



**MURRIETA CREEK MULTI-USE TRAIL  
CITY PROJECT NO. Z10057**

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW NO. 2021-0003  
(INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION)**

Prepared By:

**CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE**

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Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

Environmental Consultant:

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**December 2021**

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# I. INTRODUCTION

## A. PURPOSE

This document is an Initial Study for evaluation of environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the Murrieta Creek Trail Multi-Use Trail project. For purposes of this document, this application will be called the “proposed project” or “project.”

## B. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

As defined by Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, an **Initial Study** is prepared primarily to provide the Lead Agency with information to use as the basis for determining whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration would be appropriate for providing the necessary environmental documentation and clearance for any proposed project.

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15065, an **EIR** is deemed appropriate for a particular proposal if the following conditions occur:

- The project has 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 an endangered, rare or threatened species; or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- The project has the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- The project has possible environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
- The environmental effects of a project will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

According to CEQA Section 21080(c)(1) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(a), a **Negative Declaration** can be adopted if it can be determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

According to CEQA Section 21080(c)(2) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b), a **Mitigated Negative Declaration** can be adopted if it is determined that although the **Initial Study** identifies that the project may have potentially significant effects on the environment, revisions in the project plans and/or mitigation measures, which would avoid or mitigate the effects to below the level of significance, have been made or agreed to by the applicant.

This Initial Study has determined that the proposed project may result in potentially significant environmental effects but said effects can be reduced to below the level of significance through the implementation of mitigation measures and, therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration is deemed the appropriate document to provide the necessary environmental evaluations and clearance.

This Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration are prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 *et seq.*); the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA Guidelines”), as

amended (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000, *et seq.*); applicable requirements of the City of Lake Elsinore; and the regulations, requirements, and procedures of any other responsible public agency or agency with jurisdiction by law.

The City of Lake Elsinore is designated the Lead Agency, in accordance with Section 15050 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Lead Agency is the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project which may have significant effects upon the environment.

### **C. INTENDED USES OF INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

This Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration are informational documents which are intended to inform the City of Lake Elsinore decision-makers, other responsible or interested agencies, and the general public of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The environmental review process has been established to enable public agencies to evaluate environmental consequences and to examine and implement methods of eliminating or reducing any potentially adverse impacts. While CEQA requires that consideration be given to avoiding environmental damage, the Lead Agency and other responsible agencies must balance adverse environmental effects against other public objectives, including economic and social goals (CEQA Guidelines Section 15021).

The City of Lake Elsinore City Council, as Lead Agency, has determined that environmental clearance for the proposed project can be provided with a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Initial Study and Notice of Availability and Intent to Adopt prepared for the Mitigated Negative Declaration will be circulated for a period of 30 days for public and agency review. Comments received on the document will be considered by the Lead Agency before it acts on the proposed project.

### **D. CONTENTS OF INITIAL STUDY**

This Initial Study is organized to facilitate a basic understanding of the existing setting and environmental implications of the proposed project.

**I. INTRODUCTION** presents an introduction to the entire report. This section identifies City of Lake Elsinore contact persons involved in the process, scope of environmental review, environmental procedures, and incorporation by reference documents.

**II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION** describes the proposed project. A description of discretionary approvals and permits required for project implementation is also included.

**III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM** contains the City's Environmental Checklist Form. The checklist form presents results of the environmental evaluation for the proposed project and those areas that would have either a potentially significant impact, a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated, a less than significant impact, or no impact.

**IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS** provides the background analysis supporting each response provided in the environmental checklist form. Each response checked in the checklist form is discussed and supported with sufficient data and analysis. As appropriate, each response discussion describes and identifies specific impacts anticipated with project implementation. In this section, mitigation measures are also set forth, as appropriate, that would reduce potentially significant adverse impacts to levels of less than significance.

**V. MANDATORY FINDINGS** presents the background analysis supporting each response provided in the environmental checklist form for the Mandatory Findings of Significance set forth in Section 21083(b) of CEQA and Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines.

