Initial Study/Environmental Checklist and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Montiel Road Office Project San Marcos, California

Prepared for
City of San Marcos
Development Services Department
Planning Division
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069

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RECON Number 9257
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1.0 Introduction

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared in accordance with relevant provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended, and the CEQA Guidelines, as revised. This IS/MND evaluates the environmental effects of the Montiel Road Office Project (project).

The IS/MND includes the following components:

- A Draft MND and the formal findings made by the City of San Marcos (City) that the project would not result in any significant effects on the environment, as identified in the CEQA IS Checklist.
- A detailed project description.
- The CEQA IS Checklist, which provides standards to evaluate the potential for significant environmental impacts from the project, and is adapted from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The project is evaluated in 19 environmental issue categories to determine whether the project's environmental impacts would be significant in any category. Brief discussions are provided that further substantiate the project's anticipated environmental impacts in each category.

Because the project fits into the definition of a "project" under Public Resources Code Section 21065 requiring discretionary approvals by the City, and because it could result in a significant effect on the environment, the project is subject to CEQA review. The IS Checklist was prepared to determine the appropriate environmental document to satisfy CEQA requirements: an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), or a Negative Declaration (ND). The analysis in this IS Checklist supports the conclusion that the project would not result in significant environmental impacts.

This IS/MND will be circulated for 30 days for public and agency review, during which time individuals and agencies may submit comments on the adequacy of the environmental review. Following the public review period, the City Council will consider any comments received on the IS/MND when deciding whether to adopt the IS/MND.

2.0 Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

Project Name: Montiel Road Office

Project Location: 2355 and 2375 Montiel Road, San Marcos, California. Assessor parcel numbers 228-370-2000 and 228-370-3900.

Project Description: The Montiel Road Office project proposes the construction of a 32,969-square-foot administrative office building and parking lot on a 2.6-acre currently developed site located at 2355 and 2375 Montiel Road in the city of San Marcos.

Findings: Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) and based on information contained in the attached IS Checklist, the City of San Marcos has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Saima Qureshy
Digitally signed by Saima Qureshy
DN: cn=Saima Qureshy, o=City of San Marcos, ou=Development Services, email=squreshy@san-marcos.net, c=US
Date: 2021.12.02 15:07:21 -08'00'

Signature of Lead Agency Representative Date

3.0 Project Description

1. Project:

Montiel Road Office

2. Lead Agency:

City of San Marcos
Development Services Department, Planning Division
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, California 92069-2918

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:

Saima Qureshy, Principal Planner
City of San Marcos, Planning Division
760-744-1050
squreshy@san-marcos.net

4. Project Location:

The Montiel Road Office project (project) is located in the city of San Marcos, California, north of State Route 78 (SR-78) along Montiel Road at 2355 and 2375 Montiel Road on assessor parcel numbers 228-370-2000 and 228-370-3900. The project site is bounded by existing development to the east and west, and by Montiel Road to the north and SR-78 to the south. The existing development to the east is in the jurisdiction of the city of Escondido.

5. Project Applicant/Sponsor:

RJ Realty Investors LLC/North Coast Church
Contact: Rick Gittings/Jamie Looney

6. General Plan Designation:

Specific Plan Area (SPA)

7. Zoning:

Specific Plan Area (SPA)

8. Description of Project:

The approximately 2.6-acre project site is currently developed with two single-family dwelling units located at 2355 and 2375 Montiel Road in the city of San Marcos. Single-family residential uses are located north and northeast of the project site, and commercial uses are located west/northwest and east/southeast of the project site. The regional location of the

project site is shown on Figure 1. The project site is mapped on a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map on Figure 2 and an aerial photograph of the project site is shown on Figure 3.

The project would demolish the existing on-site uses and construct a 32,969-square-foot two-story office building and parking. Figure 4 shows the proposed site plan. The first floor would consist of 15,712 square feet, complete with a lobby, a "café" area with outdoor seating, bathrooms, mechanical and elevator areas, and three individual office areas available for lease. The second floor would consist of 17,252 square feet, complete with four individual office areas available for lease, bathroom, and mechanical and elevator areas. The second floor would also contain an outdoor deck area above the main entrance to the building.

The discretionary approvals necessary for the project include a Specific Plan and Site Development Plan.

Parking and Site Access

Access to the project site would be located along Montiel Road, and internal driveways would be constructed to allow for vehicular access to the office building and the proposed on-site surface parking lot.

On-site surface parking would be configured in order to accommodate the proposed buildings, resulting in a total of 171 parking stalls, for a ratio of 5.7 spaces per 1,000 square feet of office space, which would be consistent with the requirements set forth in the San Marcos Code Chapter 20.340, Off-Street Parking and Loading requirements.

Grading

The project site is relatively flat and minimal grading would be required to implement the proposed office building and parking. Grading would be balanced on-site. The creation of manufactured slopes and use of retaining walls would not be required.

Utilities and Drainage

The project site is currently developed with existing water, sewer or storm drain utility lines which would be upgraded to accommodate the proposed project.

Surrounding Land Use(s) and Project Setting:

The project site is bounded by existing development to the east and west, and by Montiel Road to the north and SR-78 to the south. Single-family residential uses are located north and northeast of the project site, and commercial uses are located west/northwest and east/southeast of the project site.

9. Other Required Agency Approvals or Permits Required:

None required.

10. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?

The City has notified the following tribes in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1: San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians (SLR), Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, and Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians. Two of the tribes have formally requested consultation as of the date of this document. The consultation process is ongoing and further discussed under Section 4.18 of this document below.

11. Summary of Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

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

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

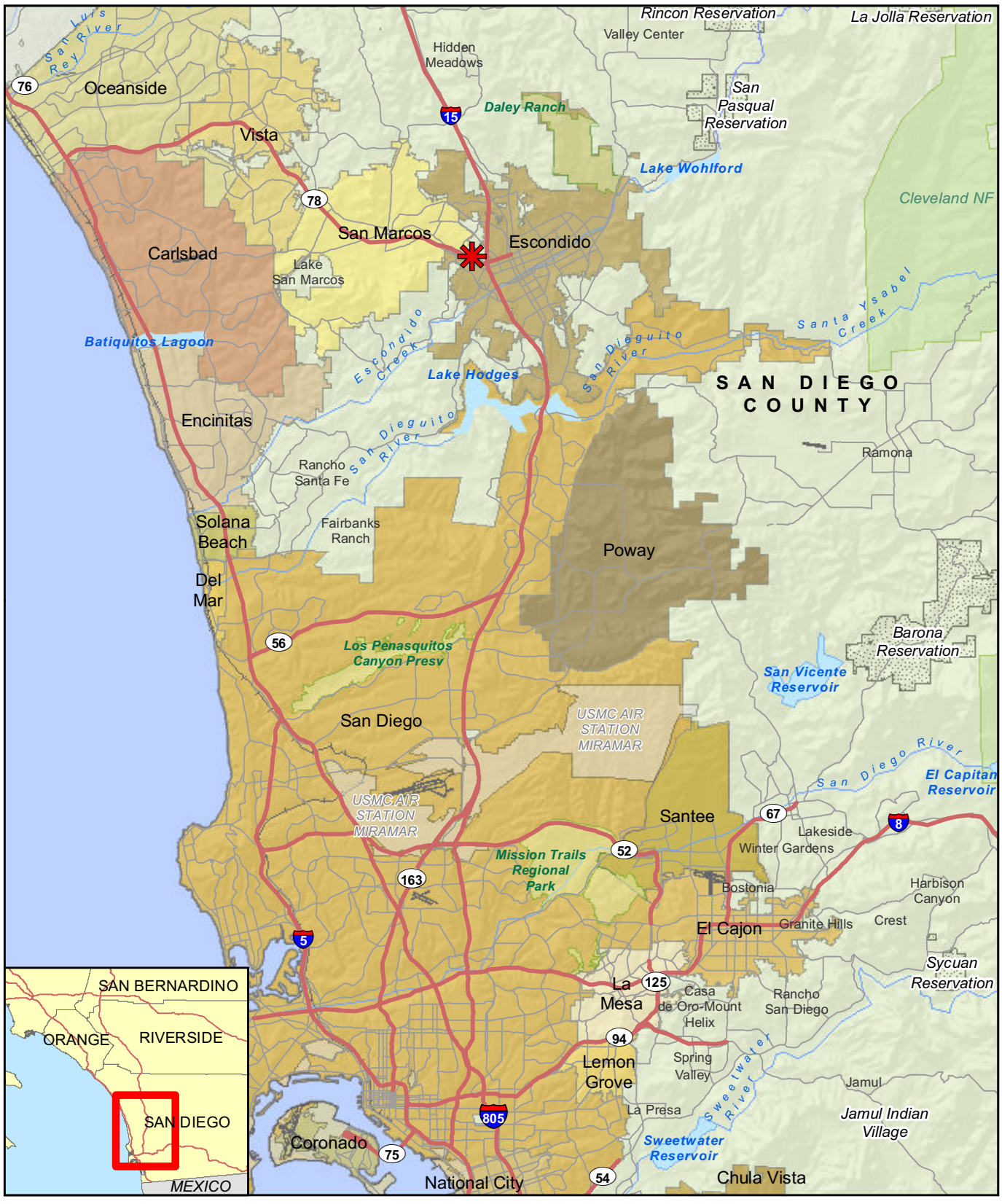
☐ The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (a) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (b) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ 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 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or (MITIGATED) NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or (MITIGATED) NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Project Location

FIGURE 1
Regional Location

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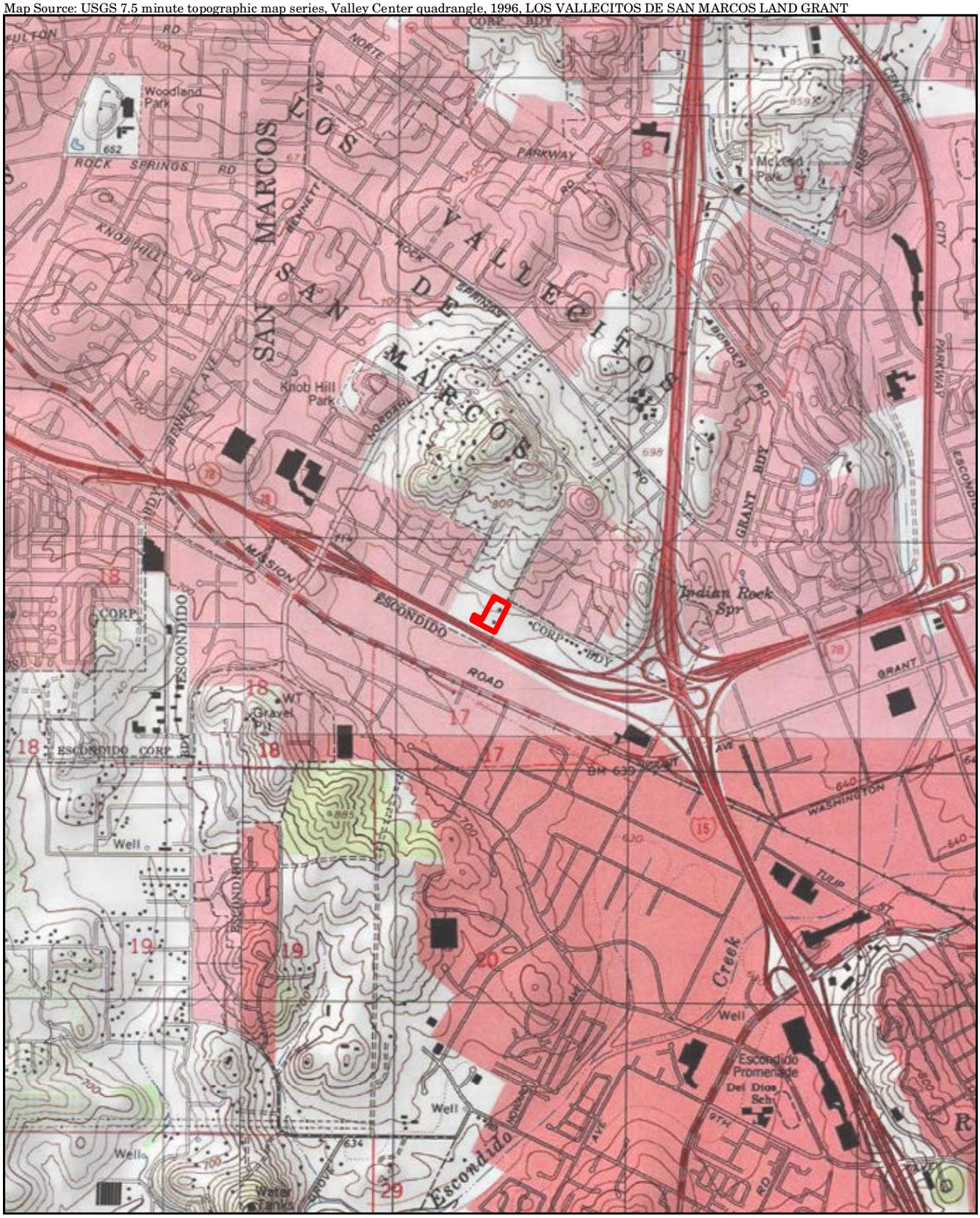
Map Source: USGS 7.5 minute topographic map series, Valley Center quadrangle, 1996, LOS VALLECITOS DE SAN MARCOS LAND GRANT



Project Boundary

FIGURE 2

Project Location on USGS Map

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Image Source: Nearmap (flown June 2019)

