park Hill, new facilities at the Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and features added to the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and Jerry Gabe Memorial Park would increase impervious surfaces. New impervious surfaces would be associated with parking lots, basketball and tennis courts, and the rooftop of the new building at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility. However, these facilities are small and would only generate a minimal increase in runoff. At the existing Dunne, Las Brisas, and Tony Aguirre Parks, no new impervious surfaces would be added, and at the

proposed Santa Ana Creek Trail, the trail would be traditional or pervious concrete. Therefore, these parks would not contribute to increases in runoff that could affect storm drain capacity.

Some existing parks in the Master Plan (e.g., Apricot, Frank Klauer, and Mirabella Parks) include stormwater management basins.

Although no specific designs for stormwater basins for park improvements are proposed at this time, project designs would incorporate stormwater retention and control feathers that would capture and retain stormwater on the site. The Master Plan includes a design typology for future stormwater control basins and potentially underground stormwater management mechanisms instead of an open basin (Hollister 2018). Therefore, implementation of various types of stormwater retention features at future parks would ensure that stormwater runoff would not exceed pre-construction levels and would provide a benefit to stormwater management in the city.

As explained above, the expanded Vista Park Hill, new parks at the Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and Water Reclamation Recreational Facility enhancements would incorporate stormwater treatment design measures to ensure compliance with applicable regulations pertaining to water quality protection. Therefore, the proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. The impact would be **less than significant**.

f) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

As explained above, the proposed project would implement construction BMPs to minimize sediment and pollutants in construction site runoff. Designs and construction plans for the expanded Vista Park Hill, new parks at the Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2, Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, and other park enhancements would incorporate stormwater treatment design measures to ensure compliance with applicable regulations pertaining to water quality protection. Therefore, the Master Plan would not otherwise degrade water quality, and the impact would be **less than significant**.

g) ***No Impact.***

The proposed project involves park facility improvements and would not place housing in flood hazard areas. There would be **no impact**.

h) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The perimeter road and parking lot for the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility would be adjacent to, but outside of Zone AE. The only facility improvements proposed for the Santa Ana Creek Trail are signage, a traditional or pervious concrete trail, benches, and trees or small shade structures. These are small features that would not impede or redirect flood flows. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

i, j) ***No Impact.***

The existing and proposed park sites are not in locations that would be at risk of flood hazard due to dam or levee failure, seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. There would be **no impact**.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
10. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project**:**				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Hollister General Plan, adopted in 2005, is the guiding document for land use and planning in the city. The General Plan Land Use and Community Design Element provides guidance related to the location, density, intensity, and design of development. Hollister Municipal Code Title 17, Zoning, and the Hollister Zoning Map establish zoning districts in the city and specify the allowable uses and development standards for each district.

The areas to be developed at the Leatherback property, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, Vista Park Hill, and Santa Ana Creek sites are all vacant land. The Water Reclamation Recreation Facility is currently a park but would be substantially redeveloped with new park features. The General Plan designations for these sites include Open Space, Mixed Use, Public Facility, and Low Density Residential.

A range of land uses surround these sites, as described below.

- The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility (formerly the Brigantino spray field) currently includes trails and open turf space. San Juan Road runs along the northern edge of the park. The remainder of park is bordered by grazing land, rural residents and industrial uses to the north and east.

- Other developed parks in Hollister are primarily bordered by existing residential uses, commercial development, and public facilities.

- The Leatherback property is in central Hollister at the intersection of Hillcrest Road and McCray Street. The adjoining land uses are legal non-conforming industrial to the north and east, approved commercial to the south and commercial to the west. Dense residential subdivisions lie just beyond to both the east and west.

- Hollister Fire Station No. 2 is in south Hollister at the intersection of Union Road and Airline Highway. The proposed park site is surrounded by the fire station to the south, residential developments to the south east and north, and commercial development to the west across Highway 25.

- Vista Park Hill is in northwest Hollister. The Master Plan proposes development of 14 acres of vacant City-owned land adjacent to the existing 5-acre park. Older homes border the site at the base of the hill to the south and west a new small lot residential subdivision is being developed to the north. A mix of residential and commercial uses are located to the east.

- Santa Ana Creek runs through several neighborhoods in east Hollister. The creek bed provides opportunity for infill development of a linear trail, which is proposed from Santa Ana Park at the north to Hillcrest Road to the south. The areas surrounding the proposed trail include unincorporated rural residences, farmland, and vacant land.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) ***No Impact.***

The Park Facility Master Plan would not result in any changes that could physically divide an existing community. Instead, park improvements under the Master Plan would improve existing parks by providing new amenities and develop new park areas that would be open to the public. The areas to be developed at the Leatherback property, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, Vista Park Hill, and Santa Ana Creek sites would all provide new parkland between existing and future neighborhoods, thus helping to connect communities. The project also includes a series of connectivity improvements, including extending the Santa Ana Creek Trail and constructing a new pedestrian bridge and trail at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility. Therefore, the proposed project would not physically divide an established community. There would be **no impact**.

b) ***No Impact.***

The proposed Park Facility Master Plan was developed to be consistent with the goals and policies of the City's General Plan. The Master Plan does not conflict with plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Currently, the sites covered under the Master Plan are designated as Open Space, Public Facilities, Medium Density Residential, and Low Density Residential in the Hollister General Plan. The park improvement projects and expansion projects included in the Master Plan would be compatible with these land use designations. There would be **no impact**.

c) ***No Impact.***

The Master Plan does not include any area that is covered by a habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
11. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The State Mining and Geology Board has designated portions of the Hollister planning area as having construction aggregate deposits (sand, gravel and crushed rock) of regional significance, pursuant to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (Public Resources Code Section 2710 et seq.). These resources remain potentially available near the San Benito River and are needed to meet future demands in the region (Hollister 2005a).

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a, b) ***No Impact.***

The Hollister General Plan does not identify the location of any mineral resources. The project sites are located outside of any area designated by the State Mining and Geology Board as containing known mineral resources (Hollister 2005b). Therefore, there would be **no impact** related to the loss of a known mineral resource.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
12. NOISE. Would the project:				
a) The exposure of persons to, or the generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) The exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Sound is mechanical energy transmitted by pressure waves in a compressible medium such as air, and is characterized by both its amplitude and frequency (or pitch). The human ear does not hear all frequencies equally. In particular, the ear de-emphasizes low and very high frequencies. To better approximate the sensitivity of human hearing, the A-weighted decibel scale (dBA) has been developed. On this scale, the human range of hearing extends from approximately 3 dBA to around 140 dBA.

Noise is generally defined as unwanted or excessive sound, which can vary in intensity by over one million times within the range of human hearing; therefore, a logarithmic scale, known as the decibel scale (dB), is used to quantify sound intensity. Noise can be generated by a number of sources, including mobile sources such as automobiles, trucks, and airplanes, and stationary sources such as construction sites, machinery, and industrial operations. Noise generated by mobile sources typically attenuates (is reduced) at a rate between 3 dBA and 4.5 dBA per doubling of distance. The rate depends on the ground surface and the number or type of objects between the noise source and the receiver. Hard and flat surfaces, such as concrete or asphalt, have an attenuation rate of 3 dBA per doubling of distance. Soft surfaces, such as uneven or vegetated terrain, have an attenuation rate of about 4.5 dBA per doubling of distance. Noise generated by stationary sources typically attenuates at a rate between 6 dBA and about 7.5 dBA per doubling of distance.

There are a number of metrics used to characterize community noise exposure, which fluctuate constantly over time. One such metric, the equivalent sound level (L_{eq}), represents a constant sound that, over the specified period, has the same sound energy as the time-varying sound. Noise exposure over a longer period of time is often evaluated based on the day-night sound level (L_{dn}). This is a measure of 24-hour noise levels that incorporates a 10 dBA penalty for sounds occurring between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The penalty is intended to reflect the increased human sensitivity to noises occurring during nighttime hours, particularly at times when people are sleeping and there are lower ambient noise conditions. Typical L_{dn} noise levels for light- and medium-density residential areas range from 55 dBA to 65 dBA.

CITY OF HOLLISTER REGULATIONS

General Plan

According to the noise section of the Hollister General Plan Health and Safety Element, traffic and the railroads are the principal noise sources in the city. Sporadic noise from aircraft and construction-related activities also contribute to the noise environment. In addition, the Health and Safety Element contains goals and policies that would be applicable to the proposed project.

The Health and Safety Element establishes land use compatibility criteria in terms of the day-night average level (L_{dn}), defined above. The L_{dn} represents cumulative exposure to noise over an extended period of time and is therefore calculated based upon annual average conditions.

The Health and Safety Element contains goals and policies that establish limits on noise increases and overall noise exposure limits for various land uses based on the Land Use Compatibility Chart contained in the State of California Guidelines for the Preparation of a Noise Element. The land use compatibility chart identifies ranges for "Normally Acceptable," "Conditionally Acceptable," "Normally Unacceptable," and "Clearly Unacceptable" noise exposures for various land uses; refer to **Table 3.12-1**.

TABLE 3.12-1
NOISE AND LAND USE COMPATIBILITY

Land Use Category	Community Noise Exposure (L_{dn} or CNEL, dBA)			
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
Residential - Low Density, Single-Family, Duplex, Mobile Homes	50–60	55–70	70–75	75–85
Residential - Multiple Family	50–65	60–70	70–75	75–85
Transient Lodging - Motel, Hotels	50–65	60–70	70–80	80–85
Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes	50–70	60–70	70–80	80–85
Auditoriums, Concert Halls, Amphitheaters	NA	50–70	NA	65–85
Sports Arenas, Outdoor Spectator Sports	NA	50–75	NA	70–85
Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks	50–70	NA	67.5–75	72.5–85
Golf Courses, Riding Stables, Water Recreation, Cemeteries	50–70	NA	70–80	80–85
Office Buildings, Business Commercial and Professional	50–70	67.5–77.5	75–85	NA

Industrial, Manufacturing, Utilities, Agriculture	50–75	70–80	75–85	NA
NA: Not Applicable				
Normally Acceptable – Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction, without any special noise insulation requirements. Conditionally Acceptable – New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design. Conventional construction, but with closed windows and fresh air supply systems or air conditioning, will normally suffice. Normally Unacceptable – New construction or development should be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design. Clearly Unacceptable – New construction or development should generally not be undertaken.				
Source: California Office of Planning and Research, General Plan Guidelines, October 2003.				

Municipal Code

The City's standards for governing environmental noise are set forth in Chapter 8.28 (Noise) of the Hollister Municipal Code. The City has also adopted construction noise standards in Chapter 17.16 of the Municipal Code to limit unnecessary, excessive, and annoying construction noise, as discussed below.