**VI. PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED** identifies those individuals consulted and involved in the preparation of this Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

**VII. REFERENCES** lists bibliographical materials used in preparation of this document.

## **E. SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

For evaluation of environmental impacts, each question from the Environmental Checklist Form is stated and responses are provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of the Initial Study. All responses will consider the whole action involved, including offsite as well as onsite, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts. Project impacts and effects will be evaluated and quantified, when appropriate. To each question, there are four possible responses, including:

1. **No Impact:** A “No Impact” response is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to the proposed project. A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. **Less Than Significant Impact:** Development associated with project implementation will have the potential to impact the environment. These impacts, however, will be less than the levels of thresholds that are considered significant and no additional analysis is required.
3. **Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated:** This applies where 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.
4. **Potentially Significant Impact:** There is substantial evidence that the proposed project may have impacts that are considered potentially significant and an EIR is required.

## **F. TIERED DOCUMENTS, INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE, AND TECHNICAL STUDIES**

Information, findings, and conclusions contained in this document are based on the incorporation by reference of tiered documentation and technical studies that have been prepared for the project which are discussed in the following section.

### **1. Tiered Documents**

As permitted in CEQA Guidelines Section 15152(a) the analysis of general matters contained in a broader EIR (such as one prepared for a general plan or policy statement) with later EIRs and negative declarations on narrower projects; incorporating by reference the general discussions from the broader EIR; and concentrating the later EIR or negative declaration solely on the issues specific to the later project.

Tiering is defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15385 as follows:

“Tiering” refers to the coverage of general matters in broader EIRs (such as on general plans or policy statements) with subsequent narrower EIRs or ultimately site-specific EIRs incorporating by reference the general discussions and concentrating solely on the issues specific to the EIR subsequently prepared. Tiering is appropriate when the sequence of EIRs is:

- (a) From a general plan, policy, or program EIR to a program, plan, or policy EIR of lesser scope or to a site-specific EIR;
- (b) From an EIR on a specific action at an early stage to a subsequent EIR or a supplement to an EIR at a later stage. Tiering in such cases is appropriate when it helps the Lead Agency to focus on the issues which are ripe for decision and exclude from consideration issues already decided or not yet ripe.

Tiering also allows this document to comply with Section 15152(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, which discourages repetitive analyses, as follows:

“Agencies are encouraged to tier the environmental analyses which they prepare for separate but related projects including general plans, zoning changes, and development projects. This approach can eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues and focus the later EIR or negative declaration on the actual issues ripe for decision at each level of environmental review. Tiering is appropriate when the sequence of analysis is from an EIR prepared for a general plan, policy or program to an EIR or negative declaration for another plan, policy, or program of lesser scope, or to a site-specific EIR or negative declaration.”

Further, Section 15152(d) of the CEQA Guidelines states:

“Where an EIR has been prepared and certified for a program, plan, policy, or ordinance consistent with the requirements of this section, any lead agency for a later project pursuant to or consistent with the program, plan, policy, or ordinance should limit the EIR or negative declaration on the later project to effects which:

- (1) Were not examined as significant effects on the environment in the prior EIR; or
- (2) Are susceptible to substantial reduction or avoidance by the choice of specific revisions in the project, by the imposition of conditions or other means.”

For this document, the “City of Lake Elsinore General Plan Update Final Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report” certified December 13, 2011 (SCH #2005121019) serves as the broader document, since it analyzes the entire City area, which includes the proposed project site. However, as discussed, site-specific impacts, which the broader document (City of Lake Elsinore General Plan Update Final Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report) cannot adequately address, may occur for certain issue areas. This document, therefore, evaluates each environmental issue alone and will rely upon the analysis contained within the Lake Elsinore General Plan Final EIR with respect to remaining issue areas.