0 Feet 100

Project Boundary

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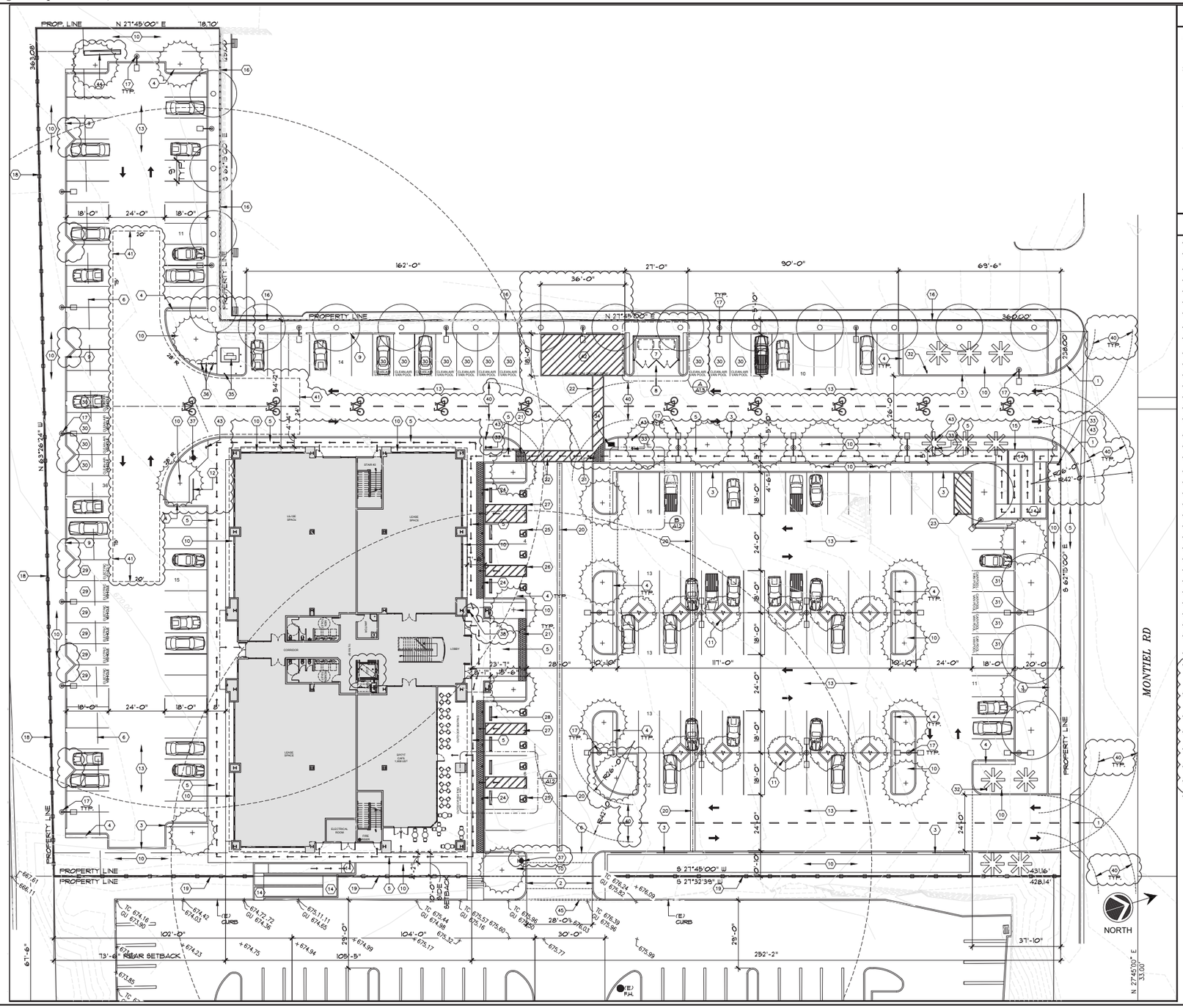
FIGURE 3

Project Location on Aerial Photograph

Map Source: Burghard Design Group Architects, Inc.



GENERAL NOTES

1. SEE CIVIL ENGINEERING DRAWINGS FOR EXACT SCOPE OF WORK AND EXTENT OF SITE AND GRADING MODIFICATIONS. INFORMATION SHOWN ON CIVIL DRAWINGS WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER INFORMATION SHOWN ON ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS
2. SEE LANDSCAPE DRAWINGS FOR EXACT SCOPE OF WORK. WHILE SOME EXISTING TREES AND SHRUBBERY IS TO REMAIN, MANY NEW TREES AND OTHER PLANTING IS BEING INSTALLED. LANDSCAPE DRAWINGS WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY PLANTING SHOWN ON ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS
3. PROVIDE A SIGN DISPLAYING THE INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL OF ACCESSIBILITY AT EVERY PRIMARY PUBLIC ENTRANCE, AND AT EVERY MAJOR FUNCTION AREA ALONG, OR LEADING TO, AN ACCESSIBLE ROUTE OF TRAVEL. SIGNS ARE REQUIRED TO INDICATE THE DIRECTION TO ACCESSIBLE BUILDING ENTRANCES AND FACILITIES, PER 2013 CBC, SECTION 11B-216.6 AND 11B-703.12.1
4. THE INFRASTRUCTURE (CONDUIT RUNS) FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES WILL BE PROVIDED DURING THE INITIAL SCOPE OF WORK. THE ACTUAL CHARGING STATIONS WILL BE INSTALLED AT A LATER TIME

KEY NOTES

1. CONCRETE DRIVEWAY APPROACH, SEE CIVIL DRAWINGS
2. NEW DRIVEWAY CONNECTION TO EXISTING ADJACENT PROPERTY, SEE CIVIL DRAWINGS
3. 6" CONCRETE CURB
4. 18" CONCRETE STEP-OUT AT END STALL
5. CONCRETE SIDEWALK, SEE CIVIL DRAWINGS
6. BUILDING SETBACK LINE
7. CONCRETE BLOCK TRASH ENCLOSURE WITH METAL TRELLIS AND GATES
8. THICKENED CONCRETE APRON
9. CONCRETE CURB OPENING FOR BIOSWALE, SEE CIVIL DRAWINGS AND LANDSCAPE DRAWINGS
10. PLANTING AREA, SEE LANDSCAPE DRAWINGS
11. 6' SQUARE TREE PLANTER
12. 9 BICYCLE RACK BY MAGLIN, MODEL: MBR400-9-S SERIES
13. A/C PAVEMENT, SEE CIVIL DRAWINGS
14. ADA COMPLIANT CONCRETE RAMP AND LANDING
15. LOW RETAINING WALL, SEE CIVIL DRAWINGS
16. EXISTING RETAINING WALL ON PROPERTY LINE, SEE CIVIL DRAWINGS
17. PARKING LOT LIGHT STANDARD ON 36" HIGH CONCRETE BASE
18. NEW RETAINING WALL, SEE CIVIL DRAWINGS
19. EXISTING RETAINING WALL WITH WROUGHT IRON FENCE, MODIFIED PER CIVIL DRAWINGS
20. CONCRETE GUTTER / DRAINAGE "V" DITCH
21. TRUNCATED DOMES, SEE DETAIL 3/A12
22. 5' WIDE STRIPED CROSSWALK
23. STRIPED NO-PARKING AREA
24. ADA PARKING STALL SIGN
25. 36" SQUARE PAINTED HANDICAP LOGO
26. 5' WIDE STRIPED LOADING AISLE
27. 8' WIDE STRIPED LOADING AISLE
28. 4' LONG CONCRETE WHEEL STOP
29. ELECTRIC VEHICLE PARKING STALL, SEE GENERAL NOTE #4
30. CLEAN-AIR VEHICLE PARKING STALL
31. CAR-POOL / VAN-POOL PARKING STALL
32. SITE ENTRANCE "TOU-A-WAY" SIGN, SEE DETAIL 5/A12
33. ACCESSIBLE BUILDING DIRECTIONAL SIGN, SEE DETAIL 6/A12
34. CLUSTERED MAILBOX LOCATION
35. ELECTRICAL TRANSFORMER, CONCRETE VAULT AND 6" ROUND CONCRETE FILLED STEEL BOLLARDS
36. P.I.V. BACKFLOW DEVICE AND F.D.C. VALVES LOCATION
37. FIRE HYDRANT WITH 150' RADIUS COVERAGE. INSTALL BRONZE INDUSTRIAL FIRE HYDRANT, MINIMUM 6PPT SHALL BE 1500 GPT. FIRE HYDRANT TYPE SHALL BE JONES OR CLOW AS APPROVED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
38. KNOX KEY BOX - KNOX BOX SHALL BE MOUNTED IN AN AREA APPROVED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AT A HEIGHT OF 48" TO 66" A.F.F. KNOX BOX SHALL BE TYPE WITH HINGED DOOR
40. FIRE TRUCK TURNING RADIUS PER CITY OF SAN MARCOS FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARDS
41. FIRE TRUCK TURN-AROUND HAMMER HEAD PER CITY OF SAN MARCOS FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARDS
42. 36'-0" X 18'-0" LOADING / UNLOADING ZONE. STRIP AND LABEL THE LOADING AREA PER CITY STANDARDS
43. BICYCLE PATH SIGN, SEE DETAIL 8/A12 AND BICYCLE PAVEMENT PATH STENCIL, SEE DETAIL 9/A12
44. EXISTING MONUMENT SIGN TO REMAIN. MODIFICATION TO EXISTING SIGN WILL BE MADE UNDER A SEPARATE PERMIT
45. SAW-CUT AND REMOVE (E) CONCRETE CURB AS REQUIRED TO JOIN NEW DRIVE AISLE WITH EXISTING ADJACENT DRIVE AISLE, SEE CIVIL DRAWINGS

PEDESTRIAN ACCESSIBLE PATH OF TRAVEL TO BUILDING ENTRANCE

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FIGURE 4
Site Plan

4.0 Initial Study Checklist

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved. 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 as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or (mitigated) negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D).
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:

    a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
    b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

4.1 Aesthetics

Would the project:

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

EXPLANATIONS:

a: Less than Significant Impact

The project site is generally surrounded by residential, commercial/office, and industrial development to the north, south, east, and west, as well as SR-78 directly to the south of the project site.

Scenic vistas within the city are primarily associated with primary and secondary ridgelines, which are identified by the City's Ridgeline Protection and Management Overlay Zone, outlined within Chapter 20.260 of the City's Zoning Ordinance. The City's Ridgeline Protection and Management Overlay Zone aims to preserve Primary Ridgelines in their natural state, and to minimize visual impacts to Secondary Ridgelines through a "Ridgeline Overlay Zone" that protects natural view sheds, unique natural resources, minimizes the physical impacts to ridgelines, and establishes innovative site and architectural design standards. The project site is not located in the Ridgeline Protection and Management Overlay Zone. Further, the project site does not include any primary or secondary ridgelines,

as identified on Figure 4-5 of the Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan. The project site is not identified as a viewing platform location, or a scenic vista under the City's General Plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b. Less than Significant Impact

Scenic resources within the city include, but are not limited to, undeveloped hillsides; prominent landforms such as the San Marcos Mountains, Merriam Mountains, Mount Whitney, Cerro de La Posas, Double Peak, Owens Peak, and Franks Peak. Views from Twin Oaks Valley Road include the San Marcos Mountains and Merriam Mountains on the north; and Double Peak and Mount Whitney on the south. SR-78 is designated by the City as a view corridor and eligible as a state scenic highway. This highway corridor provides views of the Merriam Mountains, Mount Whitney, Double Peak, California State University San Marcos (CSUSM), and Palomar Community College. Other scenic resources within the city include, but are not limited to, creek corridors, eucalyptus stands, rock outcroppings, landmark or historic buildings, and ocean views. None of these identified undeveloped hillsides, prominent landforms, or other scenic resources are visible from or contained within the project site.

The project site is located adjacent to SR-78. Although portions of SR-78 are recognized as a scenic highway by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), there are no designated state scenic highways or eligible state scenic highways within the city. Thus, no impact would occur.

At a local level, SR-78 is designated by the City as a view corridor. The highway corridor provides views of the Merriam Mountains, Mount Whitney, and Double Peak. The project would not impact views to these peaks from SR-78, as these peaks would not be visible by passengers in cars travelling along SR-78 adjacent to the project site. The City also has a Ridgeline Protection and Management Overlay Zone, which is designed to protect natural viewsheds and unique natural resources and minimize physical impacts to select primary and secondary ridgelines. These protected ridgelines are shown on Figure 4-5 of the Conservation and Open Space Element of the City's General Plan. Development of the proposed project is not proposed on any area identified as a primary or secondary ridgeline. Additionally, the project site does not support any significant trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings as identified in or protected by the City's General Plan. In summary, the project would not result in significant damage to scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within the City or a State Scenic Highway. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

c. Less than Significant Impact

The existing visual character in the project vicinity is a mix of residential, office, and commercial development. The area north of the project site contains single-family residential development, which is separated from the project site by Montiel Road. The parcels to the east and west of the project site contain existing office/commercial buildings ranging from one to two stories in height. The southern border of the project site is adjacent to SR-78.

The project site is relatively flat and has previously been graded. Natural vegetation is limited to ornamental plantings associating with the existing residential uses. The landform and visual character of the project site would be altered from single-family residential to an

administrative office development; however, due to the presence of existing office and commercial development surrounding the project site, project implementation would be consistent with the visual character of this area.

The use of the project site as an administrative office building would be consistent with the surrounding developments and visual character and quality of the area. Building heights would be limited to 37 feet, and all rooftop mechanical equipment would be screened by a corrugated metal panel.