8.28.020 – Prohibited generally.

A. *It is unlawful at any time, for any person to knowingly make, continue or cause to be made or continued, any excessive, unnecessary or unusually loud noise.*

B. *The term "excessive, unnecessary or unusually loud noise" means a noise disturbance which occurs at any time of the day, and, because of its volume level, duration or character, annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of any reasonable person of normal sensitivity residing in the area.*

C. *For any kind of noise regardless of the time of day in which it occurs, the standards which shall be considered in determining whether a violation exists, may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:*

1. *The volume or intensity of the noise;*
2. *Citizen complaints;*
3. *The proximity of the noise to residential properties;*
4. *The nature and zoning of the area within which the noise emanates;*
5. *The time and/or day of the week the noise occurs;*
6. *The duration of the noise;*
7. *Whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent or constant;*
8. *Whether the noise is produced by a commercial or noncommercial activity; and*
9. *A noise level in residential districts exceeding 55 dBA during daylight hours, and 50 dBA after sunset, measured at the property line of the complaining party or inside an affected multiple-dwelling unit.*

17.16.100 – Noise

A. *Unless Otherwise Exempt, Commercial Construction. Commercial construction activities on and contiguous to residential properties shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and shall be prohibited on Sundays and federally recognized holidays.*

B. Commercial Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance

1. Routine commercial landscaping and grounds maintenance activities for a duration of one-half hour or less with noise generating equipment such as gas lawn mowers, leaf blowers, chippers and similar equipment shall be limited within and near residential properties to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and federally recognized holidays.

2. Commercial landscaping activities with noise generating equipment used for a duration of one hour or more shall be limited within and near residential properties to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and shall be prohibited on Sundays and federally recognized holidays.

C. This section shall not apply to works of construction, landscaping or grounds maintenance by the occupants of a residential property conducting the works of construction, landscaping or grounds maintenance for personal non-commercial use.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Stationary Sources

The Master Plan project area is located within an urbanized area in various parks in Hollister. The primary sources of stationary noise in these various park vicinities are urban-related activities (i.e., residential uses, traffic, mechanical equipment, commercial/light industrial areas, parking areas, and pedestrians). The noise associated with these sources may represent a single-event noise occurrence, be short term, or be long-term/continuous noise.

Mobile Sources

The majority of the existing mobile noise in the Master Plan project area is generated from vehicle sources throughout the city along Airline Highway (SR 25), South Street, McCray Street, San Juan Road, and 4th Street.

Sensitive Receptors

Certain land uses are particularly sensitive to noise, including schools, hospitals, rest homes, long-term medical and mental care facilities, and parks and recreation areas. Residential areas are also considered noise sensitive, especially during the nighttime hours. The closest existing sensitive receptors to Hollister Fire Station No. 2 are residential uses located next to the proposed park area on the site, approximately 25 feet north of the project site. The proposed Leatherback Park is situated along busy streets and in a commercial/light industrial area. Therefore, there are no sensitive receptors nearby. The Santa Ana Creek extension would be located along Santa Ana Creek adjacent to residential uses. The proposed development areas of Vista Park Hill and the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility are located more distantly from residential uses and separated by streets and highways. Therefore, there are no sensitive receptors nearby.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) *Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.*

Short-Term Construction

Construction activities would cause increased noise along access routes to and from the site due to movement of equipment and workers. As such, some noise from soil hauling trips would occur along SR 25, South Street, McCray Street, San Juan Road, and 4th Street. However, due to the short-term nature of construction activities and construction being limited to daytime hours, noise impacts from vehicles accessing the project site would be less than significant.

Construction activities generally are temporary and have a short duration, resulting in periodic increases in the ambient noise environment. Groundborne noise and other types of construction-related noise impacts would typically occur during the initial construction phases. These phases of construction have the potential to create the highest levels of noise. Typical noise levels generated by construction equipment are shown in **Table 3.12-2.** It should be noted that the noise levels identified in **Table 3.12-2** are maximum sound levels (L_{max}), which are the highest individual sound occurring at an individual time period. Operating cycles for these types of construction equipment may involve one or two minutes of full power operation followed by three to four minutes at lower power settings. Other primary sources of acoustical disturbance would be due to random incidents, which would last less than one minute (such as dropping large pieces of equipment or the hydraulic movement of machinery lifts).

TABLE 3.12-2
MAXIMUM NOISE LEVELS GENERATED BY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

Type of Equipment	Acoustical Use Factor[1]	L_{max} at 25 Feet (dBA)	L_{max} at 50 Feet (dBA)
Concrete Saw	20	96	90
Crane	16	87	81
Concrete Mixer Truck	40	85	79
Backhoe	40	84	78
Dozer	40	88	82
Excavator	40	87	81
Forklift	40	84	78
Paver	50	83	77
Roller	20	86	80
Tractor	40	90	84
Water Truck	40	86	80
Grader	40	91	85
General Industrial Equipment	50	91	85

Note:

Acoustical use factor (percent): Estimates the fraction of time each piece of construction equipment is operating at full power (i.e., its loudest condition) during a construction operation.

Source: Federal Highway Administration, Roadway Construction Noise Model (FHWA-HEP-05-054), January 2006.

Due to the variability of construction activities and equipment for the Master Plan improvements, overall construction noise levels would fluctuate over time. Noise source control is the most effective method of controlling construction noise, as source controls are the easiest to oversee on a construction project. Attenuation at the source reduces the problem everywhere, not just along one single path or for one receiver.

Per Municipal Code Ordinance 17.16.100 (Noise), commercial construction activities on and contiguous to residential properties shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and prohibited on Sundays and federally recognized holidays. As noted above, implementation of mitigation measure **MM NOI-1** would not only require compliance with the City's allowed hours of construction but would also require construction equipment to be equipped with properly operating and maintained mufflers and other state-required noise attenuation devices. Implementation of mitigation measure **MM NOI-1** would ensure construction noise is consistent with the levels in **Table 3.12-2**. Thus, with implementation of mitigation measure **MM NOI-1**, construction noise would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

MM NOI-1 The City will incorporate the following requirements into the plans and specifications for the Grading Plan and Permit to ensure that the project construction contractor complies with the following:

- Construction contracts specify that all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, shall be equipped with properly operating and maintained mufflers and other state-required noise attenuation devices.
- Construction haul routes shall be designed to avoid noise-sensitive uses (e.g., residences, convalescent homes) to the extent feasible.
- During construction, stationary construction equipment shall be placed such that emitted noise is directed away from sensitive noise receivers.
- Per the City's Municipal Code Ordinance 17.16.100 (Noise), commercial construction activities on and contiguous to residential properties shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and shall be prohibited on Sundays and federally recognized holidays.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any grading and excavation*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Hollister*

With implementation of mitigation measure **MM NOI-1**, which includes best practices for reducing construction noise, construction-related noise levels would be reduced to a **less than significant** level.

OPERATIONAL NOISE SOURCES

OFF-SITE MOBILE NOISE

Operation of the proposed project would result in additional traffic on adjacent roadways, thereby increasing vehicular noise in the vicinity of existing and proposed land uses. According to the traffic impact analysis (see **Appendix TRAF**), the proposed project would result in approximately 2,370 total daily trips for all parks described in the Park Facility Master Plan. The 2,370 trips generated by the project would be dispersed among the various turning movements and roadways in the vicinity of each park site. According to the 2013 Caltrans *Technical Noise*

Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol, doubling of traffic on a roadway would result in an increase of 3 dB. The 2,370 daily trips generated by the project would be spread out between the proposed parks in the Park Facility Master Plan. As such, the project's vehicular trips are not expected to result in a doubling of traffic on any roadways, and therefore would not result in a noticeable increase in traffic noise levels. A **less than significant** impact would occur in this regard.

ON-SITE STATIONARY NOISE SOURCES

The majority of the proposed parks and park improvements in the Master Plan would be similar in nature to the existing parks in the city and would not include activities that would generate significant stationary noise levels. The Santa Ana Creek extension is intended to attract only pedestrians or bicyclists; these uses are not anticipated to generate significant noise. However, the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Vista Park Hill, Leatherback Park, and Hollister Fire Station No. 2 would include recreational sports courts/fields, picnic tables, barbeque areas, playground equipment, and outdoor fitness equipment, among other features, which could attract groups of people.

Noise generated by groups of people (i.e., crowds) is dependent on several factors including vocal effort, impulsiveness, and the random orientation of the crowd members. Some activities at the parks would include only participants, while others may attract crowds of spectators. Crowd noise is estimated at 60 dBA at 1 meter (3.28 feet) away for raised normal speaking. This noise level would have a +5 dBA adjustment for the impulsiveness of the noise source, and a -3 dBA adjustment for the random orientation of the crowd members (Hayne, Rumble, and Mee 2006). Therefore, crowd noise would be approximately 62 dBA at 1 meter from the source. Noise has a decay rate due to distance attenuation, which is calculated based on the Inverse Square Law. Based upon the Inverse Square Law, sound levels decrease by 6 dBA for each doubling of distance from the source (Harris 1994). As a result, crowd noise at the nearest receptor from the Hollister Fire Station No. 2, at 25 feet away, would be approximately 44.3 dBA, which would not exceed the City's threshold of 55 dBA. Thus, a less than significant impact would occur in this regard.

The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility would include an on-site amphitheater. During planned events, this amphitheater would be the predominant source of on-site stationary noise. The facility would have amplified music and crowds (750-1,000 people) but the nearest sensitive receptor to the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility amphitheater is located across San Juan Road, approximately 1,600 feet to the north. Due to distance attenuation, varying topography, and intervening structures, noise levels at the nearest sensitive receptor would be greatly reduced. However, noise from events at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility have the potential to be **significant**. Therefore, to ensure noise levels during amplified music events at the amphitheater do not exceed the City's 55 dBA noise standards, mitigation measure **MM NOI-2** requires the City to develop and implement a Noise Control Plan and provide an acoustical analysis for amphitheater events.