## **2. Incorporation by Reference**

An EIR or Negative Declaration may incorporate by reference all or portions of another document which is a matter of public record or is generally available to the public. Where all or part of another document is

incorporated by reference, the incorporated language shall be considered to be set forth in full as part of the text of the EIR or Negative Declaration. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[a])

Incorporation by reference is a procedure for reducing the size of EIRs/MNDs and is most appropriate for including long, descriptive, or technical materials that provide general background information, but do not contribute directly to the specific analysis of the project itself. This procedure is particularly useful when an EIR or Negative Declaration relies on a broadly drafted EIR for its evaluation of cumulative impacts of related projects (*Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation v. County of Los Angeles* [1986, 177 Ca.3d 300]). If an EIR or Negative Declaration relies on information from a supporting study that is available to the public, the EIR or Negative Declaration cannot be deemed unsupported by evidence or analysis (*San Francisco Ecology Center v. City and County of San Francisco* [1975, 48 Ca.3d 584, 595]).

When an EIR or Negative Declaration incorporates a document by reference, the incorporation must comply with CEQA Guidelines Section 15150 as follows:

- Where part of another document is incorporated by reference, such other document shall be made available to the public for inspection at a public place or public building. The EIR or Negative Declaration shall state where the incorporated documents will be available for inspection. At a minimum, the incorporated document shall be made available to the public in an office of the Lead Agency. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[b]).
- The incorporated part of the referenced document shall be briefly summarized where possible or briefly described if the data or information cannot be summarized. The relationship between the incorporated part of the referenced document and the EIR shall be described. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[c]).
- This document must include the State identification number of the incorporated document (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[d]).

### **3. Documents Incorporated by Reference/Technical Studies**

a. The following document(s) is/are incorporated by reference:

- City of Lake Elsinore General Plan Update Final Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report (“General Plan EIR”) (SCH #2005121019), certified December 13, 2011. The General Plan EIR, from which this document is tiered, addresses the entire City of Lake Elsinore and provides background and inventory information and data which apply to the project site. Incorporated information and/or data will be cited in the appropriate sections.
- City of Lake Elsinore Final Environmental Impact Report for the East Lake Specific Plan Amendment No. 11 (“East Lake Specific Plan FEIR”) (SCH # 2016111029) certified November 29, 2017. The East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, from which this document is incorporated by reference, addresses the East Lake District within the East Lake Specific Plan Area in the City of Lake Elsinore and provides background and inventory information and data which apply to the project site. Incorporated information and/or data will be cited in the appropriate sections.

b. Various technical reports have been prepared to assess specific issues that may result from the construction and operation of the proposed project. As relevant, information from these technical reports has been incorporated into the Initial Study. The following technical reports are included as appendices to this Initial Study:

- Appendix A: *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Analysis for the Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project* prepared by HELIX Environmental, Inc. (HELIX), August 31, 2021
- Appendix B: *Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Consistency Analysis*, prepared by HELIX, September 2021
- Appendix C: *Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Archaeological Survey Report*, prepared by HELIX, June 2021.
- Appendix D: *Initial Site Assessment for the Lake Elsinore Murrieta Creek Trail Multi-Use Trail Project*, prepared by Ninyo & Moore, June 27, 2020.
- Appendix E: *Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project Noise Analysis*, prepared by HELIX, August 31, 2021

c. The above-listed documents and technical studies are available for review at:

City of Lake Elsinore  
Planning Division  
130 S. Main Street  
Lake Elsinore, California 92530

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Closed Holidays

## II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### A. PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

The project is located in the East Lake District in the southern portion of the City of Lake Elsinore (City), in the western portion of Riverside County (see Figure 1, *Regional Location*). The East Lake District is north of the City's jurisdictional boundary with the City of Wildomar, south and east of the Lake Elsinore; and west of Interstate 15 (I-15). More specifically, the project site is located between the northern terminus of Skylark Drive and Stoneman Street and along Como Street to the existing Levee Trail (Figure 2, *Project Location and Alignment*). The project is within unsectioned lands of Township 6 South, Range 4 West of the Lake Elsinore, California U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic survey quadrangle and occurs within Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 371-100-020, 371-100-003, 370-120-001, and 370-120-063.

The project site is generally characterized by undeveloped land that is traversed by dirt roads and paths. The eastern portion of the site occurs within a sewer easement. Vegetation within and surrounding the alignment consist mainly of non-native species including weedy forbs, tamarisk, and eucalyptus, as well as disturbed habitat. Small pockets of native or naturalized vegetation communities occur at the west end and scattered along the eastern half of the proposed trail. These areas include stands of Riversidean sage scrub, mixed chaparral, and riparian scrub and woodland. The site slopes slightly north/northwest ranging in elevation from 1,255 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) to 1,280 AMSL.