As such, development of the project site would not result in the substantial degradation of the project site and its surroundings, and impacts would be less than significant.

d. Less than Significant Impact

The project is surrounded by existing development that emits light, and the project would add lighting to a site that is currently developed with single-family residential uses. Lighting proposed under the project would be guided by standards set by the City, which requires downward directed light emitting diode (LED) lighting, except for specialized streetscape lighting or architectural detail lighting. These requirements aid in the preservation of dark-sky conditions, which are needed by the local observatories. Development of the project would be required to comply with the City's lighting standards, and the location, type, and direction of the lighting would be reviewed during Improvement Plan review to ensure compliance. Therefore, the project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Impacts would be less than significant

4.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 1220[g]), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104[g])?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXPLANATIONS:

a. No Impact

The project site is not in agricultural use and is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance based on both the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (DOC 2016) and Figure 4-4 of the General Plan (City of San Marcos 2013). Thus, no impact would occur.

b. No Impact

The project site is not zoned for agricultural use. In addition, the project site is not located within a Williamson Act contract area (DOC 2014). Thus, no impact would occur.

c. No Impact

The project site is zoned as Specific Plan Area. As such, the project site is not zoned as forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned for timberland production. Thus, no impact would occur.

d. No Impact

The project site consists of single-family residential buildings and disturbed habitat. There is no forest land that exists within the project site. Thus, the project would not result in the loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use, resulting in no impact.

e. No Impact

The project site is surrounded by commercial, industrial, and residential development, as well as SR-87. The project site does not support any agricultural or forest land. Therefore, the project would not involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use, resulting in no impact.

4.3 Air Quality

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a. Less than Significant Impact

An air quality analysis was prepared for the project by RECON Environmental, Inc. and is included as Appendix A to this IS/MND (RECON 2019a). The Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) is the applicable regional air quality plan that sets forth the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) strategies for achieving the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). The San Diego Air Basin (SDAB) is designated non-attainment for the federal and state ozone standard.

Accordingly, the RAQS was developed to identify feasible emission control measures and provide expeditious progress toward attaining the standards for ozone. The two pollutants addressed in the RAQS are reactive organic gas (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_X), which are precursors to the formation of ozone. Projected increases in motor vehicle usage, population, and growth create challenges in controlling emissions and by extension to maintaining and improving air quality. The RAQS, in conjunction with the Transportation Control Measures (TCM), were most recently adopted in 2016 as the air quality plan for the region.

The growth projections used by the SDAPCD to develop the RAQS emissions budgets are based on the population, vehicle trends, and land use plans developed in general plans and used by San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) in the development of the regional transportation plans and sustainable communities strategy. As such, projects that propose development that is consistent with the growth anticipated by SANDAG's growth projections and/or the general plan would not conflict with the RAQS. In the event that a project would propose development that is less dense than anticipated by the growth projections, the project would likewise be consistent with the RAQS. In the event a project proposes development that is greater than anticipated in the growth projections, further analysis would be warranted to determine if the project would exceed the growth projections used in the RAQS for the specific subregional area.

The project site is designated as a Specific Plan Area. The project would require adoption of a Specific Plan consistent with the Commercial zone requirement in Chapter 20.220 of the San Marcos Municipal Code. However, while the project would require an amendment and generate emissions greater than those currently generated on-site, the project would not significantly alter the planned location, distribution, or growth of the human population in the area, as the project would not provide additional housing and would employ residents currently living in the region. The project would not result in an increase in population and housing stock. Additionally, as shown in Tables 1 and 2, emissions of ozone precursors (ROG and NO_X), 10-micron particulate matter (PM_{10}), and 2.5-micron particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) from construction and operation would be below the applicable thresholds. The project would, therefore, not result in an increase in emissions that are not already accounted for in the RAQS. Thus, the project would not obstruct or conflict with implementation of the RAQS. Impacts would be less than significant.

b. Less than Significant Impact

The region is classified as an attainment area for all criterion pollutants except ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. The SDAB is a non-attainment area for the 8-hour federal and state ozone standards. Ozone is not emitted directly, but is a result of atmospheric activity on precursors. NO_X and ROG are known as the chief "precursors" of ozone. These compounds react in the presence of sunlight to produce ozone. $PM_{2.5}$ includes fine particles that are found in smoke and haze, and are emitted from all types of combustion activities (motor vehicles, power plants, wood burning, etc.) and certain industrial processes. PM_{10} includes both fine and coarse dust particles, and sources include crushing or grinding operations and dust from paved or unpaved roads.

As shown in Tables 1 and 2, emissions of ozone precursors (ROG and NO_X), PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ from construction and operation would be below the applicable thresholds. Therefore, the project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in emissions of ozone, PM_{10}, or $PM_{2.5}$, and impacts would be less than significant.

Table 1
Summary of Worst-case Construction Emissions
(pounds per day)

Construction	Emissions					
	ROG	NO_X	CO	SO_X	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Demolition	2	21	15	<1	2	1
Site Preparation	2	20	11	<1	2	1
Grading	2	21	10	<1	8	4
Building Construction	3	20	17	<1	2	1
Paving	2	12	12	<1	1	1
Architectural Coatings	4	2	2	<1	<1	<1
Maximum Daily Emissions	**4**	**21**	**15**	**<1**	**8**	**4**
Significance Threshold	*250*	*250*	*550*	*250*	*100*	*67*
SOURCE: Appendix A						

Table 2
Summary of Project Operational Emissions
(pounds per day)

Source	Emissions					
	ROG	NO_X	CO	SO_X	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Area Sources	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Energy Sources	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Mobile Sources	1	4	9	<1	2	1
Total	**2**	**4**	**10**	<1	**2**	**1**
Significance Threshold	*250*	*250*	*550*	*250*	*100*	*67*
SOURCE: Appendix A						

c. Less than Significant Impact

Sensitive land uses include schools and schoolyards, parks and playgrounds, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential communities. Sensitive receptors near the project site include residential uses.

Diesel Particulate Matter – Construction

Construction of the project and associated infrastructure would result in short-term diesel exhaust emissions from on-site heavy-duty equipment. Construction of the project would result in the generation of diesel-exhaust diesel particulate matter (DPM) emissions from the use of off-road diesel equipment required for site grading and excavation, paving, and other construction activities and on-road diesel equipment used to bring materials to and from the project site.

Generation of DPM from construction projects typically occurs in a single area for a short period. Construction is anticipated to last for approximately one year. The dose to which the

receptors are exposed is the primary factor used to determine health risk. Dose is a function of the concentration of a substance or substances in the environment and the extent of exposure that person has with the substance. Dose is positively correlated with time, meaning that a longer exposure period would result in a higher exposure level for the Maximally Exposed Individual. The risks estimated for a Maximally Exposed Individual are higher if a fixed exposure occurs over a longer period of time. According to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, health risk assessments, which determine the exposure of sensitive receptors to toxic emissions, should be based on a 30-year exposure period; however, such assessments should be limited to the period/duration of activities associated with the project (Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment 2015). Thus, if the duration of proposed construction activities near any specific sensitive receptor were one year, the exposure would be 3 percent of the total exposure period used for health risk calculation.

Therefore, DPM generated by project construction is not expected to create conditions where the probability is greater than 10 in 1 million of contracting cancer for the Maximally Exposed Individual or to generate ground-level concentrations of non-carcinogenic TACs that exceed a Hazard Index greater than 1 for the Maximally Exposed Individual. Additionally, with ongoing implementation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) requirements for cleaner fuels; off-road diesel engine retrofits; and new, low-emission diesel engine types, the DPM emissions of individual equipment would be substantially reduced over the years as the project construction continues. Therefore, project construction would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentration.

Carbon Monoxide Hot Spots

A carbon monoxide (CO) hot spot is an area of localized CO pollution that is caused by severe vehicle congestion on major roadways, typically near intersections. CO hot spots have the potential to violate state and federal CO standards at intersections, even if the broader basin is in attainment for federal and state levels. The Caltrans' Project-Level Carbon Monoxide Protocol indicates that CO hot spots occur nearly exclusively at signalized intersections operating at level of service (LOS) E or F spot (U.C. Davis Institute of Transportation Studies 1997).

Due to increased requirements for cleaner vehicles, equipment, and fuels, CO levels in the state have dropped substantially. All air basins are attainment or maintenance areas for CO. Therefore, more recent screening procedures based on more current methodologies have been developed. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) developed a screening threshold in 2011, which states that any project involving an intersection experiencing 31,600 vehicles per hour or more will require detailed analysis. In addition, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District developed a screening threshold in 2010 which states that any project involving an intersection experiencing 44,000 vehicles per hour would require detailed analysis. This analysis conservatively assesses potential CO hot spots using the SMAQMD screening threshold of 31,600 vehicles per hour.

Based on the Transportation Impact Analysis prepared for the project, in horizon year 2035 with the project, the following signalized intersections are anticipated to operate at LOS E or F (Linscott, Law & Greenspan Engineers, Inc. [LLG] 2019):

- Nordahl Road/Center Drive (South) (PM Peak hour – LOS E)
- Nordahl Road/SR-78 Westbound Ramps (PM Peak hour – LOS F)
- Nordahl Road/ SR-78 Eastbound Ramps (AM and PM Peak hour – LOS F)
- Mission Road/Auto Park Way (AM and PM Peak hour – LOS F)

However, the traffic volumes at these intersections would be well less than 31,600 vehicles per hour. All other signalized intersections are projected to operate at LOS D or better. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to result in a CO hot spot.

d. Less than Significant Impact

The project does not include heavy industrial or agricultural uses that are typically associated with odor complaints. During construction, diesel equipment may generate some nuisance odors. Sensitive receptors near the project site include residential uses; however, exposure to odors associated with project construction would be short term and temporary in nature. Impacts would be less than significant.

4.4 Biological Resources

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have substantial adverse effects, 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 (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXPLANATIONS:

a. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

The project site is currently developed and is located in an urbanized area of the city. No sensitive vegetation communities occur within the project work area. The project site is mostly barren of vegetation, but does have some ornamental vegetation and mature trees. Because ornamental vegetation and mature trees can provide nesting places for migratory bird species, removal of the on-site vegetation could result in a significant impact if it occurs during the breeding season. Pursuant to CDFW Code 3503, which protects nesting birds, implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1 would be required as a condition of project approval and would reduce this potential impact to less than significant.

b. No Impact

The project site is currently developed and is located in an urbanized area of the city. The project site does not support any riparian habitat nor does it support any sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). No impact would occur.

c. No Impact

The project site is currently developed. The project site does not support any federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. No impact would occur.

d. No Impact

The project site is currently developed and is located in an urbanized area of the city. Further, the project site is not identified as being located within a wildlife corridor area, as depicted in Figure 4-2, Wildlife Corridors and Linkage, in the Open Space and Conservation Element of the City's General Plan. Therefore, the project would not 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 impeded the use of native wildlife nursery sites. No impact would occur.

e. No Impact

The proposed project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Existing ornamental vegetation would be removed during construction and new trees and landscaping would be planted. No impact would occur.

f. No Impact

The project site is not located within a Focused Planning Area of the City's Draft Subarea Plan for the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program nor is the project subject to a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) (Figure 4, Draft NCCP for the City of San Marcos). The project site is currently developed with ornamental vegetation. Therefore, the project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1

Prior to grading the site or causing any impact to the site, grading and/or construction activities on-site must be avoided during the nesting season (pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act) which extends from February 1 to September 15 to prevent potential impacts to nesting of any migratory, songbirds, or raptors. In order to begin grading or construction activities within the nesting season, a nesting survey from a qualified biologist must be submitted to the Planning Division to verify there are no active nests on the subject site. This survey must be submitted prior to any disturbance or impact of the site. If any active nests are detected, the area shall be flagged and mapped on the construction plans along with a minimum of a 25-foot buffer and up to a maximum buffer of 300 feet for raptors, as determined by the project biologist, and shall be avoided until the nesting cycle is complete. The no-work buffer should be maintained until the end of the breeding season or until surveys by a qualified biologist confirm that fledglings are no longer dependent on the nest.

4.5 Cultural Resources

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a. No Impact

A cultural resources survey was prepared for the project by RECON Environmental, Inc. and is included as Appendix B to this IS/MND (RECON 2019b). RECON conducted a self search of the records at the South Coastal Information Center, San Diego State University, which is a member of the California Historical Resources Information System. The search radius was one mile. A total of 25 cultural resources have been documented within one mile of the project boundary, including 5 historic period, 19 prehistoric period, and 1 with no site description. In addition, there are 24 historic addresses listed within the one-mile search radius.

On June 12, 2019, RECON Environmental, Inc. conducted a historic building evaluation (Appendix C; RECON 2019c) requested by the City of San Marcos to determine the historical significance of the house at 2355 Montiel Road, which is greater than 50 years old. The other house on the project site is less than 50 years old. The survey determined the house to not be eligible as a historic resource per the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) evaluative criteria requirements.

As there are no identified historical resources within the project site, the project would not affect properties outside of the project site, and 2355 Montiel Road was determined as not eligible for the CRHR, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

Based on the cultural resources study prepared for the project, no archaeological resources are known to occur on the project site (RECON 2019b). A total of 25 cultural resources have been documented within one-mile of the project boundaries, including 5 historic period, 19 prehistoric period, and 1 with no site description. The closest recorded cultural resources are two single bedrock milling features, CA-SDI-16222 and CA-SDI-16223, mapped approximately one-half mile to the southeast of the project. CA-SDI-16222 consisted of three amorphous slicks on a small, low-lying granite boulder outcrop. CA-SDI-16223, the closer of the two, is composed of one amorphous slick on a low lying boulder. In addition, a total of 66 cultural resource studies have been conducted within a one-mile radius of the project area, two of which included the project within their boundaries. One was a 1976 survey for the Richland Neighborhood study (report number SD-00225), and the second was a 2003 records search/literature search for the Vallecitos Water District (VWD; report number SD-14140). None of the previous surveys identified or recorded archaeological resources within the project boundary.