Vista Park Hill Park would also have an approximately 1,000-square-foot on-site amphitheater. The nearest sensitive receptor to this proposed park amphitheater is approximately 570 feet to the northeast. Unlike the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, this amphitheater is not anticipated to host amplified music or large crowds. As such, the nearest sensitive receptors would not be exposed to amplified noise levels from events at the Vista Park Hill amphitheater. Therefore, stationary noise from the Vista Park Hill amphitheater would not exceed the City's 55 dBA noise standard for residential uses. Additionally, events at the amphitheater would be

required to comply with all applicable Municipal Code Noise Ordinance requirements. As such, a less than significant impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures

MM NOI-2 Prior to an event or operations at the Water Reclamation Recreation Facility that have live or recorded amplified music, the City shall develop and implement a Noise Control Plan. The Noise Control Plan shall contain the following elements:

- The contact telephone number and email address of the Noise Control Officer shall be posted at each facility entrance for neighbors to lodge noise complaints or other concerns. Complaints shall be addressed in a diligent and responsive manner.

- An acoustical study prepared by a certified acoustical engineer to ensure compliance with the City's noise standards prior to the start of use of the park for performances.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any use for amplified events*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Hollister*

With implementation of mitigation measure **MM NOI-2**, impacts would be reduced to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Master Plan project construction would generate varying degrees of groundborne vibration, depending on the construction procedure and the construction equipment used. Operation of construction equipment generates vibrations that spread through the ground and diminish in amplitude with distance from the source. The effect on buildings within the vicinity of the construction site often varies depending on soil type, ground strata, and construction characteristics of the receiver building(s). The results from vibration can range from no perceptible effects at the lowest vibration levels, to low rumbling sounds and perceptible vibration at moderate levels, to slight damage at the highest levels. Groundborne vibrations from construction activities rarely reach levels that damage structures.

The types of construction vibration impact include human annoyance and building damage. Human annoyance occurs when construction vibration rises significantly above the threshold of human perception for extended periods of time. Building damage can be cosmetic or structural. Ordinary buildings that are not particularly fragile would not experience any cosmetic damage (e.g., plaster cracks) at distances beyond 30 feet. This distance can vary substantially depending on the soil composition and underground geological layer between vibration source and receiver. In addition, not all buildings respond similarly to vibration generated by construction equipment. The vibration produced by construction equipment is illustrated in **Table 3.12-3**.

TABLE 3.12-3
TYPICAL VIBRATION LEVELS FOR CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

Equipment	Approximate peak particle velocity at 25 feet (inches/second)[1]
Large bulldozer	0.089
Loaded trucks	0.076
Small bulldozer	0.003
Jackhammer	0.035

Notes:

1. Calculated using the following formula:

$PPV_{equip} = PPV_{ref} \times (25/D)^{1.5}$

where: PPV (equip) = the peak particle velocity in inch per second of the equipment adjusted for the distance

PPV (ref) = the reference vibration level in inch per second from Table 12-2 of the Federal Transit Administration Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Guidelines

D = the distance from the equipment to the receiver

Source: :FTA 2006

The nearest structure to the known footprint for proposed Master Plan improvements is a residential structure located approximately 25 feet to the north of the Hollister Fire Station No. 2 Park. Groundborne vibration decreases rapidly with distance. As indicated in **Table 3.12-3**, vibration velocities from typical heavy construction equipment operation that would be used during project construction range from 0.003 to 0.089 inch-per-second peak particle velocity (PPV) at 25 feet from the source of activity, and would range from 0.001 to 0.031 inch-per-second PPV at 50 feet. With regard to the proposed project, groundborne vibration would be generated primarily during grading activities on-site and by off-site haul-truck travel. Although the existing residential structure is 25 feet north of the Hollister Fire Station No.2, the proposed construction activities would not be capable of exceeding the 0.2 inch-per-second PPV significance threshold for vibration, as construction activities would be limited and would not be concentrated within 25 feet of the adjacent structures for an extended period of time. Therefore, vibration impacts would be less than significant.

c) Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.

Refer to Response 3.12 (a).

d) Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.

Refer to Responses 3.12 a) above.

e) Less Than Significant Impact.

The only park with proposed improvements within 2 miles of the Hollister Municipal Airport is Jerry Gabe Memorial Park. The Jerry Gabe Memorial Park is an existing park. Proposed improvements would include a security lighting, shade structure, basketball/tennis court, public art, a walking path, and adult exercise equipment. It is not anticipated that these improvements would significantly increase the number of people exposed to airport noise. Vista Hill Park is located approximately 2 miles south of Hollister Municipal Airport. The project is a Park Facility Master Plan and would not have include any residential or commercial buildings at Vista Hill Park. Additionally, the project does not fall within the 65 CNEL noise contour of the Hollister Airport (Hollister 2003). Therefore, as project implementation would not expose people residing or

working in the project area to excessive noise levels associated with aircraft, a less than significant impact would occur.

f) ***No Impact.***

The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or related facilities. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with the Incorporated Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
13. 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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

According to the California Department of Finance (2016), the 2016 population of Hollister was 36,484. AMBAG (2018) projects that Hollister will have a population of 45,397 by 2035, a 29.97 percent total increase from 2010. None of the current or proposed park areas include any commercial or residential development. The lands proposed for expanded or new parks are currently vacant land.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) ***No Impact.***

The project would not result in the development of any new homes or businesses and would therefore not directly induce population growth. In addition, the project would not include the extension of roads or other infrastructure that could indirectly induce population growth. The proposed improvements to existing parks and the creation of new parks are intended to serve the current and anticipated future population of Hollister, consistent with the growth projections of the General Plan. There would be **no impact**.

b, c) ***No Impact.***

The park development sites do not include any housing or businesses. Therefore, the project would have **no impact** related to displacement of housing or people.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
14. 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

FIRE PROTECTION

The Hollister City Fire Department provides fire protection within the Hollister city limits, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) responds to wildland fires in the unincorporated areas of San Benito County. The Hollister Fire Department includes one engine company and one truck company, from Station 1, located at 110 5th Street. Station 2, located at 1200 Union Road, runs one engine company. The County fire department provides initial response in certain areas of the city under a mutual aid agreement between the City of Hollister and the County of San Benito, and in turn, the City provides initial response in areas protected by the County on the western boundaries of the city.

POLICE PROTECTION

Police protection in Hollister is the responsibility of the Hollister Police Department within the city limits and of the San Benito County Sheriff's Office in the unincorporated areas. The Hollister Police Department's business office is located at 395 Apollo Way. The Sheriff's Office is headquartered at 451 Fourth Street.

SCHOOLS

Public school services in Hollister are under the jurisdiction of the Hollister School District (grades K–8) and the San Benito High School District (grades 9–12). The City currently holds joint use agreements with both districts to make school district–owned properties available for public use. Parks on school district property are not available to the public during school hours.

PARKS

The City of Hollister owns and operates 15 parks, leases acreage in San Benito County's Veterans Memorial Park, and has joint use agreements to provide public access to seven school parks, as shown in **Table 3.14-1**.

TABLE 3.14-1
EXISTING HOLLISTER PARK INVENTORY

Name	Acreage	Owner
Water Reclamation Recreational Facility	49.72 acres	City of Hollister
Allendale Park	6.25 acres	City of Hollister
Dunne Park	4.75 acres	City of Hollister
Frank Klauer Memorial Park	4.75 acres	City of Hollister
Santa Ana Park	3.0 acres	City of Hollister
Valley View Park	2.65 acres	City of Hollister
Vista Park Hill	5.0 acres	City of Hollister
Apricot Park	2.04 acres	City of Hollister
Jerry Gabe Memorial Park	1.9 acres	City of Hollister
John Z. Hernandez Memorial Park	0.21 acres	City of Hollister
Las Brisas Park	1.0 acre	City of Hollister
McCarthy Park	1.5 acres	City of Hollister
Mirabella Park	0.36 acres	City of Hollister
Nora Drive Park	0.12 acre	City of Hollister
Tony Aguirre Memorial Park	1.0 acre	City of Hollister
Calaveras School Park	5.0 acres	Hollister School District
Cerra Vista School Park	7.0 acres	Hollister School District
Ladd Lane School Park	4.33 acres	Hollister School District
Marguerite Maze Sports Complex	11.0 acres	Hollister School District
Rancho San Justo Sports Complex	9.16 acres	Hollister School District
R.O. Hardin School Park	6.26 acres	Hollister School District
San Benito High School Tennis Courts	0.75 acre	San Benito High School District
Hollister Skate Park (within Veterans Memorial Park)	1.34 acres (leased)	San Benito County
Hollister Softball Fields (within Veterans Memorial Park)	2.25 acres (leased)	San Benito County

Source: Hollister 2018

Accounting for all parks and recreational facilities within city limits, including City-owned recreation facilities, school district-owned recreational areas, and all of County-owned Veterans Memorial Park, the total is 168.93 acres (Hollister 2018).

The City's General Plan includes a recommended parks service per population standard of 4 acres of park space per 1,000 residents in the greater Hollister planning area. Parkland owned exclusively by the City of Hollister currently totals 84 acres. In order for the City to achieve its goal of achieving a level of service of 4 acres of parks per 1,000 residents, it will need to add 54.3 acres of parks to meet current population requirements. To support this goal and ultimately increase the number and quality of City-owned parks, the Master Plan recommends increasing development in-lieu fees.

The Park Facility Master Plan assesses existing facilities and resources and recommends future priority projects and potential funding mechanisms, as described in Section 2.0, Project Description.

OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES

San Benito County provides public library services to the Hollister community through the library (located on Fifth Street) and a bookmobile.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The Master Plan would not construct any residential or commercial buildings; therefore, implementation of the Master Plan would not increase the number of residents or workers in Hollister. Instead, the Master Plan is intended to enable the City to meet its goals with regard to the provision of park services to existing and future residents. Because the Master Plan would not increase the population served by the Hollister City Fire Department, it is not expected to substantially increase calls for fire protection services. Therefore, the need for new or expanded fire protection facilities is not expected. In addition, Cal Fire has determined that San Benito County has no very high fire hazard severity zones in the local responsibility area (2007). Therefore, none of the sites covered in the Park Facility Master Plan is considered a fire hazard area. As a result, the impact related to the provision of fire services would be **less than significant.**

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

As described above for item a), the project would not construct any residential or commercial buildings. Implementation of the Master Plan therefore would not increase the number of residents or workers in Hollister. Because the Master Plan would not increase the population served by the Hollister Police Department, it is not expected to substantially increase calls for police protection services. Therefore, the need for new or expanded police protection facilities is not expected.