Surrounding land uses and features include Lake Elsinore to the northwest, Serenity Park and the City of Wildomar to the southeast, residential neighborhoods that were constructed in the early 2000s to the south and east, and open space and undeveloped land to the west. Additional uses in the vicinity include Lake Elsinore Motorsports Park, Skylark Field, and Skydive Lake Elsinore to the north and Lakeland Village Elementary School to the south. Rome Hill, a prominent natural feature in the project area, is situated south of the site and rises to an elevation of 1,450 feet AMSL.

The project site is also located in the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan's Back Basin, a 32.3-acre area that is generally located in the southern portions of the City, south and east of the Lake Elsinore water body and west of I-15, in western Riverside County. The Back Basin ranges in elevations from approximately 1,250 feet AMSL to approximately 1,450 feet AMSL. Vegetation communities within the Back Basin include developed land, Diegan coastal sage scrub (including disturbed), disturbed habitat, freshwater marsh, eucalyptus woodland, open water, non-native grassland, non-native vegetation, riparian woodland (including disturbed), and tamarisk scrub. The predominate communities are disturbed habitat and non-native grassland, both of which are dominated by weedy, broadleaved, non-native species.

### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project entails construction of a regional multi-use trail (trail) that would include safety improvements for non-motorists, safety fences, pedestrian lights, and lake and mountain viewpoints along the trail as discussed in further detail below.

The trail would extend in a northwest-southeast alignment between Skylark Drive and Stoneman Street adjacent to, and north of an existing residential neighborhood. At Stoneman Street, the trail would turn to the northeast and continue along the undeveloped road right-of-way for approximately 1,300 feet and then turn to the northwest within the undeveloped road right-of-way of future Como Street for approximately 1,300 feet. From there, the trail would turn to the southwest for approximately 1,000 feet and then approximately 750 feet to the west where it would connect with the existing Levee Trail (refer to Figure 2) The trail has been specifically sited within existing disturbed and developed land to the maximum extent to avoid sensitive biological resources.

The proposed trail would be ten feet wide with two-foot-wide shoulders on each side of the trail. The surface of the trail would consist of asphalt over Class II aggregate base. The shoulders would be surfaced with decomposed granite (DG). Wood post fencing would be installed on both sides of the trail. The fencing would be weathered split rail cedar plank with some variation in height but generally at a height of four and a half feet.