The City of San Marcos, as lead agency, formally notified California Native American tribes of the opportunity to consult via letter in accordance with SB 18 and AB 52 consultation processes in April 2019, and July 16, 2019, respectively. The formal SB 18 notification letters were sent to California Native American tribes as identified on the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) list while the AB 52 letters were sent to the four tribes who have formally requested the AB 52 notification as of the date of the City notification letter. In response to the above letters, the SLR requested consultation on May 8, 2019 (Confidential Attachment). The Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians requested consultation on June 11, 2019. Consultation discussions during the City's monthly consultation meeting regarding the project status and project documents occurred from May 2019 through October 2020 with most of the tribal input occurring in October 2019 and October 2020 in response to technical studies provided to the tribe for consideration. Although consultation is ongoing, the City was informed by SLR on June 19, 2020, that in response to their review of the project documents to date, with the incorporation of standard cultural mitigation measures outlined below in this section, SLR will close the tribal consultation process concurrent with the CEQA public review process. Consultation is still open with the Rincon Band of Mission Indians, though the tribe agreed on October 26, 2020, to the use of the City's "new" standard mitigation measures to be used for this project.

The City of San Marcos has developed standard mitigation measures CR-1 through CR-4 via the tribal consultation process to reduce potential impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources. Implementation of mitigation measures CR-1 through CR-3 would require an archaeological monitor and a Traditionally and Culturally Affiliated (TCA) Native American Tribe monitor be present during earth moving and grading activities to assure that any resources found during project grading be protected. Therefore, impacts to archaeological resources would be less than significant with the incorporation of mitigation.

c. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

The cultural resource study prepared for the project did not indicate the likelihood of human remains on the site (RECON 2019b). However, according to the state Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, in the event that human remains (or remains that may be human) are discovered at the implementing development project site during grading or earthmoving, the construction contractors shall immediately stop all activities in the immediate area of the find. The project proponent shall then inform the San Diego County Coroner and the City of San Marcos Planning Division, and the coroner would be permitted to examine the remains. If the coroner determines that the remains are of Native American origin, the coroner would notify the NAHC and the Commission would identify the "Most Likely Descendent." In the event human remains are discovered during project construction, the project would comply with applicable regulations, thereby ensuring impacts would be less than significant.

Furthermore, while there is no evidence of human remains on the project site, as provided by mitigation measure CR-1 through CR-4, an archaeological monitor and a Native American monitor (or TCA Native American Tribe monitor) shall be present during earth moving and grading activities to assure that any resources found during project grading be protected. In addition, as specified by California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, if human remains are found on the project site during construction or during archaeological work, the person responsible for the excavation, or his or her authorized representative, shall immediately notify the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office. With mitigation and adherence to the state Health and Safety Code, the project would not cause a significant impact to human remains. Impacts would be less than significant with the incorporation of mitigation.

Mitigation Measure CR-1: Pre-Excavation Agreement

Prior to the issuance of a Grading Permit, or ground disturbing activities, the Applicant/Owner shall enter into a Tribal Cultural Resources Treatment and Repatriation Agreement (Pre-Excavation Agreement) with a Traditionally and Culturally Affiliated Native American Tribe (TCA Tribe), identified in consultation with the City. The purpose of the Pre-Excavation Agreement shall be to formalize protocols and procedures between the Applicant/Owner and the TCA Tribe for the protection, treatment, and repatriation of Native American human remains, funerary objects, cultural and/or religious landscapes, ceremonial items, traditional gathering areas, and other tribal cultural resources. Such resources may be located within and/or discovered during ground disturbing and/or construction activities for the proposed project, including any additional culturally appropriate archaeological studies, excavations, geotechnical investigations, grading, preparation for wet and dry infrastructure, and other ground disturbing activities. Any project-specific monitoring plans and/or excavation plans prepared by the project archaeologist shall include the TCA Tribe requirements for protocols and protection of tribal cultural resources that were agreed to during the tribal consultation.

The landowner shall relinquish ownership of all non-burial related tribal cultural resources collected during construction monitoring and from any previous archaeological studies or excavations on the project site to the TCA Tribe for proper treatment and disposition per the Pre-Excavation Agreement, unless ordered to do otherwise by responsible agency or court of

competent jurisdiction. The requirement and timing of such release of ownership, and the recipient thereof, shall be reflected in the Pre-Excavation Agreement. If the TCA Tribe does not accept the return of the cultural resources, then the cultural resources will be subject to curation.

Mitigation Measure CR-2: Construction Monitoring

Prior to the issuance of a Grading Permit or ground disturbing activities, the Applicant/Owner or Grading Contractor shall provide written documentation (either as signed letters, contracts, or emails) to the City's Planning Division stating that a Qualified Archaeologist and Traditionally and Culturally Affiliated Native American monitor (TCA Native American monitor) have been retained at the Applicant/Owner or Grading Contractor's expense to implement the construction monitoring program, as described in the Pre-Excavation Agreement.

The Qualified Archaeologist and TCA Native American monitor shall be invited to attend all applicable pre-construction meetings with the General Contractor and/or associated subcontractors to present the construction monitoring program. The Qualified Archaeologist and TCA Native American monitor shall be present on-site during grubbing, grading, trenching, and/or other ground disturbing activities that occur in areas of native soil or other permeable natural surfaces that have the potential to unearth any evidence of potential archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources. In areas of artificial paving, the Qualified Archaeologist and TCA Native American monitor shall be present on-site during grubbing, grading, trenching, and/or other ground disturbing activities that have the potential to disturb more than six inches below the original pre-project ground surface to identify any evidence of potential archaeological or tribal cultural resources. No monitoring of fill material, existing or imported, will be required if the General Contractor or developer can provide documentation to the satisfaction of the City that all fill materials being utilized at the site are either: (1) from existing commercial (previously permitted) sources of materials; or (2) are from private or other non-commercial sources that have been determined to be absent of tribal cultural resources by the Qualified Archaeologist and TCA Native American monitor.

The Qualified Archaeologist and TCA Native American monitor shall maintain ongoing collaborative coordination with one another during all ground disturbing activities. The requirement for the construction monitoring program shall be noted on all applicable construction documents, including demolition plans, grading plans, etc. The Applicant/Owner or Grading Contractor shall provide written notice to the Planning Division and the TCA Tribe, preferably through e-mail, of the start and end of all ground disturbing activities.

Prior to the release of any grading bonds, or prior to the issuance of any project Certificate of Occupancy, an archaeological monitoring report, which describes the results, analysis, and conclusions of the construction monitoring shall be submitted by the Qualified Archaeologist, along with any TCA Native American monitor's notes and comments received by the Qualified Archaeologist, to the Planning Division Manager for approval. Once approved, a final copy of the archaeological monitoring report shall be retained in a confidential City project file and may be released, as a formal condition of AB 52 consultation, to TCA Tribe or

any parties involved in the project specific monitoring or consultation process. A final copy of the report, with all confidential site records and appendices, will also be submitted to the South Coastal Information Center after approval by the City.

Mitigation Measure CR-3: Unanticipated Discovery Procedures

Both the Qualified Archaeologist and the TCA Native American monitor may temporarily halt or divert ground disturbing activities if potential archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources are discovered during construction activities. Ground disturbing activities shall be temporarily directed away from the area of discovery for a reasonable amount of time to allow a determination of the resource's potential significance. Isolates and clearly non-significant archaeological resources (as determined by the Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the TCA Native American monitor) will be minimally documented in the field. All unearthed archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources will be collected, temporarily stored in a secure location (or as otherwise agreed upon by the Qualified Archaeologist and the TCA Tribe), and repatriated according to the terms of the Pre-Excavation Agreement, unless ordered to do otherwise by responsible agency or court of competent jurisdiction.

If a determination is made that the archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources are considered potentially significant by the Qualified Archaeologist, the TCA Tribe, and the TCA Native American monitor, then the City and the TCA Tribe shall determine, in consultation with the Applicant/Owner and the Qualified Archaeologist, the culturally appropriate treatment of those resources.

If the Qualified Archaeologist, the TCA Tribe, and the TCA Native American monitor cannot agree on the significance or mitigation for such resources, these issues will be presented to the Planning Division Manager for decision. The Planning Division Manager shall make a determination based upon the provisions of CEQA and California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(b) with respect to archaeological resources and California Public Resources Section 21704 and 21084.3 with respect to tribal cultural resources, and shall take into account the religious beliefs, cultural beliefs, customs, and practices of the TCA Tribe.

All sacred sites, significant tribal cultural resources, and/or unique archaeological resources encountered within the project area shall be avoided and preserved as the preferred mitigation. If avoidance of the resource is determined to be infeasible by the City as the Lead Agency, then the City shall require additional culturally appropriate mitigation to address the negative impact to the resource, such as, but not limited to, the funding of an ethnographic study and/or a data recovery plan, as determined by the City in consultation with the Qualified Archaeologist and the TCA Tribe. The TCA Tribe shall be notified and consulted regarding the determination and implementation of culturally appropriate mitigation and the drafting and finalization of any ethnographic study and/or data recovery plan, and/or other culturally appropriate mitigation. Any archaeological isolates or other cultural materials that cannot be avoided or preserved in place as the preferred mitigation shall be temporarily stored in a secure location on-site (or as otherwise agreed upon by the Qualified Archaeologist and TCA Tribe), and repatriated according to the terms of the Pre-Excavation Agreement, unless ordered to do otherwise by responsible agency or court of

competent jurisdiction. The removal of any artifacts from the project site will be inventoried with oversight by the TCA Native American monitor.

If a data recovery plan is authorized as indicated above and the TCA Tribe does not object, then an adequate artifact sample to address research avenues previously identified for sites in the area will be collected using professional archaeological collection methods. If the Qualified Archaeologist collects such resources, the TCA Native American monitor must be present during any testing or cataloging of those resources. Moreover, if the Qualified Archaeologist does not collect the cultural resources that are unearthed during the ground disturbing activities, the TCA Native American monitor may, at their discretion, collect said resources for later reburial or storage at a local curation facility, as described in the Pre-Excavation Agreement.

In the event that curation of archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources is required by a superseding regulatory agency, curation shall be conducted by an approved local facility within San Diego County and the curation shall be guided by California State Historical Resources Commission's Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Collections. The City shall provide the Applicant/Owner final curation language and guidance on the project grading plans prior to issuance of the grading permit, if applicable, during project construction. The Applicant/Owner shall be responsible for all repatriation and curation costs and provide to the City written documentation from the TCA Tribe or the curation facility, whichever is most applicable, that the repatriation and/or curation have been completed.

Mitigation Measure CR-4: Human Remains

As specified by California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, if human remains, or remains that are potentially human, are found on the project site during ground disturbing activities or during archaeological work, the person responsible for the excavation, or his or her authorized representative, shall immediately notify the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office by telephone. No further excavation or disturbance of the discovery or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains (as determined by the Qualified Archaeologist and/or the TCA Native American monitor) shall occur until the Medical Examiner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code 5097.98.

If such a discovery occurs, a temporary construction exclusion zone shall be established surrounding the area of the discovery so that the area would be protected (as determined by the Qualified Archaeologist and/or the TCA Native American monitor), and consultation and treatment could occur as prescribed by law. As further defined by State law, the Medical Examiner will determine within two working days of being notified if the remains are subject to his or her authority. If the Medical Examiner recognizes the remains to be Native American, and not under his or her jurisdiction, then he or she shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission by telephone within 24 hours. The Native American Heritage Commission will make a determination as to the Most Likely Descendent, who shall be afforded 48 hours from the time access is granted to the discovery site to make recommendations regarding culturally appropriate treatment.

If suspected Native American remains are discovered, the remains shall be kept in situ (in place) until after the Medical Examiner makes its determination and notifications, and until after the Most Likely Descendent is identified, at which time the archaeological examination of the remains shall only occur on site in the presence of the Most Likely Descendent. The specific locations of Native American burials and reburials will be proprietary and not disclosed to the general public. According to California Health and Safety Code, six or more human burials at one location constitute a cemetery (Section 8100), and disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony (Section 7052). In the event that the Applicant/Owner and the Most Likely Descendant are in disagreement regarding the disposition of the remains, state law will apply, and the mediation process will occur with the NAHC. In the event that mediation is not successful, the landowner shall rebury the remains at a location free from future disturbance (see Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(e) and 5097.94(k)).

4.6 Energy

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXPLANATIONS:

a. Less than Significant Impact

Construction

During construction, the project would consume energy in two general forms: (1) the fuel energy consumed by construction vehicles and equipment and (2) energy used in the manufacturing of construction materials, such as asphalt and pipes.

Construction of the project would require the use of construction equipment for hauling, and building activities. Equipment for these types of activities are discussed in Section 4.3, Air Quality. Construction equipment which requires electricity would be gas powered or diesel powered. Construction also includes the vehicles of construction workers traveling to and from the project site.

Furthermore, there are no unusual project characteristics that would necessitate the use of construction equipment that would be less energy efficient than at comparable construction projects. Therefore, the proposed short-term construction activities would not result in inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary fuel consumption.

Transportation

Transportation energy use depends on the type and number of trips, vehicle miles traveled, fuel efficiency of vehicles, and travel mode. Transportation energy use during construction would come from the transport and use of construction equipment and construction employee vehicles that would use diesel fuel and/or gasoline. The use of energy resources by these vehicles would be temporary. Impacts related to transportation energy use during construction would be temporary and would not require expanded energy supplies or the construction of new infrastructure. Impacts would be less than significant.

Operation

Operational impacts of the proposed project would be comparable to similar uses in the city. Therefore, impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during operation would be less than significant.

b. No Impact

Development of the proposed project would be required to adhere to Section 3.3, Energy Measures within the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Title 24 of the California Building Code. Therefore, the project would not obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency and no impacts would occur.