One of the goals of the Master Plan is for designs that would attempt the highest level of accessibility and safety possible (Hollister 2018). This would include following the standards of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, which include natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcement, and maintenance. Examples of specific design measures include clear lines of site into major activity zones within the park; appropriate lighting; clear, bilingual signage; maintaining plant materials to ground cover height (less than 2 feet) and maintaining tree canopies to a minimum of 6 feet above ground level; and supporting/encouraging the formation of Neighborhood Watch groups. Therefore, the impact of the proposed project related to the provision of law enforcement services would be **less than significant**.

c) ***No Impact.***

The Master Plan would not generate demand for school seats. School parks would continue to be used by the public outside of school hours, consistent with existing joint use agreements. There would be **no impact**.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Implementation of the Master Plan would not result in residential or commercial development and would therefore not increase the demand for park services due to an increase in Hollister's population. The purpose of the Park Facility Master Plan is to improve the provision of park services for the existing and future population of the city, primarily through enhancements to existing parks and development of new park areas.

The Master Plan includes improvements to existing parks throughout the city, including substantial changes to the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility. The city currently has 84.25 acres of parks, and 47.9 acres of joint use parks, and 20.4 acres of additional parkland compared to existing conditions, with the development of new parks at the Leatherback property, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and Vista Park Hill, and with the Santa Ana Creek trail expansion. The environmental impacts of these projects are assessed throughout this Initial Study. The Master Plan would be expected to improve park facilities in Hollister. This impact is therefore considered **less than significant.**

e) ***No Impact.***

As described above for item a), the project would not construct any residential or commercial buildings, and implementation of the Master Plan would not increase the number of residents or workers in Hollister. Therefore, the project would not generate a demand for other governmental services or facilities. There would be **no impact**.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
15. RECREATION. Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Hollister residents are served by City parks, a County park, and school parks, the latter through a joint use agreement. Using parkland owned by the City of Hollister, the City provides 84 acres of parks, or approximately 2.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Accounting for all parks and recreational facilities within city limits, including City-owned recreation facilities, school district–owned recreational areas, and all of County-owned Veterans Memorial Park, the total is 168.93 acres (Hollister 2018).

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The Master Plan includes improvements to existing parks throughout Hollister. The plan would not increase the population in the city or place additional demand on existing facilities, but improved park facilities could attract more users and therefore result in increased use at some parks. The Master Plan outlines actions to ensure maintenance of facilities, and with ongoing City maintenance, future use would not be expected to be of a magnitude that would cause substantial physical deterioration to facilities. Therefore, this impact is considered **less than significant**.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

Implementation of the Master Plan would result in improvements at some existing parks and recreational facilities and development of expanded and new facilities. Because these projects are the subject of this Initial Study, the environmental consequences related to construction and operation of the improvements are comprehensively assessed throughout this document. Where appropriate, measures to mitigate the project's effects have been included, which would mitigate any impact associated with these park projects. Therefore, this impact is considered **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
16. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The following summarizes the results of a traffic impact analysis, which assesses the estimated traffic conditions associated with the five park sites slated for improvements in the City of Hollister. The daily traffic generated by the park improvements and potential for traffic impacts are summarized below (see **Appendix TRAF**).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

INTERSECTION ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

Level of service (LOS) is commonly used as a qualitative description of intersection operation and is based on the capacity of the intersection and the volume of traffic using the intersection. The Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) 2010 analysis methodology is utilized to determine the operation LOS of the study intersections (Transportation Research Board 2010). The HCM analysis

methodology describes the operation of an intersection using a range from LOS A (free-flow conditions) to LOS F (severely congested conditions), based on the corresponding stopped delay experienced per vehicle for study intersections as shown in **Table 3.16-1**.

TABLE 3.16-1
LEVEL OF SERVICE AND DELAY RANGE

Level of Service	Description	Control Delay (seconds/vehicle	
		Signalized Intersections	Unsignalized Intersections
A	Operates with very low delay and most vehicles do not stop.	≤ 10.0	≤ 10.0
B	Operates with very high progression and short cycle length. Few vehicles experience delays.	10.1 – 20.0	10.0 – 15.0
C	Operates at a moderate cycle length with significant number of vehicles stopping.	21.1 – 35.0	15.1 – 25.0
D	Operates with noticeable congestion and long cycle lengths. Vehicles experience longer delays and many vehicles stop.	35.1 – 55.0	25.1 – 35.0
E	Operates with significant delay, extensive queuing, and unfavorable progression.	55.1 – 80.0	35.1 – 50.0
F	Operates with long cycle length very poor progression. Arrival rates exceed capacity of the intersection. Extensive queuing occurs.	>80.0	>50.0

LOS is based on the average stopped delay per vehicle for all movements of signalized intersections and all-way stop-controlled intersections; for one-way or two-way stop-controlled intersections, LOS is based on the worst stop-controlled approach.

A computer software program called Synchro v. 9.2 is a direct application of HCM methodology and was used to analyze the study intersections.

Roundabouts were evaluated at the study intersection of San Juan Road / Park Driveway using Sidra Version 7 software to calculate delays and LOS. The HCM 6th edition for roundabouts was used to determine the operating LOS. **Table 3.16-1** shows the corresponding control delays and LOS for roundabouts found in Chapter 21 of the 2010 HCM.

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

In accordance with the 2005–2023 City of Hollister General Plan, LOS C or better is considered acceptable operating conditions for intersections during peak hours. For purposes of this analysis, the following significance criteria was used to determine significant impacts at study intersections.

For signalized intersections, a significant adverse impact on traffic conditions would occur if for any peak hour:

- The LOS at the intersection degrades from an acceptable LOS C or better under baseline conditions to an unacceptable LOS D, E, or F under project conditions; or

- The intersection is already operating at an unacceptable LOS D, E, or F under baseline conditions and the addition of project traffic causes the average intersection delay to increase by more than four seconds beyond what it was without the project.

For unsignalized intersections, a significant adverse impact on traffic conditions would occur if for any peak hour:

- *All-Way Stop*: The average overall LOS at the intersection degrades from an acceptable LOS C or better under baseline conditions to an unacceptable LOS D, E, or F under project conditions; or

- *All-Way Stop*: The average overall intersection LOS is already at an unacceptable LOS D, E, or F under baseline conditions and the addition of project traffic causes the average overall delay to increase by more than four seconds beyond what it was without the project; or

- *One-or-Two-Way Stop*: The delay on the worst approach at a one-way or two-way stop-controlled intersection degrades from an acceptable LOS C or better under baseline conditions to an unacceptable LOS D, E, or F under project conditions and the traffic volumes at the intersection under project conditions are high enough to satisfy the peak hour volume traffic signal warrant adopted by Caltrans; or

- *One-or-Two-Way Stop*: The delay on the worst approach at a one-way or two-way stop-controlled intersection is already at an unacceptable LOS D, E, or F under baseline conditions and traffic volumes at the intersection under project conditions are high enough to satisfy the peak hour volume traffic signal warrant adopted by Caltrans, and the addition of project traffic causes the delay on the worst stop-controlled approach to increase by more than four seconds beyond what it was without the project.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a, b) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

The City prepared the 2018 Hollister Park Facility Master Plan to recommend upgrades, expansions, and new park facilities to meet City residents' needs. Hollister has 25 existing parks, located either in the city, in the city's sphere of influence, or in unincorporated San Benito County. The Master Plan includes an inventory of existing facilities, a needs assessment, and recommendations for park improvements, including two new parks. It recommends a wide range of amenities such as picnic area improvements, security lighting, basketball and tennis courts, softball and soccer fields, gardens, public art exhibits, walking paths, dog parks, playground equipment, and adult exercise equipment at existing parks.

The traffic analysis focused on five park sites in the Park Facility Master Plan that are planning significant improvements with the potential to impact access and circulation. The Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2 are new park sites proposed by the City. The Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Vista Park Hill, and Santa Ana Creek Trail are existing park sites that are planned for expansion.

It should be noted that some parks identified in the Park Facility Master Plan would undergo minor improvements; however, these park improvements are minor and not expected to significantly increase visitation or impact vehicular traffic.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

The following summarizes potential project impacts. Detailed analysis is presented in **Appendix TRAF**.

Water Reclamation Recreational Facility

Daily traffic generated by the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility during the weekday and weekend is assumed to be the maximum number of attendees based on the tentative events described in the project description and general park use based on 49.72 acres. Based on those events, the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility is expected to generate approximately 304 daily trips with 7 a.m. and 132 p.m. peak hour trips during the weekday. On a Saturday, the site would generate approximately 1,027 daily trips with 288 midday peak hour trips.

Existing Plus Project Conditions

The intersection of San Juan Road/Park Driveway was analyzed to determine if any significant traffic-related impacts occurred as a result of the events. As shown in **Table 3.16-2** San Juan Road/Park Driveway is forecast to operate at an acceptable level of service (C or better) with project traffic on a weekday during the AM peak hour and on a weekend. However, on a weekday during the PM peak hour, the main entrance to the park is anticipated to operate at a deficient level of service "D". Since the intersection is degraded from an acceptable LOS C under existing conditions to an unacceptable LOS D under project conditions, the intersection is considered significantly impacted by the project and mitigation measures are required.

TABLE 3.16-2
EXISTING PLUS PROJECT INTERSECTION LEVEL OF SERVICE

Study Intersection	Traffic Control	Existing Conditions			Existing Plus Project Conditions			Weekday Significant Impact?		Saturday Significant Impact?	
		Weekday		Saturday	Weekday		Saturday				
		AM Delay-LOS	PM Delay-LOS	Midday Delay-LOS	AM Delay-LOS	PM Delay-LOS	Midday Delay-LOS	AM	PM	AM	PM
San Juan Road/Park Driveway	OWSC	12.1-B	20.3-C	10.2-B	11.8-B	**31.6-D**	14.8-B	No	**Yes**	No	No

[1] Seconds of delay per vehicle
LOS = Level of Service
Bold font indicates deficient level of service
OWSC = One-Way Stop Control, worst approach & LOS reported

Signal Warrant

Under Existing Plus Project conditions, PM peak hour traffic volumes at the intersection satisfy the peak hour volume traffic signal warrant (Warrant #3) in accordance with the California Manual on Traffic Control Devices (2014 CA MUTCD). Under Existing Plus Project conditions, a traffic signal would allow the intersection to operate at 12.8 seconds of delay LOS B during the PM peak hour

on a weekday. Therefore, the installation of a traffic signal at this location would fully mitigate the impact.

Roundabout Concept

As an alternative to a traffic signal at San Juan Road/Park Driveway, the City requested a roundabout be evaluated at this location. A preliminary design concept was developed for a single-lane yield controlled roundabout alternative based on geometric design standards outlined in the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (HCHRP Report 672). A single-lane roundabout at this location could most likely be constructed within the public right-of-way.