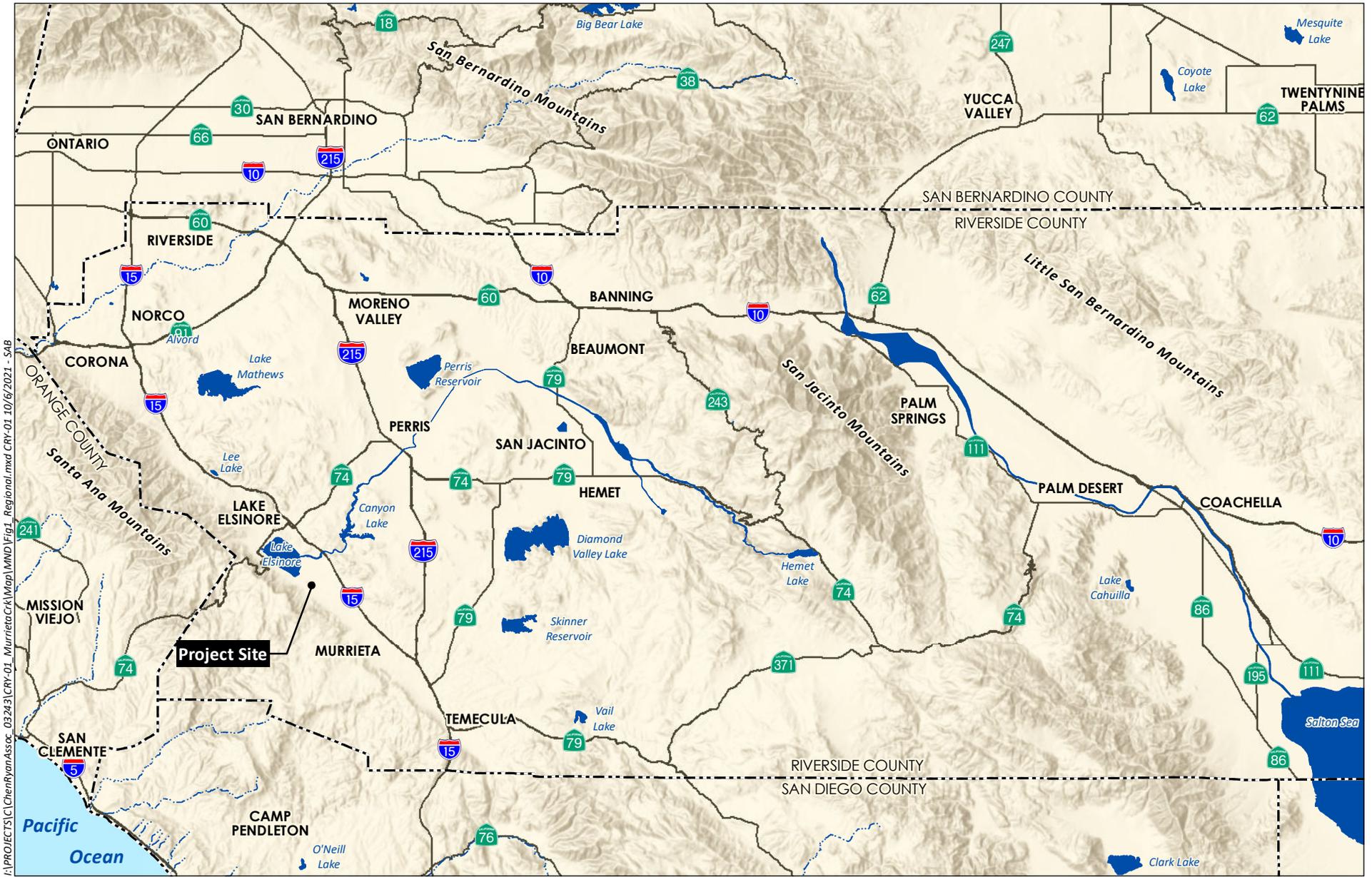
Arizona crossings, a span bridge, and a pipe culvert replacement and extension are proposed to cross existing ephemeral drainage features that intercept the trail. The Arizona crossings are proposed in the western portion of the trail alignment and would consist of a concrete apron across the trail with a rip-rap splash pad to allow water to pass over the trail and continue to drain to the north. The span bridge would be located north of the Ontario Way terminus and would be constructed either as cast-in-place concrete abutments spanned by hollow-core precast concrete planks, or an alternate clear span design such as open bottom arch culverts. The bridge would be approximately 55 feet long and would completely span the ephemeral drainage. An existing culvert located at the eastern end of the trail north of Oak Knoll Lane and within a drainage easement would be replaced and extended under the trail and outfall into the drainage to the north. Other proposed drainage features include geotextile-lined swales at various points along the trail to capture and filter runoff.

One retaining wall is proposed at the western extent of the trail near the connection with the Levee Trail. The retaining wall would be constructed on the southern side of the trail to reduce the grading footprint and would extend for approximately 110 feet with a maximum exposed height of six feet.

In addition to the trail, bollards, signage, and trash receptacles are planned at public access points located at the Levee Trail connection, Stoneman Street, and Skylark Drive. The bollards would deter vehicle access and the signs would be provided for wayfinding and for notifying users to stay on the trail, prohibiting littering, asking people to report littering, prohibiting feeding of all wildlife, and requiring that pets be on leash. Interpretive signage may also be provided highlighting biological and cultural information pertinent to the project area. Trash receptacles would include covered trash and recycling bins kept at planned public access points. Additionally, kiosks would be provided at the trailheads at the west and east access points and also at Stoneman Street.