4.7 Geology and Soils

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or	☐	☐	☒	☐

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a.i. Less than Significant Impact

According to the geotechnical report (Appendix D) prepared for the project by Partner Assessment Corporation (Partner), the project site is within the seismically active southern California region (Partner 2018). However, the project site does not lie within a State of California-designated Alquist–Priolo fault zone and there are no known active fault traces that underlie or project toward the project site. Therefore, the potential for direct surface fault rupture is considered to be low. The nearest known active faults to the project site are

the Julian, Temecula, and Glen Ivy segments of the Elsinore Fault, located approximately 15.5, 15.5, and 35 miles from the project site, respectively. As such, site could be subjected to significant shaking in the event of a major earthquake on any of the faults noted above or other faults in the southern California or northern Baja California area. However, potential impacts to the project would be reduced through adherence to requirements specified in the Uniform Building Code and Title 24 of the California Building Code. Impacts would be less than significant.

a.ii. Less than Significant Impact

The project site is located in seismically-active southern California and the site could be subject to strong seismic ground shaking from regional seismic activity. According to the geotechnical report (see Appendix D), the project site could be subject to significant groundshaking in the event of an earthquake. As identified above, the nearest identified potentially active fault is located approximately 15.5 miles from the project site. All structures on the site would be designed in accordance with seismic parameters of the current Uniform Building Code and Title 24 of the California Building Code. Impacts would be less than significant. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Impacts would be less than significant.

a.iii. Less than Significant Impact

Soil liquefaction occurs when saturated fine-grained sands or silts lose their physical strengths during earthquake-induced shaking and behave like a liquid. This is due to loss of point-to-point grain contact and transfer of normal stress to the pore water. Liquefaction potential varies with water level, soil type, material gradation, relative density, and probable intensity and duration of ground shaking. Seismic settlement can occur with or without liquefaction; it results from densification of loose soils.

According to the geotechnical report (see Appendix D), the project site is not mapped within a potential liquefaction zone. The potential hazard associated with surface effects and lateral spreading is generally anticipated to be low based on the relatively flat site and surrounding topography and the negligible potential for liquefaction or significant dynamic settlement. Impacts would be less than significant.

a.iv. Less than Significant Impact

Landslides are mass movements of the ground that include rock falls, relatively shallow slumping and sliding of soil, and deeper rotational or transitional movement of soil or rock. According to the geotechnical report (see Appendix D), the project site is not mapped within a potential landslide zone. In addition, the project site is a relatively flat-lying site. Based on this information, landsliding is not considered to be a significant geologic hazard at the subject site. Impacts would be less than significant.

b. Less than Significant Impact

As required by City regulations, the project would include best management practices (BMPs) during grading and construction. The construction phase of the project would displace soils and temporarily increase the potential for soil erosion. The project grading would disturb approximately 2 acres. Construction-phase BMPs may include, but are not limited to, soil

stabilizers, sandbag berms, stabilized construction entrances, and other runoff controls. Operational BMPs would include landscaping and a storm drain system, which would reduce the potential for erosion (see Appendix D). With adherence to regulations, impacts would be less than significant.

c. Less than Significant Impact

Refer to responses above. Underlying soils consist of sandy alluvium and weathered rock (see Appendix D). Adherence to standard engineering practices would result in less than significant impacts related to subsidence of the land. Furthermore, the project is not located on an unstable geologic unit. Thus, the project would have a less than significant impact related to on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.

d. Less than Significant Impact

As discussed in the geotechnical report (see Appendix D), site soils are generally anticipated to be suitable for re-use as fill on the site. However, areas of organic materials, waste, construction debris, etc., may be encountered and would require removal and proper disposal. According to the geotechnical report, it is recommended to use non-expansive structural fill that is free of deleterious materials, and is properly moisture conditioned and compacted to 95 percent of the modified proctor. Expansive soils are generally not anticipated to present significant adverse impacts to site development. With compliance of the recommendations included in the geotechnical report, impacts associated with expansive soils would be less than significant.

e. No Impact

The proposed project would be connected to a public sewer system and does not include the installation of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems; therefore, there would be no impact.

f. Less than Significant Impact

The site has a low to no potential to produce paleontological resources during construction. No mitigation is proposed as a result of the project. However, in the event that fossils are uncovered during construction, a qualified paleontologist should be retained to evaluate the find, in accordance with City, County, and state guidelines. Potential impacts to paleontological resources are determined to be less than significant.

4.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the project:

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

EXPLANATIONS:

a. Less than Significant Impact

The City adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2020 to demonstrate how the City will achieve the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets codified by AB 32 (2006) and SB 32 (2016) and outlined in the 2017 Scoping Plan. The City CAP addresses major sources of GHG emissions in the City and sets forth a detailed and long-term strategy that the City and community can implement to achieve GHG emissions reduction targets. The CAP fulfills General Plan Goal COS-4 and Implementation Program COS-4.2. The CAP builds on the efforts and strategies identified in the City's 2013 CAP, and establishes GHG emission targets and identifies achievable, locally-based actions to reduce GHG emissions from municipal and community activities. Consistent with CARB's recommendations for community-wide targets, the CAP identifies GHG emission reduction targets of 4 percent below baseline 2012 emission levels by 2020 and 42 percent below 2012 levels by 2030 (City of San Marcos 2020).

This CAP has been prepared consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5, which establishes standards for the content and approval process of plans to reduce GHGs. Pursuant to these standards, the CAP, as a "qualified" CAP, affords development applicants the opportunity to use CEQA streamlining tools for analysis of GHG emissions and related impacts for projects that are consistent with the CAP. In addition, the qualified CAP helps the City streamline the application and enforcement of GHG reduction measures applicable to development projects.

Along with the CAP, the City adopted a CAP Consistency Review Checklist (Checklist). The purpose of the Checklist is to implement GHG reduction measures from the CAP that apply to new discretionary development projects. New development would demonstrate consistency

with relevant CAP strategies and would not conflict with the City's ability to achieve the identified GHG reduction targets through implementation of applicable measures. Projects that are consistent with the CAP, as determined through the use of the Checklist, may rely on the CAP for the cumulative impact analysis of GHG emissions. Projects that are not consistent with the CAP must prepare a comprehensive project-specific analysis of GHG emissions, including quantification of existing and projected GHG emissions and incorporation of the measures in the Checklist to the extent feasible. Cumulative GHG impacts would be significant for any project that is not consistent with the CAP.

The Checklist includes a GHG screening threshold of 500 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO_2E) per year for new development projects in order to determine if a project would need to demonstrate consistency with the CAP through the Checklist. Projects that are projected to emit fewer than 500 MT CO_2E annually would not make a considerable contribution to the cumulative impact of climate change and would not need to provide additional analysis to demonstrate consistency with the CAP. The Checklist also includes project types and sizes that correspond to the 500 MT CO_2E screening threshold. For office uses, the screening size is 43,000 square feet. The proposed office would be 32,969 square feet. Thus, it is anticipated that the project would emit less than 500 MT CO_2E per year, and as stated in the Checklist, the project's GHG impact would be less than significant and is not subject to the measures of the CAP. The project Checklist is included as Appendix E.

b. Less than Significant Impact

As discussed above, the project would not make a considerable contribution to the cumulative impact of climate change because it would emit less than 500 MT CO_2E per year, therefore, the project would not conflict with the CAP. Since the CAP is a "qualified" CAP that demonstrates how the City will achieve GHG reductions consistent with state reduction targets codified by AB 32 (2006) and Senate Bill 32 (2016), the project would not conflict with the 2017 Scoping Plan. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

4.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 two miles of 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. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a: Less than Significant Impact

Hazardous materials include solids, liquids, or gaseous materials that, because of their quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics could pose a

threat to human health or the environment. Hazards include the risks associated with potential explosions, fires, or release of hazardous substances in the event of an accident or natural disaster, which may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or serious illness, or pose substantial harm to human health or the environment.

Construction of the project would involve the transport of fuels, lubricants, and various other liquids needed for operation of construction equipment at the site on an as-needed basis by equipment service trucks. Materials hazardous to humans, wildlife, and sensitive environments, including diesel fuel, gasoline, equipment fluids, concrete, cleaning solutions and solvents, lubricant oils, adhesives, human waste, and chemical toilets, would be present during project construction. The potential exists for direct impacts to human health and biological resources from accidental spills of small amounts of hazardous materials from construction equipment; however, the proposed project would be required to comply with federal, state, and City Municipal Code restrictions which regulate and control those materials handled on-site. Compliance with these restrictions and laws would ensure that potentially significant impacts would not occur during project construction.

In addition, as a commercial/light industrial development, hazardous materials anticipated to be used during site operations are those routinely used by commercial or light industrial uses such as cleaners, paint, solvents, motor oil/automotive products, batteries, and garden maintenance products. It is anticipated that the use, handling, and disposal of these products would be addressed by hazardous waste programs that are part of the Integrated Waste Management Plan of the County of San Diego and other federal, state, and City Municipal Code regulations. Additionally, there are numerous regulations in place that regulate proper disposal of hazardous materials and protect public safety including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b. Less than Significant Impact

As discussed above under Section 4.9(a), construction equipment accessing the site would use hazardous and/or flammable materials, including diesel fuel, gasoline, and other oils and lubricants. During construction of the project, there is the potential for the short-term use of hazardous materials/fuels; however, the use, storage, transport, and disposal of these materials would be required to comply with all existing local, state, and federal regulations governing construction activities.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was prepared for the project. This ESA is included as Appendix F. According to the Phase I ESA, the project site was formerly undeveloped land as early as 1893 (earliest date historical data was available), developed with an orchard in 1939, developed with a dwelling on the northwest corner and a shack on southern side circa 1946 and 1953, developed with two new dwellings on the northern side circa 1964 to 1970, and developed with the current structures in 1975 to present.

According to the Phase I ESA, no Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs**)** were identified within the project site, and no Controlled Recognized Environmental Condition (CREC) was identified within the project site. In addition, no Historical Recognized

Environmental Condition (HREC) was identified within the project site. However, the Phase I ESA did identify an Environmental Issue (EI) within the project site, due to the age of the subject property buildings. Within the project site, there is a potential that asbestos-containing material (ACM) and/or lead-based paint (LBP) are present. The identified suspect ACMs would need to be sampled to confirm the presence or absence of asbestos prior to any renovation or demolition activities to prevent potential exposure to workers and/or building occupants. However, compliance with existing regulations related to asbestos and lead removal during demolition of existing structures would ensure impacts related to reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment would be less than significant.

In addition, the project does not involve a use that would result in foreseeable upset and accident conditions from the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The proposed office uses would be associated with the routine use of common hazardous materials. However, significant hazards due to upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials would not occur because the project would not involve the use of any major source of hazardous materials. Impacts would be less than significant.

As an office building development, hazardous materials anticipated to be used during site operations are those routinely used by office uses such as cleaners, paint, solvents, batteries, and garden maintenance products. It is anticipated that the use, handling, and disposal of these products would be addressed by hazardous waste programs that are part of the Integrated Waste Management Plan of the County of San Diego and other federal, state, and City Municipal Code regulations. Additionally, there are numerous regulations in place that regulate proper disposal of hazardous materials and protect public safety including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act. The project would result in a less than significant risk to the public related to hazardous materials. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

c. Less than Significant Impact

There are schools within 0.25 mile of the project site; the Dehesa Charter School and the Community Montessori School, located in the adjacent building to the east of the project site. However, the project does not propose uses that would emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials or substances. Any demolition of existing structures would comply with existing regulations related to the disposal of hazardous substances or materials. Therefore, the project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school, resulting in a less than significant impact.

d. Less than Significant Impact

A Phase I ESA was prepared for the project site (see Appendix F). As determined in the ESA, the project site is not identified within a regulatory agency database as a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites. A summary of the regulatory agency records review is provided in Table 3.

As such, the project site is not located on any hazardous materials sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. However, per the Phase I ESA (Appendix F), the adjacent property to the east (1441 Montiel Road) was listed on the AST list. In addition, the Phase I ESA concluded that no releases have been reported for this facility, this listing is not expected to represent a significant environmental concern. The adjacent property to the south across the freeway was identified as a RCRA-CESQG, Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST), Sweeps UST, AST, SLIC, HAZNET, Historic Cortese, San Diego County Hazardous Materials Management Division Site, and San Diego County Site Assessment and Mitigation Program Site in the regulatory database report. However, based on the relative distance to the site, regulatory closures and inferred direction of groundwater flow, this site is not expected to represent a significant environmental concern. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Table 3
Regulatory Records Review

Regulatory Agency	Findings
San Diego County Department of Environmental Health (SDDEH)	No records regarding hazardous substance use, storage or releases, or the presence of Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and Activity and Use Limitations (AULs) on the subject property were on file with the SDDEH.
San Marcos Fire Department (SMFD)	No records regarding hazardous substance use, storage or releases, or the presence of USTs and AULs on the subject property were on file with the SMFD.
Air Quality Management District (AQMD)	No Permits to Operate, Notices of Violation, or Notices to Comply or the presence of AULs, dry cleaning machines, or USTs were on file for the subject property with the AQMD.
Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)	No records regarding hazardous substance use, storage or releases, or the presence of USTs and AULs on the subject property were on file with the RWQCB.
California Department of Toxic Substance Control (CDTSC)	No records regarding hazardous substance use, storage or releases, or the presence of USTs and AULs on the subject property were on file with the CDTSC.
San Marcos Building Department	Original building permits could not be located after an extensive search; however, other records indicate the two houses on the property were constructed in or about 1960 and 1975.
California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR)	According to DOGGR, no oil or gas wells are located on or adjacent to the subject property.
SOURCE: Appendix F.	

e. No Impact

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport. As such, the project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. Thus, no impact would occur.

f. Less than Significant Impact

The project does not involve the development of structures that could potentially impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. All proposed internal roadways and project access points would comply with City standards for emergency and fire protection vehicles and distances. The project would comply with all design recommendations and requirements provided by the SMFD to ensure that emergency access meets City standards. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

g. Less than Significant Impact

According to Figure 6-4 in the City's General Plan (City of San Marcos 2013), the project site is located within a "High" San Marcos Fire Protection District (SMFPD) Community Hazard Zone. In an effort to reduce the threat posed by wildland fire events, the SMFD completed a comprehensive assessment of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)fire hazards and prepared a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and Hazard Risk Assessment (HRA) for the San Marcos community and unincorporated areas in the SMFPD.