The roundabout at San Juan Road / Park Driveway was evaluated using Sidra Version 7 software to calculate delays and LOS. The HCM 6th Edition for roundabouts was used to determine the operating LOS. Table3.16-3 includes the roundabout analysis under Existing and Existing Plus Project conditions. Under Existing Plus Project, a single-lane roundabout operates at an acceptable level of service (LOS C or better). Therefore, with implementation of mitigation measure **TRAF-1**, this impact would be **l**ess than significant.

TABLE 3.16-3
EXISTING PLUS PROJECT ROUNDABOUT LEVEL OF SERVICE

Study Intersection	Traffic Control	Existing Conditions			Existing Plus Project Conditions			Weekday Significant Impact?		Saturday Significant Impact?	
		Weekday		Saturday	Weekday		Saturday				
		AM Delay-LOS	PM Delay-LOS	Midday Delay-LOS	AM Delay-LOS	PM Delay-LOS	Midday Delay-LOS	AM	PM	AM	PM
San Juan Road/Park Driveway	OWSC	6.1-A	8.0-A	4.6-A	6.1-A	10.7-B	6.7-A	No	No	No	No

[1] *Seconds of delay per vehicle*
LOS = Level of Service

Forecast Year 2035 Plus Project Conditions

Forecast Year 2035 without project traffic volumes were developed by applying a growth factor to the existing traffic volumes. According to the 2018 Regional Growth Forecast adopted June 13, 2018 by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), the employment and population forecast in the City of Hollister is estimated to increase from year 2015 to 2040 by 24% and 27%, respectively. This translates to a growth rate of 0.96% per year for employment and 1.08% per year for population with an average of 1.02% per year for both employment and population. The average growth rate (1.02%/year) was applied to the existing AM, PM and midday (Sat) peak hour traffic volumes for a 17-year period (forecast year 2035 minus year 2018 when traffic counts were collected). To be conservative, this growth rate was applied to all turn movements at the study intersection. For purposes of this analysis, year 2035 was used as the forecast year to estimate future traffic conditions at the study intersection.

Table 3.16-4 summarizes Forecast Year 2035 Without and With Project conditions weekday AM and PM peak hour and midday (Saturday) peak hour level of service of San Juan Road/Park Driveway.

TABLE 3.16-4
FORECAST YEAR 2035 WITH AND WITHOUT PROJECT INTERSECTION LEVEL OF SERVICE

Study Intersection	Traffic Control	Forecast Year 2035 Without Project Conditions			Forecast Year 2035 With Project Conditions			Weekday Significant Impact?		Saturday Significant Impact?	
		Weekday		Saturday	Weekday		Saturday				
		AM Delay-LOS	PM Delay-LOS	Midday Delay-LOS	AM Delay-LOS	PM Delay-LOS	Midday Delay-LOS	AM	PM	AM	PM
San Juan Road/Park Driveway	OWSC	12.8-B	20.3-C	10.7-B	12.3-B	**120.2-F**	16.6-C	No	**Yes**	No	No

[1] Seconds of delay per vehicle
LOS = Level of Service
Bold font indicates deficient level of service
OWSC = One-Way Stop Control, worst approach & LOS reported

As shown, San Juan Road/Park Driveway is forecast to operate at an acceptable level of service (C or better) with project traffic on a weekday during the AM peak hour and on a Saturday. However, on a weekday during the PM peak hour, the main entrance to the park is anticipated to operate at a deficient level of service "F". Since the intersection is degraded from an acceptable LOS C under Forecast Year 2035 Without Project conditions to an unacceptable LOS F with the addition of project traffic, the intersection is considered significantly impacted by the project and mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation at this location could be either the installation of a traffic signal or a single-lane roundabout to improve the operations of the intersections, specifically during the PM peak hour on a typical weekday. Under Forecast Year 2035 With Project conditions, the installation of a traffic signal at San Juan Road/Park Driveway would improve operations to a delay of 13.6 seconds LOS B during the PM peak hour (critical peak). Since a signal would allow the intersection to operate at an acceptable LOS (C or better), the impact at this location would be considered mitigated to below a level of significance. Implementation of the Master plan for the Park may be piecemeal and will be dependent upon the securing grant and other sources of funding which could affect when warrants for a traffic signal or single lane roundabout are met.

A roundabout at this location could improve safety to motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists by eliminating or altering conflict points, reducing speed differentials at intersections, and forcing drivers to decrease speeds as they proceed into and through the intersection. At a "T" intersection such as San Juan Road/Park Driveway, the number of vehicle-to-vehicle conflict points decreases from nine conflict points at a conventional intersection to six conflict points at a roundabout. Minimizing the number of conflict points and speeds should help reduce the multiple vehicle crash rate and severity. Lower speeds would also assist in pedestrian and bicycle safety along San Juan Road. Therefore, a roundabout at San Juan Road/Park Driveway could potentially improve the safety of motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists compared to a conventional

signalized intersection. As previously discussed under Existing Plus Project conditions, an alternative mitigation option to a traffic signal is a single-lane yield controlled roundabout. Table 3.16-5 shows the roundabout operations under Forecast Year 2035 Without and With Project conditions. As shown, a single-lane roundabout continues to operate at acceptable levels of service (LOS C or better) which would fully mitigate the impact at this location.

TABLE 3.16-5
FORECAST YEAR 2035 WITH AND WITHOUT PROJECT ROUNDABOUT LEVEL OF SERVICE

Study Intersection	Traffic Control	Forecast Year 2035 Without Project Conditions			Forecast Year 2035 With Project Conditions			Weekday Significant Impact?		Saturday Significant Impact?	
		Weekday		Saturday	Weekday		Saturday				
		AM Delay-LOS	PM Delay-LOS	Midday Delay-LOS	AM Delay-LOS	PM Delay-LOS	Midday Delay-LOS	AM	PM	AM	PM
San Juan Road/Park Driveway	OWSC	6.9-A	10.1-A	5.0-A	7.0-A	14.4-B	7.3-A	No	No	No	No

[1] Seconds of delay per vehicle
LOS = Level of Service

As shown, a single-lane roundabout would operate at acceptable levels of service (LOS C or better) which would fully mitigate the impact at this location.

Mitigation Measures

MM TRAF-1 Signalization or Roundabout Installation. Mitigation at this location could be either the installation of a traffic signal or a single-lane roundabout to improve the operations of the intersections, specifically during the PM peak hour on a typical weekday. Under Forecast Year 2035 With Project conditions, the installation of a traffic signal at San Juan Road/Park Driveway would improve operations to a delay of 13.6 seconds LOS B during the PM peak hour (critical peak). Since a signal would allow the intersection to operate at an acceptable LOS (C or better), the impact at this location would be considered mitigated to below a level of significance. The City shall coordinate with San Benito County for the design of the signal or single-lane roundabout. The City will monitor the level of service at the intersection to determine when warrants for the traffic signal or single-lane roundabout are close to being met.

Timing/Implementation: Prior to warrant threshold

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

Implementing mitigation measure **MM TRAF-1** would minimize transportation impacts at the Water Reclamation Recreation Facility to a less than significant level. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Vista Park Hill

Vista Park Hill is currently developed as a 5-acre park with plans to expand the park by an additional 14 acres, creating a 19-acre park. The improvements would be constructed in three phases. The park expansion is expected to generate approximately 11 daily trips with one AM and two PM peak hour trips during the weekday. On a Saturday, the site would generate approximately 28 daily trips with 4 midday peak hour trips. The vehicle trips associated with this park expansion are not expected to impact the City's circulation system and therefore, impacts are considered **less than significant**.

Leatherback Park

The Leatherback property is mostly undeveloped and would include a recreational community center, softball and soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, a walking loop around the perimeter, and a barbecue/picnic area. The 6.51-acre park is expected to generate 1,015 daily trips with 63 AM and 82 PM peak hour trips during the week. On a Saturday, the park is expected to generate approximately 332 daily trips with 40 midday peak hour trips. The number of trips associated with this new park are not expected to significantly impact nearby study intersections. Therefore, traffic-related impacts associated with the proposed Leatherback property are considered **less than significant**.

Hollister Fire Station No. 2 Park

Hollister Fire Station No. 2 Park would be a new park site at the corner of Airline Highway and Union Road. The park is expected to generate approximately three daily trips on a weekday and seven daily trips on a weekend, with one trip during the AM, midday, and PM peak hours. Traffic-related impacts are considered **less than significant** due to the minor amount of traffic generated by this site.

Santa Ana Creek Trail

The Santa Ana Creek Trail would extend the existing paved trail from its existing southern terminus near Cielo Court to Hillcrest Road. The proposed improvements to the trail are expected to generate three daily trips on a weekday and six daily trips on a weekend. The number of project trips associated with this trail extension are not expected to alter the area's transportation network and operations. Therefore, impacts are considered **less than significant**.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

With the exception of Jerry Gabe Memorial Park, none of the Master Plan parks would be located near the Hollister Airport. Jerry Gabe Memorial Park is an existing 1.9-acre pocket park primarily used as an off-leash fenced dog park. The Master Plan includes minimal improvements at this park, including a walking path, barbecue/picnic area, and shade structures. No tall buildings or structures are proposed at this site that would result in changes in air traffic patterns. This impact is therefore considered **less than significant.**

d, e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The Master Plan includes improvements to existing parks throughout the city, including changes to the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and Vista Park Hill, development of new parks at the Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and the Santa Ana Creek trail expansion.

No changes are proposed to site access location for the existing parks. Therefore, there would be no change in design features that could create a safety hazard or impeded emergency operations. A traffic signal or a single-lane roundabout is recommended as a mitigation measure to improve the flow of traffic and increase safety at the intersection of Water Reclamation Recreational Facility entry and San Juan Road. A traffic signal or roundabout has not been designed for this location at this point. Additionally, no specific park designs have been prepared for the Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2. However, specific roadway and entry design features would require review and approval by the City Engineer to ensure safety and emergency access. Therefore, the project would not create safety hazards or impede emergency access and impacts would be **less than significant**.

f) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The Master Plan includes improvements to existing parks throughout the city. Specific improvements would include pedestrian and bicycle multi-use trails and facilities within the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Visit Park Hill, Leatherback Park, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, Santa Ana Creek Trail, and Jerry Gabe Memorial Park. These pedestrian and bicycle facilities would be internal to the parks or, particularly in the case of new parks, would connect with existing on-street pedestrian and bicycle facilities. No changes are proposed to transit facilities. By providing pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the parks, the Master Plan would be consistent with City of Hollister General Plan goals and policies that seek to improve pedestrian and bicycle connections and promote walkability in the city. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with existing and planned pedestrian, bicycle facilities, or public transit facilities and impacts would be **less than significant**.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
17. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Consultation with a California Native American tribe that has requested such consultation may assist a lead agency in determining whether the project may adversely affect tribal cultural resources, and if so, how such effects may be avoided or mitigated. Whether or not consultation has been requested, would the project cause a substantial adverse change in a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place, or object, with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, which is any of the following:				
a) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Included in a local register of historical resources?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be a tribal cultural resource, after applying the criteria in Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(c), and considering the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AB 52 Native American Consultation

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 requires the a lead agency (in this case, the City of Hollister) to begin consultation with any California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project if (1) the California Native American tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe, and (2) the California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification and requests the consultation (Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1[d]).