For the safety of trail users and the surrounding community, solar powered pedestrian lighting and access gates are anticipated to be provided at select locations along the trail alignment. Lighting would be on approximately 15-foot-tall poles and would be shielded and directed downward and away from adjacent habitat, as required. Access gates would be provided at locations to allow emergency and maintenance vehicles safe access to the trail. The access would be restricted only to emergency and maintenance activities and the gates would be locked at all other times.

The anticipated construction duration would be approximately ten months and would require a total of approximately 1,000 cubic yards of asphalt (consisting of 240 cubic yards (cy) of hot mix asphalt, 480 cy of Class II aggregate base, and 280 cy of DG) imported to the site. Earthwork would include approximately 1,534 cy of cut and 1,370 cy of fill, resulting in export of 154 cy. Cut and fill slopes would be a maximum 2:1 gradient (i.e., two feet horizontal to one foot vertical). Temporary construction access would be provided via existing paved roadways, the Levee Trail, and within the temporary impact area. Temporary construction staging areas would also be located on-site or off-site within existing disturbed and developed areas. Temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-construction contours and revegetated with native species.



F:\PROJECTS\Chen\Ryan\Assoc\_03\243\CRY-01\_MurrietaCkTrail\MND\Fig1\_Regional.mxd CRY-01 10/16/2021 - SAB

Source: Base Map Layers (ESRI, 2013)



I:\PROJECTS\IC\ChenRyanAssoc\_03243\CRY-01\_MurrietaCRA\Map\MND\Fig2\_Aerial.mxd 03243.00001.001 10/6/2021 - SAB

Source: Aerial (Riverside County 2019)



### III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

#### A. BACKGROUND

1. **Project Title:** Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** City of Lake Elsinore, 130 South Main Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Yu Tagai, P.E. Associate Engineer 951-674-3124 ext. 246
4. **Project Location:** Approximately one linear mile alignment commencing at Skylark Drive and terminating at the Lake Elsinore Levee Trail (See Figure 2, *Project Location and Alignment*)
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** City of Lake Elsinore, Engineering Department  
130 S. Main Street, Lake Elsinore, California 92530
6. **General Plan Designation:** Specific Plan (East Lake Specific Plan designations of “Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation Area” and “Active Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Transitional Area”)
7. **Zoning:** Specific Plan
8. **Description of Project:** See project description in Section II.B, *Project Description*, above.
9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** See project location and setting in Section II.A, *Project Location and Setting*, above.
10. **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:** The project would be required to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction of Land Disturbance Activities (State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB] Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, NPDES No. CA2000002), in addition to related City requirements for storm water and erosion control; Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Joint Project Review.
11. **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, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?**

In accordance with the requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 52, the City sent notification to Native American Tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area on June 25, 2020. Of the tribes notified, the Pechanga, Soboba, and Rincon Bands of Luiseno Indians requested formal government-to-government consultation under AB 52. Consultation was concluded on October 21, 2021 with these tribes. Mitigation measures have been added to address a concern over the potential for uncovering tribal cultural resources (TCRs) or other tribal-affiliated resources during construction of the project. Please see Section XVIII of the Initial Study Environmental Checklist for more detail.

**B. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

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

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

**C. DETERMINATION**

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

*Richard J. MacHott*  
Richard J. MacHott, LEED Green Associate, Planning Manager

12.3.2021  
Date

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</b>				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest uses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:</b>				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VI. ENERGY. Would the project:</b>				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:</b>				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:</b>				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:</b>				
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 other applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:</b>				
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:</b>				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public services/facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XVI. RECREATION.</b>				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:</b>				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:</b>				
a) 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).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 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 Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:</b>				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XX. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:</b>				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
a) Does the project 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This section provides an evaluation of the impact categories and questions contained in the Environmental Checklist. A complete list of the reference sources applicable to the following source abbreviations is contained in Section VII, References, of this document.