In accordance with the CWPP and the City Zoning Ordinance, all new development in identified community hazard areas requires a Fuel Management Plan. This includes clearing and maintaining defensible space of 100 to 150 feet around structures, depending on the structure and vegetation type. Brush management is required to be undertaken in these areas where urban development interfaces with open space so that fire fuel loads and potential fire hazards can be reduced. The CWPP meets the requirements of the federal Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 for community fire planning. Implementation of required regulations in the CWPP and City Zoning Ordinance would reduce any impacts involving wildfire to less than significant.

4.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner, which would:				
i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a. Less than Significant Impact

The San Diego RWQCB regulates wastewater discharge. Implementation of the proposed project would result in an increase in wastewater treatment demand. Prior to issuance of building permits, the proposed project shall obtain a service commitment letter from the VWD that will ensure there is existing capacity to service the needs of the proposed project and, therefore, the proposed project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the RWQCB. Further, the project has been designed to comply with the land development requirements of Regional MS4 Permit and the 2016 Best Management Practices Design Manual – San Diego Region (BMP Design Manual). Adherence with the Model BMP Design Manual and the Nation Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that is in place at the time of development would be required. Impacts would be less than significant.

b. No Impact

As identified above, project adherence with the Model BMP Design Manual and the NPDES permit that is in place at the time of development would be required. The project would not use any groundwater. All water for the project will be provided by VWD. Therefore, the project would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. No impact would occur.

c(i), c(ii), c(iii), c(iv). Less than Significant Impact

The project site is not located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain, as designated on Figure 6-3 in the City's General Plan (City of San Marcos 2013). In addition, no change in the local drainage patterns of the project site area would occur. Therefore, impacts to drainage and water quality would be less than significant.

d. No Impact

The project site is not located within a FEMA floodplain, as designated on Figure 6-3 in the City's General Plan (City of San Marcos 2013). The project site is located approximately 14 miles east of the Pacific Ocean and, therefore, impacts as a result of a tsunami would not occur. In addition, seiches are considered unlikely due to the absence of large nearby confined bodies of water. No impact would occur.

e. Less than Significant Impact

The project site is located within the Carlsbad Management Area Water Quality Improvement Plan. The General Construction Permit requires preparation and implementation of a SWPPP, which must include erosion and sediment control BMPs that would meet or exceed measures required by the NPDES General Permit, as well as BMPs that control hydrocarbons, trash and debris, and other potential construction-related pollutants. In addition, the project would not utilize groundwater. Therefore, impacts related to implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan would be less than significant.

4.11 Land Use and Planning

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a. No Impact

The project site is currently developed with two unoccupied single-family homes. The surrounding development consists of other commercial and office uses to the east and west, and SR-78 to the south. The project site is buffered from the residential development to the north by Montiel Road. The proposed use of the site as an administrative office building would be similar to the adjacent commercial/office uses and would not physically divide an established community.

b. Less than Significant Impact

The project site is designated as a Specific Plan Area. The project would require adoption of a Specific Plan consistent with the Commercial zone requirement in Chapter 20.220 of the San Marcos Municipal Code. However, while the project would require an amendment, the project would not significantly alter the planned location, distribution, or growth of the human population in the area, as the project would not provide additional housing and would employ residents currently living in the region. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

4.12 Mineral Resources

Would the project:

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

EXPLANATIONS:

a. No Impact

The project site is located within an area designated as Mineral Resources Zone 4 (MRZ-4) per the DOC California Geologic Survey Mineral Land Classification Map, Special Report 153, Plate 10 (DOC 1996). MRZ-4 zones are classified as areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ zone. The areas around the project are not being used for the recovery of mineral resources and are not designated by the City's General Plan or other local, state, or federal land use plan for mineral resources recovery; therefore, the project would not result in the loss of mineral resources.

b. No Impact

The project site is not designated as a locally important mineral resource recovery site in the City's General Plan, or any other specific plan or other land use plan (City of San Marcos 2013). Thus, no impact would result.

4.13 Noise

Would the project result in:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXPLANATIONS:

A noise analysis was prepared for the project by RECON Environmental, Inc. and is included as Appendix G to this IS/MND (RECON 2019d).

a. Less than Significant Impact

<u>On-site Traffic Noise</u>

The main source of noise at the project site is vehicle traffic on SR-78 and Montiel Road. The exterior noise level standard for office uses is 65 CNEL. This standard is applicable at exterior use areas which include the outdoor seating area at the northeast corner of the proposed building and the second-floor deck located above the building entrance. As shown in Table 4, noise levels at the exterior seating area (Receivers 1 through 3) would range from 54 to 63 CNEL and noise levels at the second-floor deck above the building entrance (Receiver 12) would be 58 CNEL. Noise levels at the exterior use areas would be compatible with the City's standard of 65 CNEL.

Exterior noise levels at the building façade are projected to range from 54 to 77 CNEL. The interior noise level standard is 50 CNEL. According to the Federal Highway Administration, masonry and concrete buildings with double-pane windows, which are typically required to meet Title 24 energy code requirements, provide a 35 A-weighted decibels [dB(A)] reduction at interior locations from exterior noise sources (Federal Highway Administration 2011). Based on these standards, interior noise levels would be reduced to 50 CNEL or less. Impacts would be less than significant.

Table 4
HVAC Noise Levels at Adjacent Properties

Receiver	Land Use	Noise Level [dB(A) L_{eq}]	Noise Ordinance Limit Daytime/Nighttime [dB(A) L_{eq}]
1	Commercial	40	60/55
2	Commercial	40	60/55
3	Commercial	40	60/55
4	Park	34	60/50
5	Residential	36	60/50
6	Residential	37	60/50
7	Residential	36	60/50
8	Residential	35	60/50
9	Residential	34	60/50
10	Residential	32	60/50
11	Commercial	40	60/55
12	Commercial	38	60/55
HVAC = heating, ventilation, and air conditioning			

Off-site Traffic Noise

The additional vehicle trips associated with the project would increase noise levels on nearby roadways. A noise increase of 3 dB or more would be considered significant because 3 dB is the level at which an increase in noise is perceptible to a person. As shown in Table 5, the project would not result in a direct or cumulative noise increase of more than 3 dB. Therefore, the project would result in less than significant direct and cumulative impact related to traffic noise.

Table 5 Construction Noise Levels		
Receiver	Land Use	Noise Level [dB(A) L_{eq}]
1	Commercial	75
2	Commercial	75
3	Commercial	74
4	Park	63
5	Residential	67
6	Residential	71
7	Residential	68
8	Residential	65
9	Residential	62
10	Residential	60
11	Commercial	73
12	Commercial	73

On-site Generated Noise

The noise sources on the project site after completion of construction are anticipated to be those that would be typical of any office use, such as vehicles arriving and leaving and landscape maintenance machinery. None of these noise sources are anticipated to violate the City Municipal Code. Rooftop HVAC noise levels were modeled at the adjacent properties. As shown in Table 4, on-site generated noise levels would range from 32 to 40 dB(A) L_{eq}. Noise levels would not exceed the applicable Noise Ordinance limits at the property lines.

As shown in Table 4, noise levels would not exceed the applicable Noise Ordinance limits at the property lines and impacts related to on-site generated noise would be less than significant.

b. Less than Significant Impact

As shown in Table 5, construction noise levels would range from 60 to 75 dB(A) L_{eq} at the adjacent property lines. The City's Municipal Code does not place noise limit restrictions on construction activities; however, other jurisdictions commonly apply a noise level limit of 75 dB(A) L_{eq} at residential uses. Construction activities would generally occur over the period between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Although the existing adjacent uses would be exposed to construction noise levels that may be heard above ambient conditions, the exposure would be temporary and would not exceed 75 dB(A) L_{eq}. As construction activities associated with the project would comply with the time limits established in Section 10.24.020 (b)(9) of the City Municipal Code, temporary increases in noise levels from construction activities would be less than significant.

c. No Impact

The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or within an airport land use plan, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport

or public use airport. Therefore, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels resulting from proximity to a private airstrip. No impact would occur.

4.14 Population and Housing

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☒	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a. Less than Significant Impact

The project would not directly induce substantial population growth, as the project involves the construction of a two-story office building, and does not propose any new housing developments or development of a new business district. While the project would present additional office and employment space, the additional office space would accommodate employment space consistent with planned growth, and would not induce growth either directly or indirectly. The project site currently contains existing residential development, with access provided by existing roadway infrastructure. The project site has access to exiting water, sewer, and storm water infrastructure within Montiel Road. Impacts related to population growth would be less than significant.

b. Less than Significant Impact

The project site contains two unoccupied single-family homes and ancillary residential uses. Both structures would be demolished as part of the project. As such, the project would not displace any persons living within these residences. Impacts would be less than significant.

4.15 Public Services

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. 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:				
i. Fire protection?	☐	☒	☐	☐
ii. Police protection?	☐	☒	☐	☐
iii. Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
v. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a.i. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

The SMFD would service the project. SMFD provides service to the City and the San Marcos Fire Protection District, which covers an area of 33 square miles and a population of approximately 95,000 residents (City of San Marcos 2018). Current SMFD facilities include four fire stations and a regional emergency services training facility. SMFD operates four fire stations, four paramedic assessment engine companies, one paramedic assessment truck company, five paramedic transport ambulances (24-hour units), one shift battalion chief, and one on-call duty chief on a daily basis. With an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating 2, SMFD provides a variety of first-responder services to the community including fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical services, fire prevention services, vegetation management, public education, emergency preparedness, and trauma support (City of San Marcos 2018).

The station closest to the proposed project site is Fire Station No. 3, located approximately two miles west of the project site at 404 Woodland Parkway. The project site is within the existing service area of SMFD, and on-site construction would comply with applicable Fire

Code requirements. New fire protection facilities are not anticipated at this time. However, development of the project would contribute to the incremental increase in demand for fire protection services city-wide. This represents a significant impact and mitigation is required. Participation in the Community Facilities District (CFD 2001 01) (Fire and Paramedic) as outlined in mitigation measure PS-1 would offset the cost of increases in necessary services resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

Mitigation Measure PS-1

Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the applicant/developer/property owner shall submit an executed version of petition to annex into and establish, with respect to the property, the special taxes levied by the following Community Facility District: CFD 2001-01 (Fire and Paramedic).

Participation in the CFD will offset the cost of increases in necessary fire services resulting from implementation of the proposed project and impacts would be reduced to below a level of significance.

a.ii. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department San Marcos Station employees over 100 sheriff deputies, volunteers, and professional staff members (County of San Diego 2018). The San Diego County Sheriff's Department San Marcos Station is located at 182 Santar Place, San Marcos, California 92069, approximately 2.5 miles west of the project site.

The station has a total service area of over 100 square miles, which encompasses the city and the surrounding unincorporated areas of San Marcos and Escondido. The station is currently providing safety services to a population of more than 111,000 residents (County of San Diego 2018). The project site is within the San Diego County Sheriff's Department's service area and surrounded by land uses that are currently served by the department. However, development of the project would contribute to the incremental increase in demand for police protection services City-wide. This represents a significant impact mitigation is required. Mitigation measure PS-2 requires the project applicant to annex the site into the preexisting Community Facilities District for Police Services (CFD 98-01, Improvement Area No. 1). Participation in the CFD will offset the cost of increases in necessary services resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

Mitigation Measure PS-2

Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the applicant/developer/property owner shall submit an executed version of petition to annex into and establish, with respect to the property, the special taxes levied by the following Community Facility District: CFD 98-01 Improvement Area No. 1 (Police). Participation in the CFD would offset the cost of increases in necessary police protection services resulting from implementation of the proposed project and impacts would be reduced to below a level of significance.

a.iiii. Less than Significant Impact

The project proposes the construction of a two-story, 32,969-square-foot administrative office building. As such, the project would not result in a population increase within the city and would, therefore, not induce an increase in school attendees. Impacts would be less than significant.

However, as a commercial/industrial (office) development, the applicant would be required to pay required fees that would help fund ongoing school service and new facilities. Pursuant to SB 50 (Government Code Sections 65995(h), 65996(b) and 65996(h)), fees imposed by school districts shall constitute the exclusive method of considering and mitigating impacts on school facilities caused by a development project. The payment of statutorily capped fee amounts provides "full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act . . . on the provision of adequate school facilities" (SB 50). San Marcos Unified School District (SMUSD) collects residential and commercial developer fees for projects within its service area to support costs of construction and expansion of school facilities. Current developer fees are $0.61 per square foot for commercial/industrial projects (SMUSD 2018). Commercial/Industrial Fees became effective on July 12, 2018. The project applicant shall pay school mitigation fees pursuant to California Education Code Section 17620 et seq. and Government Code Sections 65995(h), 65996(b), and 65996(h) in effect at the time of building permit issuance, thereby ensuring impacts would be less than significant.

a.iv. Less than Significant Impact

The project applicant would be required to pay the City's Public Facilities Fee (PFF), a portion of which is designated for parks. The PFF money would go towards the acquisition and development of local and community park facilities throughout the City. Payment of the PFF will be required prior to issuance of a building permit. Because the project is not anticipated to increase demand on existing parks and through the contribution of funds for the acquisition and development of local and community park facilities throughout the City, impacts would be less than significant.

a.v. Less than Significant Impact

The analysis within Sections 4.14 (a) through 4.14(d) concluded that the project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated related to police and fire protection, and a less than significant impact to schools and parks. The project would not result in an impact to any other public facilities. Impacts would be less than significant.