No tribes have requested AB 52 notification within the City of Hollister, consequently, the City of Hollister did not send AB 52 notifications.

a – c) No Impact

During the cultural resources study, no tribal cultural resources were identified on the California Register of Historical Resources, in local registers, and a lead agency did not identify a tribal cultural resource. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
18. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Hollister provides water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, and solid waste services.

WATER

There are two municipal water purveyors within the Hollister Urban Area: the City of Hollister and Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD). The Hollister Urban Area relies on both local groundwater and imported water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) for municipal water supply. The SSCWD manages all CVP imports for both agricultural and municipal/industrial water deliveries. The SSCWD also manages the groundwater resources of the county, particularly the highly developed basins in the northern county, where SSCWD activities include managed aquifer recharge, monitoring water levels and water quality, and annual reporting. The basins in the northern county are subject to the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which requires development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans by 2022. According to the current

Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), water demand for the Hollister and SSCWD retail areas is projected to increase from a normal-year demand of 4,936 acre-feet per year (afy) to 10,286 afy in 2035, including recycled water. Water savings are anticipated to be achieved through continued implementation of the City's existing Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and CALGreen Building Code water conservation requirements. The water purveyors would continue to manage surface water and groundwater supplies in normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years and impose conservation requirements to ensure adequate supply (SBCWD 2016).

Landscaped and turf areas at the Dunne, Jerry Gabe Memorial, Las Brisas, and Tony Aguirre Memorial Parks are irrigated. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, there is a groundwater well that is used for irrigating the turf area.

WASTEWATER

Wastewater services within the Hollister Urban Area are provided by the City of Hollister and SSCWD. The City operates two wastewater treatment and disposal facilities. The Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant (DWTP) is located west of downtown Hollister on both sides of the Highway 156 bypass near the San Benito River. This facility is permitted to treat up to 2.69 million gallons of wastewater per day and percolation ponds at this facility can percolate approximately 2 million gallons of un-disinfected treated wastewater per day (Hollister 2005b). The Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility is located west of downtown Hollister at the west end of South Street and on the north side of the San Benito River, less than 1 mile east of the Domestic Water Treatment Facility. Treated wastewater from both facilities is disposed of by percolation, which contributes to localized areas of high groundwater in the Hollister West sub-basin.

The SSCWD operates a domestic wastewater treatment and disposal system south and east of Hollister. The treatment facilities consist of four aerated ponds, and disposal facilities consist of six percolation ponds. The design capacity of the system is 370,000 gallons per day (Hollister 2005b). Wastewater is percolated into the ground in ponds located at the Ridgemark golf course, north of the San Benito River, and along Tres Pinos Creek.

The RWQCB regulates waste discharges to protect beneficial uses through the establishment of waste discharge requirements (WDR) to meet specific water quality objectives. The City operates its wastewater treatment and disposal facilities under two sets of WDR5/Monitoring and Reporting Programs: one for the Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facility (RWQCB Order No. 87-47) and one for the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility (RWQCB Order No. 00-020).

The City of Hollister's General Plan EIR (2005b) evaluated the master planning for wastewater and water supplies in coordination with the San Benito County Water District and the County of San Benito. The EIR concluded that sufficient capacity was available for the city's current growth projections.

STORMWATER

The City of Hollister owns and operates a storm drain system comprising multiple networks of inlets and pipes that flow to the San Benito River, Santa Ana Creek, or a terminal basin within the City's system. The City prepared a Storm Drain Master Plan (2011) studying the area encompassing the entire city and tributary drainage areas to identify stormwater analysis criteria and consider improvements previously recommended for the City's stormwater system.

SOLID WASTE

Recology San Benito County provides garbage and recycling collection service in Hollister. The collection program includes curbside recycling, garbage, yard waste, used motor oil, and used oil filters. The San Benito County Integrated Waste Management Regional Agency oversees landfill operations and the San Benito County garbage and recycling services contract and is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state waste regulations. The agency also implements the countywide household hazardous waste program and hosts household hazardous waste collection events every month in the city.

The John Smith Road Landfill is the main solid waste landfill for San Benito County. It is owned by the County of San Benito and operated by Waste Connections, Inc. The maximum permitted capacity of the landfill is 9,354,000 cubic yards. As of March 2018, the landfill had a remaining capacity of 3,499,000 cubic yards. Approximately 64,307 tons of solid waste were disposed of at this landfill by county residents in 2017. The estimated closure date for the landfill is 2032 (CalRecycle 2018a, 2018b).

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a), e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The Park Facility Master Plan includes improvements to existing, developed parks located throughout Hollister, including substantial improvements to the Water Reclamation Recreation Facility; development of new parks at the Leatherback property, Hollister Fire Station No. 2; expansion of Vista Park Hill by developing adjacent land; and constructing the Santa Ana Creek Trail expansion.

Wastewater from Hollister parks is currently, and would continue to be, conveyed to the DWTP. Implementation of the Master Plan would not result in residential or commercial development and would not increase the service population of the DWTP.

Proposed facilities that would be located in the new and expanded park areas may include restroom facilities and other features, which would result only in a minor increase in sewage and utilize additional wastewater treatment capacity. It is not anticipated that the new facilities would generate sufficient volumes of sewage to require construction of new wastewater treatment facilities. Consequently, the proposed project would not contribute to an exceedance of the wastewater treatment requirements of the DWTP. The impact would be **less than significant**.

b, d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Hollister parks are and would be served by the San Benito County Water District and SSCWD, and the existing parks proposed for improvements under the Master Plan already use water. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, there is an existing groundwater well that is used for irrigating the turf area. New water demand would be limited to new or upgraded restroom facilities at existing parks, the office/administration building at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, irrigation at the Leatherback property and Hollister Fire Station No. 2 sites, and additional irrigation at the expanded Vista Park Hill. The Master Plan recommends designing greywater (recycled water) systems into new park facilities, which would help reduce water demand. Water demand for new facilities would not represent a substantial portion of future water demand in the Hollister Urban Area. If warranted, expanded and new park facilities may need to

provide replacement or upgraded local water systems, as determined by the City, prior to construction and occupancy. Such improvements would generally be within existing alignments and/or roadways, and they would not result in construction activities that result in significant environmental impacts. This impact would be **less than significant**.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Existing and future parks are designed taking drainage into account, including preparation of appropriate stormwater drainage plans. Implementation of the Master Plan would not alter the current drainage system at most existing parks, but it would result in new and expanded parks and a substantial redevelopment of the Water Reclamation Recreational facility. Future proposed facilities would include preparation of a site-specific drainage assessment, based on the City's standard requirements and regulations. With the incorporation of appropriate design features, the project would have a **less than significant** impact. See also subsection 9.e, above, which addresses storm drain system capacity.

f) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The project would not include residential or commercial development and would not increase the population of Hollister. Solid waste generated by parks is generally limited to items left in waste receptacles, litter, and debris from routine maintenance activities. While the proposed park improvements and development of new parks could increase solid waste generation, this increase would be minor in the context of the city's overall waste generation. Implementation of the City's recycling programs would further reduce solid waste generation and would ensure there is sufficient capacity to accommodate project-generated solid waste at the John Smith Landfill. As such, Hollister would continue to be served by a landfill with sufficient capacity to accommodate the project's waste disposal needs, and impacts associated with the disposal of solid waste would be **less than significant**.

g) ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Park projects would be required to comply with all standards related to solid waste diversion, reduction, and recycling during construction and operation. Therefore, the proposed project is anticipated to result in **less than significant** impacts related to potential conflicts with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
19. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. Would the project:				
a) 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

a) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

Based on the findings provided in this IS/MND, the proposed project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment. See subsections 4, Biological Resources, and 5, Cultural Resources, for further discussion of the proposed project's potential impacts on these environmental issue areas. As described in the Biological Resources subsection, the proposed project may affect several special-status species as a result of construction- and operation-related activities. However, implementation of mitigation measures **MM BIO-1** though **MM BIO-34** would reduce impacts to a less than significant level. Unidentified cultural resources may be impacted during construction activities. However, implementation of mitigation measures **MM CUL-1** and **MM CUL-2** would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. Overall, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

b) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

The natural and physical setting of the immediate area of the project improvements have already been modified by existing development. The environmental impacts of construction of each project would be site-specific and limited. Measures similar to those identified for the proposed project would be implemented, such as standard measures for controlling construction air emissions, preconstruction surveys and avoidance measures for biological resources and cultural resources, controlling noise, and reducing

traffic congestion. The impacts of the proposed project are individually limited and not cumulatively considerable, as explained below.

For the topic of air quality, impacts would be site specific and occur only during construction activities. Implement of **AQ-1** would reduce any air quality impacts to less than significant and the project's contribution would be less than cumulatively considerable

For the topic of biological resources, impacts would be site-specific and would not combine with other projects to result in a cumulative effect. The project would not result in the permanent loss of species or habitat supporting special species with implementation of **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-34**. The project's contribution would be less than cumulatively considerable.

For the topic of cultural resources and tribal cultural resources, potentially significant impacts on archaeological resources are site-specific and would be limited to the potential for discovering previously unknown resources, as no significant resources are on the project site. With implementation of **MM CUL-1** and **MM CUL-2**, the impact would be less than significant, and the project's contribution would be less than cumulatively considerable.

For the topic of noise, implementation of mitigation measures **MM NOI-1** and **MM NOI-2** would ensure that the project would not create a significant impact during construction and operation. The project's contribution would be less than cumulatively considerable.

For the topic of transportation, potential impacts related to congestion would be specific to the site and would not combine with similar impacts to result in a cumulative impact. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM TRAF-1** potential traffic congestion at the Wastewater Reclamation Recreation Facility would be reduced and the project's contribution would be less than cumulatively considerable.

For the topics of aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, geology and soils, GHG emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, and utilities and service systems, the project would have no impacts or less than significant impacts and would not require any mitigation. Therefore, the proposed project would not significantly contribute to potential cumulative impacts for these environmental topics. Overall, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

c) Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.