### I. AESTHETICS

#### a) **Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The City's aesthetic setting is characterized by urbanized development of various densities occurring within varied topographical features and interspersed with undeveloped natural areas. Scenic resources within and surrounding the City include Lake Elsinore, portions of the Cleveland National Forest, rugged hillside land, distant mountains and ridgelines, rocky outcroppings, streams, vacant land with native vegetation, parkland, and buildings of historical and cultural significance.

The City of Lake Elsinore General Plan (General Plan) identifies landscaped viewshed units of scenic vistas that include the lake, urban areas around the lake, and the rugged vacant hills in the northern and eastern portion of the City. Specifically, the City is comprised of 15 landscape viewshed units as indicated on General Plan Figure 4.9, *Landscape Viewshed Units* (City 2011). Each of these units have distinct viewsheds defined by man-made structures and physiographical features such as landform, water, or cultural features, tourism, commercial and recreation, and related uses and an open space buffer. The project site is within the southeastern portion of viewshed unit 14, that encompasses Lake Elsinore and the surrounding floodplain. The General Plan describes this area as undeveloped land that is interspersed with older housing and newer subdivisions with the mountains on the southwest shore that rise up to provide a backdrop for the lake.

Additionally, recognizing that the visual character of the City is dominated by Lake Elsinore, the General Plan further identifies key public vantage points of the lake throughout the City. No vantage points are identified along the proposed alignment of the trail, and the nearest vantage point is approximately two miles to the east/northeast at a baseball field near the lake inlet. Given the flat topography within this portion of Lake Elsinore, there is the potential for development within the project area to affect views from this vantage point. The General Plan EIR identifies that views from the ballpark looking south would be affected by increased development, such as residential development (City 2011).

The project site is within the East Lake District of the General Plan planning area, and the East Lake Specific Plan FEIR states that scenic vistas visible from the East Lake area include distant views of the Cleveland National Forest to the south, Santa Ana Mountains to the southwest, and the higher elevation hills to the north and east. Lake Elsinore is visible from portions of the site, but distance and elevation obscure views of the lake from much of the site (City 2017).

The project would result in changes to the visual environment both during the construction as equipment and materials would move in and out of the project site and staging areas and once operational with the placement of a permanent multi-use trail and associated features. During the anticipated ten-month construction time frame, construction equipment and materials would be visible. However, the movement of equipment and materials would be linear along the alignment, as portions of the trail are completed, and new sections are being constructed.

Ultimately the project would entail the construction and operation of a 14-foot-wide trail that would be surfaced with asphalt and edged with wood post fencing along both sides of the trail that would have some variation in height but generally rise to a height of four and a half feet. The wooden cedar posts would be

tapered, and the planks would be four feet apart in width. Wooden swinging gates would be located at certain access points. A single bridge would span an ephemeral drainage. The bridge would be approximately 55 feet long and would be a low-profile structure with either a pre-cast or a clear span design. Solar-powered pedestrian lighting would be provided at various points along the trail consisting of light standards that would extend to a height of 15 feet. In addition to the trail, bollards, signage, and trash receptacles are planned along the trail and at the public access points located at the Levee Trail connection, Stoneman Street, and Skylark Drive.

As discussed in Section I, Introduction, the trail has been sited mostly within existing dirt paths and undeveloped road right-of-way. Most of the project features would consist of surface elements with some low-profile and linear vertical elements, such as the bridge, wood post fencing, and pedestrian lighting that are designed to be non-obtrusive. The proposed retaining wall would be 110 feet long and up to six feet high but would not be at a scale that would interrupt panoramic views across this part of the City from the identified vantage points such as the ballpark. Moreover, the East Lake Specific Plan FEIR determined that development within the East Lake planning area would not result in a substantial degradation or change in character of those views when taking the substantial acreage of remaining preservation/mitigation areas and the surrounding urbanized context of the site into consideration (City 2017). Therefore, aesthetics impacts related to scenic vistas would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan, General Plan EIR, and East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

**b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

California's Scenic Highway Program was created by the legislature in 1963 to protect and enhance the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors. The State Scenic Highway System includes a list of highways that are either currently designated or eligible for designation as scenic highways. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) currently identifies both I-15 and State Route (SR) 74 as eligible for listing as state scenic highways, but they not yet officially designated. The project site is located approximately 2.25 miles east of I-15 and 3.5 miles south of SR 74. The project alignment is not visible from these eligible scenic highways, nor would project implementation affect views along these eligible scenic highways due to distance and intervening development and topography.