4.16 Recreation

Would the project:

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

EXPLANATIONS:

a. No Impact

The project would not involve the provision or alteration of a new or existing park facility. The project would have no impact on existing recreation facilities, as the proposed office land use would not introduce a new population base that would require additional recreation facilities. No impact would occur.

b. No Impact

The project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, as the project would not introduce a substantial increase in the population base within the area. As such, the project would not have an adverse physical effect on the environment due to the construction of recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

4.17 Transportation

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with the 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 or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a. and b. Less than Significant Impact

The Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the Natural Resources Agency have issued new CEQA Guidelines for analyzing transportation impacts. By July 1, 2020, all CEQA lead agencies must analyze a project's transportation impacts using vehicle miles traveled (VMT). VMT measures the per capita number of car trips generated by a project and distances cars will travel to and from a project, rather than congestion levels at intersections (level of service or "LOS," graded on a scale of A–F). Some California cities have already adopted VMT standards and abandoned LOS, but many other jurisdictions continue to require LOS analysis. City staff deemed the project complete before July 1, 2020. Due to this timeline, City staff has concluded that the project can move forward with the LOS analysis for traffic

impacts and the VMT analysis will not be required. A transportation impact analysis was prepared by Linscott, Law & Greenspan (LLG) analyzing LOS impacts associated with the proposed project (Appendix H). Therefore, for the purposes of this IS/MND, LOS impacts are analyzed.

Methodology and Significance Criteria

LOS is the term used to denote the different operating conditions which occur on a given roadway segment or intersection under various traffic volume loads and provides an index to the operational qualities of a roadway segment or an intersection. LOS designations range from A to F, with LOS A representing the best operating conditions and LOS F representing the worst operating conditions. Level of service designation is reported differently for signalized and unsignalized intersections, as well as for roadway segments

Signalized intersections were analyzed under AM and PM peak hour conditions. Average vehicle delay was determined utilizing the methodology found in Chapter 19 of the Highway Capacity Manual 6th Edition (HCM 6), with the assistance of the Synchro 10 computer software. Unsignalized intersections were analyzed under AM and PM peak hour conditions. Average vehicle delay and LOS were determined based upon the procedures found in Chapter 20 and Chapter 21 of the HCM 6 with the assistance of the Synchro 10 computer software.

Street segment analysis is based upon the comparison of average daily traffic (ADT) volumes to the City's Roadway Classification, Level of Service, and ADT Table. This table provides segment capacities for different street classifications, based on traffic volumes and roadway characteristics.

A project is considered to have a significant impact if the new project traffic has decreased the operations of surrounding roadways by a defined threshold. The defined thresholds shown in Table 6 below for freeway segments, roadway segments, intersections, and ramp meter facilities are based on published San Diego Traffic Engineers' Council guidelines. If the project exceeds the thresholds in Table 6, then the project may be considered to have a significant project impact.

Table 6
Traffic Impact Significance Thresholds

Level of Service with Project[a]	Allowable Increase Due to Project Impacts[b]					
	Freeways		Roadway Segments		Intersections	Ramp Metering
	V/C	Speed (mph)	V/C	Speed (mph)	Delay (seconds)	Delay (minutes)
D, E, & F (or ramp meter delays above 15 minutes)	0.01	1	0.02	1	2	2[c]

SOURCE: Appendix H

[a]All level of service measurements are based upon HCM procedures for peak-hour conditions. However, V/C ratios for Roadway Segments may be estimated on an ADT/24-hour traffic volume basis (using Table 2 or a similar LOS chart for each jurisdiction). The acceptable LOS for freeways, roadways, and intersections is generally "D" ("C" for undeveloped or not densely developed locations per jurisdiction definitions). For metered freeway ramps, LOS does not apply. However, ramp meter delays above 15 minutes are considered excessive.

[b]If a proposed project's traffic causes the values shown in the table to be exceeded, the impacts are deemed to be significant. These impact changes may be measured from appropriate computer programs or expanded manual spreadsheets. The project applicant shall then identify feasible mitigations (within the Traffic Impact Study [TIS] report) that will maintain the traffic facility at an acceptable LOS. If the LOS with the proposed project becomes unacceptable (see note a above), or if the project adds a significant amount of peak hour trips to cause any traffic queues to exceed on- or off-ramp storage capacities, the project applicant shall be responsible for mitigating significant impact changes

[c]The impact is only considered significant if the total delay exceeds 15 minutes.

Notes:
V/C = volume-to-capacity ratio
Speed = Arterial speed measured in miles per hour
Delay = average stopped delay per vehicle measured in seconds for intersections, or minutes for ramp meters

Since the Montiel Road/Rock Springs Road intersection is within County of San Diego limits, the potential significant impacts are based on the County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance—Transportation and Traffic. The defined thresholds are shown in Table 7.

Table 7
County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance—Transportation and Traffic

Level of Service	Signalized	Unsignalized
LOS E	Delay of 2 seconds or less	20 or less peak hour trips on a critical movement
LOS F	Either a delay of 1 second, or 5 peak hour trips or les on a critical movement	5 or less peak hour trips on a critical movement

SOURCE: Appendix H

Existing Conditions

Table 8 summarizes available ADT volumes taken from traffic counts. Counts at the study area intersections, including bicycle and pedestrian counts, were also conducted between 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Table 8
Existing Traffic Volumes

Street Segment	ADT[a]
Montiel Road	
Nordahl Lane to Leora Lane	7,350
Leora Lane to Rock Springs Road	4,620
Nordahl Road	
Montiel Road to SR-78 Ramps	39,870

SOURCE: Appendix H
[a]Average daily traffic volume

Table 9 summarizes the peak hour intersection operations for the existing conditions. As seen in Table 9, all intersections are calculated to currently operate at LOS D or better.

Table 9
Existing Intersection Operations

Intersection	Control Type	Peak Hour	Existing	
			Delay[a]	LOS[b]
1) Nordahl Road/Center Drive (South)	Signal	AM	23.7	C
		PM	38.6	D
2) Nordahl Road/Montiel Road	Signal	AM	16.5	B
		PM	26.6	C
3) Nordahl Road/SR-78 WB Ramps	Signal	AM	27.0	C
		PM	47.2	D
4) Nordahl Road/SR-78 EB Ramps	Signal	AM	16.7	B
		PM	32.4	C
5) Mission Road/Auto Park Way	Signal	AM	48.8	D
		PM	54.1	D
6) Rock Springs Road/Montiel Road	OWSC[c]	AM	24.1	C
		PM	15.0	C

SOURCE: Appendix H
[a]Average delay expressed in seconds per vehicle
[b]Level of Service
[c]OWSC = one-way controlled intersection

Table 10 summarizes the existing roadway segment operations. As seen in Table 10, all the study area segments are calculated to currently operate at LOS C or better.

Table 10
Existing Street Segment Operations

Street Segment	Existing Roadway Configurations	Capacity (LOS E)[a]	ADT[b]	V/C[c]	LOS[d]
Montiel Road					
Nordahl Lane to Leora Lane	2-Lane Collector w/TWLTL[e]	15,000	7,350	0.490	C
Leora Lane to Rock Springs Road	2-Lane Collector	8,000	4,620	0.578	C
Nordahl Road					
Montiel Road to SR-78 Ramps	8-Lane Prime Arterial	70,000	39,870	0.570	B

SOURCE: Appendix H
[a]Capacities based on the City of San Marcos's Roadway Classification Table.
[b]Average daily traffic volumes
[c]Volume-to-capacity ratio
[d]Level of service
[e]TWLTL = Two-way left-turn lane

Project Trip Generation

Table 11 shows the total project traffic generation based on the data contained in the SANDAG's trip generation guide for a standard commercial office building. The total project is calculated to generate approximately 659 ADT with 83 inbound/9 outbound trips during the AM peak hour and 17 inbound/69 outbound trips during the PM peak hour.

Table 11
Existing Street Segment Operations

				AM Peak Hour		PM Peak Hour	
		Daily Trip Ends (ADTs)		Volume		Volume	
Land Use	Size	Rate[a]	Volume	In	Out	In	Out
Office	32.97 ksf	20/ksf	659	83	9	17	69

SOURCE: Appendix H
[a]Rate is based on SANDAG's (Not So) Brief Guide of Vehicular Traffic Generation Rates for the San Diego Region, April 2002
ksf = 1,000 square feet

Near Term Scenario Analysis

Table 12 summarizes the intersection operations for the Existing + Cumulative Projects + Project scenario. As seen in Table 12, with the addition of project traffic, all of the study intersections are calculated to operate at LOS D or better except at the following intersections:

- 3) Nordahl Road/SR-78 WB Ramps (LOS E during the PM Peak Hour)
- 4) Nordahl Road/SR-78 EB Ramps (LOS F during both the AM and PM peak hours)
- 5) Mission Road/Auto Parkway (LOS F during both the AM and PM peak hours)

Table 12
Near-Term Intersection Operations

Intersection	Control Type	Peak Hour	Existing + Project Delay[a]	Existing + Project LOS[b]	Δ[c]	Existing + Cumulative + Project Delay[a]	Existing + Cumulative + Project LOS[b]	Δ[c]
1) Nordahl Road/Center Drive (South)	Signal	AM	23.9	C	0.2	39.3	D	0.8
		PM	39.4	D	0.8	52.5	D	0.5
2) Nordahl Road/Montiel Road	Signal	AM	16.7	B	0.2	22.5	C	0.1
		PM	27.5	C	0.9	32.9	C	2.6
3) Nordahl Road/SR-78 WB Ramps	Signal	AM	27.1	C	0.1	24.8	C	0.1
		PM	47.6	D	0.4	57.5	E	0.5
4) Nordahl Road/SR-78 EB Ramps	Signal	AM	17.0	B	0.3	81.2	F	1.6
		PM	33.6	C	1.2	120.0	F	1.3
5) Mission Road/Auto Park Way	Signal	AM	48.8	D	0.0	97.0	F	0.2
		PM	54.1	D	0.0	177.2	F	0.6
6) Rock Springs Road/ Montiel Road	OWSC[d]	AM	24.4	C	1[C]	34.0	D	1[C]
		PM	15.3	C	7[C]	16.6	C	7[C]

SOURCE: Appendix H
[a]Averaged delay expressed in seconds per vehicle
[b]Level of service
[c]For San Marcos intersections, Δ denotes a project-induced increase in delay. For County intersections, Δ denotes a project induced increase in traffic on the critical movement.
[d]OWSC – One-Way Stop Controlled intersection

Although the intersections listed above are operating at LOS E or LOS F, the increase in delay due to the project is less than 2 seconds. Therefore, no significant impacts are identified for the Existing + Cumulative Projects + Project scenario.

Table 13 summarizes the roadway segment operations for the Existing + Cumulative Projects + Project scenario. As seen in Table 13, with the addition of project traffic, all of the study segments are calculated to operate at LOS D.

Table 13
Near-Term Street Segment Operations

Street Segment	Existing Capacity (LOS E)[a]	Existing + Project ADT[b]	Existing + Project V/C[c]	Existing + Project LOS[d]	Δ[e]	Existing + Cumulative + Project ADT	Existing + Cumulative + Project V/C	Existing + Cumulative + Project LOS	Δ[e]
Montiel Road									
Nordahl Lane to Leora Lane	15,000	7,943	0.530	C	0.040	12,193	0.813	D	0.040
Leora Lane to Rock Springs Road	8,000	4,686	0.586	C	0.008	4,996	0.625	C	0.008
Nordahl Road									
Montiel Road to SR-78 Ramps	70,000	40,364	0.577	B	0.007	40,864	0.584	C	0.007

SOURCE: Appendix H
[a]Capacities based on City of San Marcos's Roadway Classification & LOS table
[b]Average Daily Traffic
[c]Volume to Capacity ratio
[d]Level of Service
[e]Δ denotes a project-induced increase in the Volume to Capacity ratio

Based on the significance criteria, no significant impacts are calculated along the study street segments as the project contribution does not exceed the allowable thresholds.

Year 2035 Analysis

Table 14 summarizes the intersection operations for the Year 2035 + Project scenario. As seen in Table 14, with the addition of project traffic, the following intersections are calculated to operate at LOS E or LOS F:

- 1) Nordahl Road/Center Drive (South) (LOS E during the PM peak hour)
- 3) Nordahl Road/SR-78 WB Ramps (LOS F during the PM peak hour)
- 4) Nordahl Road/SR-78 EB Ramps (LOS F during both the AM and PM peak hours)
- 5) Mission Road/Auto Park Way (LOS F during both the AM and PM peak hours)
- 6) Rock Springs Road/Montiel Road (LOS F during the AM peak hour)

Table 14
Year 2035 Intersection Operations

Intersection	Peak Hour	Year 2035		Year 2035 with Project			
		Delay[a]	LOS[b]	Delay[a]	LOS[b]	Δ[c]	Sig?[d]
1) Nordahl Road/Center Drive (South)	AM	51.8	D	54.1	D	2.3	No
	PM	76.7	E	77.3	E	0.6	No
2) Nordahl Road/Montiel Road	AM	23.1	C	24.5	C	1.4	No
	PM	36.9	D	40.0	D	3.1	No
3) Nordahl Road/SR-78 WB Ramps	AM	28.0	C	28.0	C	0.0	No
	PM	80.4	F	80.8	F	0.4	No
4) Nordahl Road/SR-78 EB Ramps	AM	116.7	F	118.3	F	1.6	No
	PM	156.2	F	157.3	F	1.1	No
5) Mission Road/Auto Park Way	AM	140.0	F	140.2	F	0.2	No
	PM	232.1	F	233.5	F	1.4	No
6) Rock Springs Road/Montiel Road	AM	311.1	F	348.5	F	1[C]	No
	PM	26.5	D	28.1	D	7[C]	No

SOURCE: Appendix H
[a]Averaged delay expressed in seconds per vehicle
[b]Level of Service
[c]For San Marcos intersections, Δ denotes a project-induced increase in delay. For County intersections, Δ denotes a project induced increase in traffic on the critical movement.
[d]Sig = Significant project impacts based on Significance Criteria.