The proposed project would create impacts with the potential to cause impacts on human beings. However, with implantation of mitigation measures **MM AQ-1, MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-34, MM CUL-1** and **MM CUL-2, MM NOI-1** and **MM NOI-2** and **MM TRAF-1**, potential impacts would be reduced to less than significant. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would result in no environmental effects that would cause substantial direct or indirect adverse effects on human beings with incorporation of the mitigation measures listed above and identified in this IS/MND, and impacts would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

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4.0 List of Mitigation Measures

AIR QUALITY (SUBSECTION 3.3)

MM AQ-1 Construction Dust Control. The City shall ensure that the following dust control measures shall be implemented by the construction contractor to the extent necessary to eliminate visible dust:

- Water all active construction areas to maintain 12 percent soil moisture.
- All grading shall be suspended when winds exceed 20 miles per hour.
- All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site shall be covered.
- Pave, apply water three times daily, or apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas, and staging areas at construction sites.
- All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads shall be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited. Install sandbags or other erosion control measures to prevent silt runoff to public roadways.
- All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph.
- All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible.
- Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California ATCM Title 13, Section 2485 of the California Code of Regulations). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition prior to operation.

Timing/Implementation: During construction activities

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (SUBSECTION 3.4)

MM BIO-1 Minimize Project Footprint. All Sites. During project development, the work areas shall be reduced to the smallest possible footprint feasible in sensitive habitats. All areas to be avoided during construction activities, based on preconstruction surveys, shall be fenced and/or flagged as close to construction limits as feasible.

Timing/Implementation: During project design and upon commencement of construction activities

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-2 Rare Plant Surveys. All Sites. In the year prior to construction, a qualified botanist shall be retained to perform focused surveys to determine the presence or absence of special-status plant species with potential to occur in and adjacent to (within 100 feet, where appropriate) the proposed impact area, including new construction access routes. These surveys shall

be conducted in accordance with CDFW Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts on Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (2009). These guidelines require that rare plant surveys be conducted at the proper time of year when species are both evident and identifiable. Therefore, field surveys shall be scheduled to coincide with known flowering periods, listed below.

- Alkali milk-vetch: March–June
- San Joaquin spearscale: April–October
- Congdon's tarplant: May–October
- Monterey spineflower: April–June
- San Francisco popcornflower: March–June
- California alkali grass: May–November

Timing/Implementation: The year prior to construction during the months for each species as listed above

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-3 Rare Plant Avoidance. All Sites. If any state-listed, federally listed, and/or CNPS List 1 or CNPS List 2 plant species are found within 100 feet of proposed impact areas during the surveys conducted pursuant to mitigation measure **MM BIO-2**, these plant species shall be avoided to the greatest extent possible and the following shall be implemented:

a) Any rare plant species that are identified adjacent to the study area, but not proposed to be disturbed by the proposed project, shall be demarcated or protected by barrier fencing to provide that construction activities and material stockpiles do not impact any special-status plant species. These avoidance areas shall be identified on proposed project plans.

b) If rare plant pieces are present within the work area or a 50-foot buffer, the CDFW and USFWS (if appropriate) shall be contacted. The City shall consult with the CDFW and USFWS to determine if additional mitigation measures such as relocating plants, saving seeds to seed banks, or paying into a mitigation fund are required.

Timing/Implementation: Upon commencement of construction activities

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-4 Restoration of Temporarily Disturbed Areas. All Sites. All exposed and/or disturbed areas resulting from construction activities shall be returned to their original contour and grade, and restored using locally native grass and forb seeds, plugs, or a mix of the two. Areas shall be seeded with species appropriate to their topographical and hydrological character. For example, temporarily disturbed wetlands shall be seeded with native hydrophytic species typical to the region, whereas upland areas shall be seeded with an upland grass and forb mix. Seeded areas shall be covered with broadcast straw and/or jute-netted.

Timing/Implementation: At completion of earth-distributing construction activities

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-5 Fertilizer and Herbicide Application. All Sites. Application of fertilizer and weed control shall be confined to within the previously disturbed and developed park boundaries. Application shall not occur within 24 hours of rain events (40 percent or greater chance of rainfall) or when wind speeds are greater than 10 mph.

Timing/Implementation: During operation

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-6 Preconstruction Surveys. All Sites. Within two weeks of implementation of proposed project-related activities, a qualified biologist shall be retained to conduct a preconstruction survey to detect the presence of special-status amphibians and reptiles, including California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, and San Joaquin coachwhip. During the survey the biologist shall determine if suitable small mammal burrows (i.e., ground squirrel and gopher size) or other suitable refugia occur within 50 feet of the proposed impact area, including construction access routes.

If during preconstruction surveys project activities are determined to have the potential to take individual California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog, the City shall obtain take coverage from the USFWS and CDFW prior to the initiation of project activities.

MM BIO-7 California Red-Legged Frog Surveys. Select Sites. Within 48 hours of implementation of proposed project-related activities at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, a qualified biologist shall conduct one daytime and one nighttime visual encounter survey to detect the presence of California red-legged frog. The biologist shall visually assess aquatic features for the presence of adults, juveniles, and larvae, and determine if suitable breeding habitat occurs within 50 feet of the proposed impact area, including construction access routes. If California red-legged frogs are found, the USFWS shall be consulted prior to initiating work for proper take coverage and avoidance and minimization measures.

MM BIO-8 Western Pond Turtle Visual Encounter Surveys. Select Sites. A preconstruction survey for western pond turtle shall be conducted within 24 hours of the onset of any proposed ground-disturbing activities occurring within 350 feet of work areas at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other sites where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys. If juvenile or adult turtles are found in the survey area, they shall be moved by a qualified biologist at least 500 feet away from the proposed disturbance area to a location with similar habitat. If a

turtle nest is found in the survey area, construction activities shall not take place within 100 feet of the nest until the turtles have hatched or the eggs have been moved to an appropriate location. Any egg relocation shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in coordination with the CDFW. Any observation of western pond turtles in any life stage shall be recorded on CNDDB forms and sent to the CDFW.

MM BIO-9 Environmental Awareness Training. Select Sites. Prior to conducting work at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, all personnel shall attend an environmental awareness training. The training shall cover the life history and habitat requirements of special-status species with potential to occur on-site, including nesting birds, information on state and federal laws protecting wetlands and other water resources, and applicable avoidance and minimization measures.

MM BIO-10 Biological Monitoring. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, a qualified biologist shall monitor all ground-disturbance activities, including grading, that have the potential to impact special-status species.

MM BIO-11 Work Windows. Select Sites. To the extent feasible, all grading or digging in and near water features shall occur outside of the breeding and juvenile rearing season (avoid late November to August) at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where sites where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys.

MM BIO-12 Work Hours Restriction. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential upland habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, work would be restricted to commence no earlier than one half-hour after sunrise and end no later than one half-hour before sunset to avoid impacts on nocturnal special-status amphibian species, if present. To avoid attracting wildlife to the sites, nighttime lighting shall not be utilized.

MM BIO-13 Rain Restrictions. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, operations of off-pavement work shall be minimized during significant rain events and 24 hours following significant rain events. Significant rain events are generally considered 0.10 inches of accumulation within 24 hours.

MM BIO-14 Vehicle Inspection. All Sites. Crews shall visually check under vehicles and equipment for special-status amphibians and reptiles and other wildlife before moving vehicles and equipment. If special-status wildlife is

observed, no work will occur until a qualified biologist has coordinated with the CDFW and USFWS.

MM BIO-15 Handling Wildlife. All Sites. Wildlife shall not be handled or moved by construction crews, and shall be allowed to move out of the work area on their own accord or relocated by a qualified biologist. If encountered, California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog shall only be handled by a USFWS- and CDFW-approved biologist in coordination with the CDFW and USFWS. If a tiger salamander or frog is observed during construction, work shall immediately stop and the USFWS and CDFW shall be notified within 24 hours by the City Inspector or a qualified biologist. Any observations of California tiger salamander or red-legged frog in any life stage shall be recorded on CNDDB field sheets and sent to the CDFW by a qualified biologist.

MM BIO-16 Wildlife Escape Ramps. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, all steep-walled excavations and/or holes deeper than 12 inches shall be covered at night or an escape ramp shall be placed in them to facilitate escape of entrapped wildlife. The ramp may be constructed of earthen fill, wood planking, or other suitable material that is placed at an angle of no greater than 45 degrees. Trenches and holes shall be inspected every morning prior to construction activity and immediately prior to backfill.

MM BIO-17 No Monofilament Netting. All Sites. Erosion control materials shall not contain monofilament netting or other materials that could be harmful to wildlife.

MM BIO-18 Cover Pipes. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during pre-construction surveys, pipes and culverts greater than 4 inches in diameter shall be securely capped or covered to prevent wildlife from taking refuge. If pipes cannot be capped, they shall be inspected for wildlife prior to burial or removal from site.

Timing/Implementation: Prior and during construction, as outlined in each specific mitigation measure

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-19 Litter and Trash Management. All Sites. All food scraps, wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash from the work area shall be disposed in closed trash containers. Trash shall be removed completely from the work area weekly.

Ongoing facility operations and maintenance activities, including cleaning, equipment repair, landscaping, and trimming trees and shrubs, may also impact special-status amphibians and reptiles. If present within or adjacent to the facilities, these species may be crushed by vehicles

operated on or off paved roadways or during ground disturbance activities associated with irrigation and landscaping. Herbicide and fertilizer applied to vegetation may harm amphibians and reptiles in the vicinity. Additionally, nighttime lighting along pathways and fields may affect behavior of nocturnal species, potentially attracting them to hazardous habitats.

Timing/Implementation: During project operation

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-20 Nighttime Lighting. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, the Santa Ana Creek Trail, or any other site where special-status amphibians, reptiles, or potential habitat are observed during preconstruction surveys, nighttime lighting fixtures along walkways, sports fields, and other facilities shall be minimized in brightness and quantity to the extent practicable. Lighting shall be designed such that it does not shine into waterways and riparian habitat, to avoid attracting special-status amphibians and other wildlife to the facility.

Timing/Implementation: During project operation

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-21 American Badger and San Joaquin Kit Fox Detection Surveys. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility and Santa Ana Creek Trail, within 48 hours of implementation of proposed project-related activities, a qualified biologist shall be retained to determine if suitable denning habitat for American badger and San Joaquin kit fox occurs within 500 feet of the proposed impact area, including construction access routes. If suitable habitat exists, focused surveys shall be performed by a qualified biologist for the purposes of determining presence or absence of active den sites within the proposed impact area, including construction access routes and a 250-foot buffer (if feasible). If active breeding sites are identified within 250 feet of proposed project activities, a no-disturbance buffer shall be established prior to commencement of any project construction activities to avoid construction or access-related disturbances to badger breeding activities. Activities permitted within and the size of the no-disturbance buffers may be adjusted based on an evaluation by the qualified biologist. The buffer shall be imposed until a qualified biologist determines breeding activities have ended. If active dens are detected, the USFWS and CDFW shall be contacted, as appropriate, and CNDDB field forms shall be submitted to the CDFW.