Although the intersections listed are operating at LOS E or LOS F, the increase in delay due to the project is less than 2 seconds with the exception of the Rock Springs Road/Montiel Road intersection. This unsignalized intersection falls within the County of San Diego's jurisdiction, and a different significance criterion is applied. As such, the increase in traffic due to the project during the AM peak hour is less than 5 on the critical movement (i.e., northbound left-turn). Therefore, no significant impacts are identified for the Year 2035 + Project scenario.

Table 15 summarizes the roadway segment operations for the Year 2035 + Project scenario. As seen in Table 15, with the addition of project traffic, all of the study segments are calculated to operate at LOS D or better.

Table 15
Year 2035 Street Segment Operations

Street Segment	Existing Capacity (LOS E)[a]	Year 2035			Year 2035 with Project			Δ[e]	Sig?[f]
		ADT[b]	V/C[c]	LOS[d]	ADT	V/C	LOS		
Montiel Road									
Nordahl Lane to Leora Lane	15,000	11,610	0.774	D	12,203	0.814	D	0.040	No
Leora Lane to Rock Springs Road	8,000	5,530	0.691	D	5,596	0.700	D	0.008	No
Nordahl Road									
Montiel Road to SR-78 Ramps	70,000	43,370	0.620	C	43,864	0.627	C	0.007	No

SOURCE: Appendix H
[a]Capacities based on City of San Marcos's Roadway Classification & LOS table
[b]Average daily traffic
[c]Volume-to-capacity ratio
[d]Level of service
[e]Δ denotes a project-induced increase in the volume-to-capacity ratio
[f]Sig = Significant project impact based on Significance Criteria.

The closest public transit facilities within walking distance of the project site are a bus stop for the North County Transit District Bus Route 305, located approximately 0.8 mile west from the project site along Nordahl Road. Bus Route 305 operates between the Vista Transit Center and Escondido Transit Center, and runs along Mission Road through San Marcos. There are no bike lanes along Montiel Road near the project site. Sidewalks along Montiel Road, extending from the city of Escondido border to the intersection with Nordahl Road, is generally intermittent. There is no sidewalk along the project frontage within Montiel Road. The project would construct internal pedestrian pathways along the frontage of the proposed buildings adjacent to the parking lot on-site, as well as a sidewalk along the project sites frontage with Montiel Road. The project would contribute to pedestrian facilities and not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities.

Furthermore, none of the studied intersections or roadway segments would result in a significant impact of LOS E or LOS F with development of the proposed project. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b. No Impact

The project would take primary access from Montiel Road. No alterations to the existing traffic flow or roadway operations would occur as a result of the project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

c. Less than Significant Impact

The project site would be accessed via an internal driveway connecting the project site with the adjacent Montiel Road by a 30-foot-wide City of San Marcos curb cut. Construction of the project would not result in any road closures. Therefore, the project would not result in inadequate emergency access. Impacts would be less than significant.

4.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

Would the project:

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

EXPLANATIONS:

a.i and a.ii: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

In accordance with SB 18, the Native American Heritage Commission was contacted to obtain a list of tribes that may have cultural association with the project site and its local vicinity. AB 52 requires that prior to release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project, the lead agency shall begin consultation with California Native American tribes that request, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally or culturally affiliated with the tribe. Tribes who receive a formal project notification have 30 days to respond and request consultation.

The City of San Marcos, as lead agency, formally notified California Native American tribes of the opportunity to consult via letter in accordance with SB 18 and AB 52 consultation processes in April 2019, and July 16, 2019, respectively. The formal SB 18 notification letter was sent to California Native American tribes as identified on the NAHC list while the AB 52 letter was sent to the four tribes who have formally requested the AB 52 notification as of the date of the City notification letter. In response to the above letters, the SLR requested consultation on May 8, 2019 and the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians requested consultation on June 11, 2019. Consultation discussions during the City's monthly consultation meeting regarding the project status and project documents occurred from May 2019 through October 2020 with most of the tribal input occurring in October 2019 and October 2020 in response to technical studies provided to the tribe for consideration. Although consultation is ongoing, the City was informed by SLR on June 19, 2020, that in response to their review of the project documents to date, with the incorporation of standard cultural mitigation measures outlined in Section 4.5 of this document, SLR will close the tribal consultation process concurrent with the CEQA public review process. Consultation is ongoing with the Rincon Band of Mission Indians, though the tribe has also agreed with incorporation of the City's standard cultural mitigation measures.

Based on the various tribal consultations, it is acknowledged that the general San Luis Rey river valley has areas with tribal cultural resources. Thus, additional effort was taken to address the potential for tribal cultural resources at the project site. RECON conducted a self-search at the South Coastal Information Center, San Diego State University, which is a member of the California Historical Resources Information System. The search radius was one mile. No prehistoric or historic cultural resources are recorded on or adjacent to the project property. A Saving Sacred Sites Luiseno Native American Monitor was present during the RECON cultural study site reconnaissance.

Due to the presence of other known tribal resources in the project area, the potential for unknown subsurface tribal resources was addressed during consultation. This included an evaluation of the subsurface conditions and project's subsurface impacts. Project construction activities would not reach native soils and would be limited to previously deposited, engineered, fill soils. Grading for building footings would be a maximum of 5 feet deep, the storm drain would be installed a maximum of 9 feet deep, the water line would be a maximum of 4 feet deep and the sewer line a maximum of 8 feet deep. With these subsurface conditions

considered and the tribal resources information provided by the tribes, the project would have a less than significant potential to impact a significant subsurface tribal resource.

Based on information provided by the SLR the project would not affect a tribal cultural resource listed or eligible for listing on the local of California Registrar of Historical Resources, or a significant resource pursuant to the criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 5024.1. The City of San Marcos has developed standard mitigation measures CR-1 through CR-7 via the tribal consultation process to reduce potential impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources. Implementation of mitigation measures CR-1 through CR-3 would require an archaeological monitor and a TCA Native American Tribe monitor be present during earth moving and grading activities to assure that any resources found during project grading be protected. Therefore, impacts to tribal cultural resources would be less than significant with the incorporation of mitigation.

4.19 Utilities and Service Systems

Would the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provided 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulation related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a. Less than Significant Impact

The VWD is responsible for disposal of treated wastewater. The RWQCB regulates the treatment of wastewater at treatment plants and the discharge of the treated wastewater into receiving waters. The VWD is responsible for adhering to RWQCB regulations as they apply to wastewater generated by the any project. The VWD facilities have been designed to treat typical wastewater flows from different land uses within their service area, and complies with all permits and state and federal water quality based standards.

The project would not require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities that could cause significant environmental effects. All private water facilities on-site would be designed and constructed in accordance with the requirements of the California Uniform Plumbing Code and would connect to existing water lines in adjacent roadways. All public water facilities including services and meters would be designed and constructed in accordance with current City Water Facility Design Guidelines and regulations. Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

b. Less than Significant Impact

The VWD 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) serves as the water resources planning document for the City's residents, businesses, interest groups, and public officials. The UWMP assess the current and future water supply and needs for the City. Implementation of the project would not result in new or expanded water entitlements from the water service provider, as the project is consistent with existing demand projections contained in the UWMP (which are based on the allowed land uses for the project site, in this case, commercial). The VWD water supply is currently purchased from the San Diego County Water Authority, which makes up 100 percent of the water supply (VWD 2015). As identified in the 2015 UWMP, the VWD anticipates generating additional water supply from desalinated seawater through a Water Purchase Agreement with the San Diego County Water Authority, from existing reservoirs, and from recycled water from the Meadowlark

Water Recycling Facility and/or the City of Escondido by the year 2020. Therefore, the project would not require new or expanded entitlements. Impacts would be less than significant.

c. Less than Significant Impact

VWD utilizes two wastewater treatment facilities to treat wastewater collected within its sewer service area. The Meadowlark Reclamation Facility (MRF) has liquids treatment capacity of up to 5.0 million gallons per day (mgd) with a peak wet weather capacity of 8.0 mgd. MRF does not have solids treatment capacity and, therefore, all solids are treated at the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility (EWPCF). EWPCF is located in the city of Carlsbad, and is a regional facility with treatment capacity of up to 40.51 mgd.

Due to the construction of the proposed administrative office building, the project would increase the demand for wastewater treatment as well as land outfall capacity. The project would pay Wastewater Capital Facility Fees per VWD Ordinance No. 176. These fees would be used by VWD to help fund the expansion and/or construction of wastewater treatment facilities to handle increased wastewater quantities and also the expansion of land outfall facilities. VWD considers payment of these fees as mitigation for the increase in treatment need. Therefore, the project would not result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments. Impacts would be less than significant.

d. Less than Significant Impact

The project would generate solid waste from the future office uses. Solid waste service in the city is provided by a private franchise hauler, EDCO Waste and Recycling (EDCO), which handles all residential, commercial, and industrial collections within the city. Waste collected by EDCO is hauled to the Escondido Resources Recovery Transfer Station where it is then transported to the Sycamore Sanitary Landfill in Santee. According to CalRecycle, the Escondido Resources Recovery Transfer Station has a permitted throughput of 3,223 tons per day, with a permitted capacity of 8,743 tons/day (CalRecycle 2018a). According to CalRecycle, the Sycamore Sanitary Landfill has a daily permitted capacity of 5,000 tons/day of solid waste, with a remaining capacity of 113,972,637 cubic yards with an anticipated closure date of 2042 (CalRecycle 2018b).

CalRecycle provides solid waste generation rates for various types of land uses. Construction debris would be generated by the project. Construction debris recycling is available through EDCO. Negligible solid waste generation is anticipated during project construction. Based on the most current solid waste generation rate for office land uses from CalRecycle of 6 pounds/1000 square feet/day, the project is expected to generate approximately 198 pounds/day of solid waste during operation (CalRecycle 2018c). This does not consider any waste diversion through recycling. The City is currently exceeding their waste reduction targets. According to CalRecycle, the City has a disposal rate target of 8.9 pounds/person/day. If the City meets this target, the City is considered in compliance with the 50 percent diversion requirement of AB 939. The most recent data from CalRecycle identifies the annual per capita disposal rate is 8.9 pounds/person/day and 11.4 pounds/employee/day (CalRecycle 2016). Thus, the City is meeting their current targets for diversion. Assuming a 50 percent

diversion rate, to be conservative, the anticipated solid waste generated by the proposed project during operation would be reduced to approximately 99 pounds/day. With consideration of the diversion rate, the proposed project's solid waste generation during operation can be accommodated at the landfill based upon the available daily permitted capacity. Impacts would be less than significant.

e. Less than Significant Impact

All solid waste facilities, including landfills, require solid waste facility permits to operate in San Diego County. Public Resources Code (Sections 44001-44018) and California Code of Regulations Title 27, Division 2, Subdivision 1, Chapter 4 (Section 21440 et seq.) authorizes the County Department of Environmental Health, Local Enforcement Agency to issue solid waste facility permits. Sycamore Sanitary Landfill is a permitted facility and EDCO is a licensed hauler. Waste associated with construction and operation of the proposed project would be disposed of properly via the Escondido Transfer Station managed by EDCO and the Sycamore Sanitary Landfill. The project would comply with existing regulations related to solid waste disposal. Additionally, the project would comply with the City's General Plan policies designed to reduce impacts to solid waste facilities, including Policy COS-10.1, Policy COS-10.2, and Policy COS-10.3. As the project would comply with all federal, state, and City statutes and regulations related to solid waste, including proper handling of construction debris, impacts would be less than significant.

4.20 Wildfire

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

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate	☐	☐	☒	☐

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a. Less than Significant Impact

Refer to Section 4.9(f). Impacts would be less than significant.

b, c, d. Less than Significant Impact

As discussed in Section 4.9, Figure 6-4 in the City's General Plan (City of San Marcos 2013) shows that the project site is located within a "High" SMFPD Community Hazard Zone. In an effort to reduce the threat posed by wildland fire events, the SMFD completed a comprehensive assessment of WUI fire hazards and prepared a CWPP and HRA for the San Marcos community and unincorporated areas in the SMFPD.

In accordance with the CWPP and the City Zoning Ordinance, all new development in the identified community hazard areas requires a Fuel Management Plan. This includes clearing and maintaining defensible space of 100 to 150 feet around structures, depending on the structure and vegetation type. Brush management is required to be undertaken in these areas where urban development interfaces with open space so that fire fuel loads and potential fire hazards can be reduced. The CWPP meets the requirements of the federal HFRA of 2003 for community fire planning.

In addition, the project site is relatively flat, is currently developed and is surrounded by commercial and residential development. Implementation of required regulations in the CWPP and City Zoning Ordinance paired with the project site conditions would reduce any impacts involving wildfire to less than significant.

4.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Does the project:

Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable futures projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

EXPLANATIONS:

a. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

Implementation of the project has the potential to result in significant impacts to biological resources and cultural resources. Given the implementation of the recommended mitigation

measures, potential impacts would be mitigated to a less than significant level. The project does not include a component with the potential to otherwise degrade the quality of the environment or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b. Less than Significant Impact

The project's contribution to cumulative impacts would be less than significant. Impacts from project construction would not contribute to cumulatively considerable impacts due to the short-term nature of construction, the localized footprint of project construction, and the lack of other projects in the immediate vicinity of the project that would contribute cumulative impacts.

c. Less than Significant Impact

The project would be required to adhere to all applicable codes and regulations. Therefore, direct or indirect impacts on humans resulting from the proposed project would be less than significant.

5.0 Determination and Preparers

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE FEE DETERMINATION

(Fish and Game Code Section 711.4, Statutes of 2006 – SB 1535)

[X] It is hereby found that this project involves no potential for any adverse effect, either individual or cumulatively, on wildlife resources and that a "Certificate of Fee Exemption" shall be prepared for this project.

[ ] It is hereby found that this project could potentially impact wildlife, individually or cumulatively, and therefore, fees in accordance with Section 711.4(d) of the Fish and Game Code shall be paid to the County Clerk.

Report Preparers

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6.0 Sources Consulted

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APPENDICES

Under Separate Cover