Timing/Implementation: Prior and during construction, as outlined in each specific mitigation measure

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-22 Migratory Bird and Raptor Surveys. All Sites. If feasible, tree and vegetation clearing shall be conducted outside the migratory bird nesting season (February 15 through August 31). However, if vegetation clearing, mowing,

and/or construction activities occur during the migratory bird nesting season, then preconstruction surveys to identify active migratory bird and/or raptor nests, including bank swallow nests, shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 14 days of construction initiation.

MM BIO-23 Burrowing Owl Surveys. All Sites. Focused surveys shall be performed by a qualified biologist for the purposes of determining presence or absence of burrowing owl burrows within the proposed impact area, including construction access routes, within two weeks of vegetation removal or ground disturbance activities. If clearing and construction activities begin during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), the survey area shall include a 500-foot buffer, where feasible. If clearing and construction activities begin during the nonbreeding season (September 1 through January 31), the survey area shall include a 250-foot buffer, where feasible.

MM BIO-24 Nest Avoidance. All Sites. If active nest sites are identified within the survey areas during the preconstruction surveys conducted pursuant to mitigation measures **MM BIO-22** and **MM BIO-23**, a no-disturbance buffer shall be established for all active nest sites prior to commencement of any proposed project construction activities to avoid construction or access-related disturbances to migratory bird nesting activities. A no-disturbance buffer constitutes a zone in which proposed project-related activities (i.e., vegetation removal, earth moving, and construction) cannot occur. The size of the no-disturbance buffers shall be determined by a qualified biologist based on the species, activities proposed near the nest, and topographic and other visual barriers. Buffers shall remain in place until the young have fledged and/or the nest is inactive, as determined by the qualified biologist.

MM BIO-25 Burrowing Owl and Bank Swallow Avoidance. All Sites. If no burrowing owls or bank swallows are detected during preconstruction surveys performed pursuant to mitigation measures **MM BIO-22** and **MM BIO-23**, no further mitigation is required. If burrowing owls are detected, a qualified biologist shall be retained and the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation methodologies outlined in the CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012) shall be implemented prior to initiating proposed project-related activities that may impact burrowing owls. If bank swallows are detected, no work shall occur until nests are complete to maintain compliance with the Fish and Game Code, MBTA, and CESA. The CDFW shall be consulted for technical assistance on the appropriate buffer size for any bank swallow nests/colonies detected. Any observations of burrowing owl, bank swallow, or other special-status bird species shall be recorded on CNDDB field sheets and sent to the CDFW.

Impacts on special-status and MBTA bird species may also occur during operations and maintenance activities, including vegetation trimming, removal, and mowing. Pre-work nesting bird surveys and vegetation removal windows, pursuant to mitigation measure **MM BIO-22**, would be implemented to minimize impacts on nesting birds during this phase of work.

Timing/Implementation: Prior and during construction, as outlined in each specific mitigation measure

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-26 Preconstruction Roost Assessment Survey. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Vista Park Hill, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and Santa Ana Creek Trail, within 48 hours of implementation of proposed project-related activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a daytime site reconnaissance of the area. The biologist, focusing on foliage in trees and shrubs, shall look for bats and evidence of bats, including existing roost sites and guano deposits, as well as listening for roosting bats. If potential roost sites are identified, a nighttime emergence survey shall be conducted to determine species of roosting bats and relative bat activity, and to estimate the number of individual bats. This nighttime survey may be an active or passive acoustic monitoring survey. If occupied bat roost sites are identified, appropriate spatial and temporal buffers shall be implemented to minimize impact on roosting bats during project construction, under the guidance of the qualified biologist. Removal of potential maternity roost sites shall be avoided during the maternity roosting season (March 1 through July 31) or until a qualified biologist determines the roost has been vacated.

Timing/Implementation: Prior and during construction, as outlined in each specific mitigation measure

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-27 CDFW Jurisdictional Delineation. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, following issuance of 30% design, the City shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a CDFW jurisdictional delineation of waterways to determine whether the proposed project adversely impacts CDFW jurisdictional features and requires notification under Fish and Game Code Section 1602.

MM BIO-28 Wetlands Replacement Plans. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Hollister Fire Station No. 2, and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, removal of riparian vegetation shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible. In accordance with the Hollister General Plan, any unavoidable loss of riparian areas shall be replaced on-site or in immediately adjacent off-site areas along the river/stream corridor, in coordination with the CDFW and the USACE. If the construction footprint falls within wetland boundaries, including within the streambank above the ordinary high water mark, additional permitting (for example, Clean Water Act Section 401 or 404, and/or Fish and Game Code Section 1600 permits) may be required.

Timing/Implementation: Prior to construction

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-29 Construction Best Management Practices. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Fire Station No. 2, and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, prior to initiation of construction activities within 250 feet of aquatic resources, construction best management practices shall be employed on-site to prevent degradation to on- and off-site features. Methods shall include the use of appropriate measures to intercept and capture sediment prior to entering aquatic resources, as well as erosion control measures along the perimeter of all work areas to prevent the displacement of fill material. All best management practices shall be in place prior to initiation of any construction activities and shall remain until construction activities are completed. All erosion control methods shall be maintained until all on-site soils are stabilized.

MM BIO-30 Fencing. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, Fire Station No. 2, and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, the City shall require the contractor to install protective fencing between the construction limits and ephemeral drainages/other features to be avoided, as identified during the jurisdictional delineations performed pursuant to **MM BIO-27**, to prevent accidental disturbance and to protect water quality during construction.

MM BIO-31 Dry Work Areas. Select Sites. At the Water Reclamation Recreational Area, Fire Station No. 2, and the Santa Ana Creek Trail, work shall coincide with the driest time of the year (generally between May 15 and October 15), if feasible. If water is present at the time of construction, water shall be diverted around the work area during construction operations.

Timing/Implementation: Prior and during construction, as outlined in each specific mitigation measure

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

MM BIO-32 Street Trees. Select Sites. Trees proposed for removal shall be included in the improvement plans for each park and removal shall be approved through that process.

MM BIO-33 Mitigation Banking. All Sites. The City shall explore opportunities for regional planning and the use of concepts such as mitigation banking to offset the cumulative effects of development on the habitat of special-status species.

MM BIO-34 Mitigation of Oak Woodland. Select Sites. Oak woodland at the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility will be preserved and protected to the extent possible. Where removal of these trees cannot be avoided, the City shall prepare a mitigation plan that identifies on- or off-site tree replacement.

Timing/Implementation: Prior to construction

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Hollister

CULTURAL RESOURCES

MM CUL-1 Treatment of previously unidentified archaeological deposits. If prehistoric or historical archaeological deposits are discovered during construction, all work within 25 feet of the discovery shall be redirected and a qualified archaeologist shall assess the situation, consult with agencies as appropriate, and make recommendations regarding the treatment of the discovery. Impacts on archaeological deposits shall be avoided by the project, but if such impacts cannot be avoided, the deposits shall be evaluated for their eligibility for the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register). If the deposit is not California Register eligible, no further protection of the finds is necessary. If the deposits are California Register eligible, they shall be protected from project-related impacts, or such impacts shall be mitigated. Mitigation may consist of, but is not necessarily limited to, systematic recovery and analysis of archaeological deposits, recording the resource, preparation of a report of findings, and accessioning recovered archaeological materials at an appropriate curation facility.

Timing/Implementation: *During grading and excavation*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Hollister*

MM CUL-2 Treatment of previously unidentified paleontological deposits. In the event of a fossil discovery during excavation, the construction contractor shall notify the City of Hollister and shall immediately cease work in the area of the find. The contractor shall retain a qualified paleontologist to evaluate the resource and prepare a recovery plan for immediate implementation, including field survey, construction monitoring, sampling and data recovery procedures, museum storage coordination for any specimen recovered, and a report of findings. Recommendations in the recovery plan that are determined by the City to be necessary and feasible will be implemented before construction activities resume in the area where the paleontological resources were discovered.

Timing/Implementation: *During grading and excavation*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Hollister*

NOISE (SUBSECTION 3.12)

MM NOI-1 The City will incorporate the following requirements into the plans and specifications for the Grading Plan and Permit to ensure that the project construction contractor complies with the following:

- Construction contracts specify that all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, shall be equipped with properly operating and maintained mufflers and other state-required noise attenuation devices.
- Construction haul routes shall be designed to avoid noise-sensitive uses (e.g., residences, convalescent homes) to the extent feasible.

- During construction, stationary construction equipment shall be placed such that emitted noise is directed away from sensitive noise receivers.

- Per the City's Municipal Code Ordinance 17.16.100 (Noise), commercial construction activities on and contiguous to residential properties shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and shall be prohibited on Sundays and federally recognized holidays.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any grading and excavation*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Hollister*

MM NOI-2 Prior to an event or operations at the Water Reclamation Recreation Facility that have live or recorded amplified music, the City shall develop and implement a Noise Control Plan. The Noise Control Plan shall contain the following elements:

- The contact telephone number and email address of the Noise Control Officer shall be posted at each facility entrance for neighbors to lodge noise complaints or other concerns. Complaints shall be addressed in a diligent and responsive manner.

- An acoustical study prepared by a certified acoustical engineer to ensure compliance with the City's noise standards prior to the start of use of the park for performances.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any use for amplified events*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Hollister*

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC (SUBSECTION 3.16)

MM TRAF-1 Signalization or Roundabout Installation. Mitigation at this location could be either the installation of a traffic signal or a single-lane roundabout to improve the operations of the intersections, specifically during the PM peak hour on a typical weekday. Under Forecast Year 2035 With Project conditions, the installation of a traffic signal at San Juan Road/Park Driveway would improve operations to a delay of 13.6 seconds LOS B during the PM peak hour (critical peak). Since a signal would allow the intersection to operate at an acceptable LOS (C or better), the impact at this location would be considered mitigated to below a level of significance. The City shall coordinate with San Benito County for the design of the signal or single-lane roundabout. The City will monitor the level of service at the intersection to determine when warrants for the traffic signal or single-lane roundabout are close to being met.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to warrant threshold*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Hollister*

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