As discussed in Section I, Introduction, the trail has been sited mostly along an existing dirt paths and undeveloped road right-of-way. Some trees would be removed for the installation of the bridge and some areas of vegetation would be impacted during construction. Following construction, these areas would be returned to pre-construction contours and revegetated with native herbaceous and shrub species. Nonetheless, these areas are not within a state scenic highway and are not identified as protective scenic resources. There are no notable rock outcroppings or historic buildings along or adjacent to the project alignment. Therefore, impacts to scenic resources would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Site Plan, Chen Ryan Associates and List of Designated and Eligible State Scenic Highways, Caltrans)

**c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Public Resources Code 21071 defines the term “urbanized area” for the purpose of CEQA to mean an incorporated city that has a population of at least 100,000 persons or has a population of less than 100,000 persons if the population of that city and not more than two contiguous incorporated cities combined equals at least 100,000 persons. U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census Bureau) data from 2019 indicates that the City has a population of 69,283 and the adjacent City of Wildomar has a population of 37,229 (U.S. Census Bureau 2020). The project site is within an urbanized area and therefore, is evaluated relative to applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.

The project site is in a General Plan area identified as East Lake District and has a General Plan land use designation of Specific Plan. The General Plan states that each approved specific plan document governs land uses within its designated boundaries. The East Lake District is primarily governed by the approved East Lake Specific Plan, its development agreements, and amendments. The rules, regulations, and purposes of the East Lake Specific Plan coincide with the goals and policies established for the East Lake District. Particularly, the project site is geographically within Planning Area 3 of the East Lake Specific Plan area and has land use designations of “Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation Area” and “Active Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Transitional Area.” The proposed alignment that constitutes this project is depicted in Figure 3-3 of the Eastlake Specific Plan.

Chapter 4, Circulation of the East Lake Specific Plan describes the vision for Murrieta Creek Trail as:

A non-motorized, regional multi-use trail along the river linking the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore that promotes urban accessibility and connectivity, healthy lifestyles, community economics, sustainable development, community partnerships, and awareness and appreciation for the outdoors. That portion of the Murrieta Creek Trail located in the City of Lake Elsinore extends from the City’s southern boundary with the City of Wildomar at Corydon Street to the Lake Elsinore Levee Trail. Serenity Park provides a natural connector for the trail between the two cities, whether it is extended from the park’s southern boundary at the intersection of Corydon Street and Palomar Street or is aligned along the existing creek levee into the park’s northern edge. The proposed recreational multi-use trail will be approximately one mile in length and will consist of DG and be at least 15 feet wide, connecting the existing Lake Elsinore Levee Trail to Serenity Park (City 2017).

In addition, the General Plan contains the following Urban Design Goal that is specific to the East Lake District and is pertinent to visual resources within the area:

**Goal EL 2a** To preserve the open space and recreational character of the area while developing the master-planned community character according to the goals and policies of the East Lake Specific Plan and this district plan. Approximately 50 percent of the district is planned for open space and recreation. District policies require development to create a comprehensive community image that is reflected in its land use, architectural, and landscape elements.

Further, the General Plan contains the following Parks and Recreation Goal with a supporting policy that is specific to the East Lake District.

**Goal 4a** Provide an open space and recreational network visually and physically integrated to development areas and provide a balance between development and the conservation and preservation of areas with unique environmental or aesthetic value.

**Goal EL 4.1** Support the enhancement of usable recreational networks throughout the East Lake District by ensuring that connections between such community elements as open space, parks, schools, recreational facilities and the residential and commercial areas are required during the development and CEQA processes.

The project would alter and enhance the visual character of the site through the development of a multi-use trail and ancillary infrastructure including an Arizona crossing, span bridge, split rail fence, solar lighting, and landscaping along an alignment that supports an existing informal dirt path. The formalization of a public multi-use trail would allow a greater number of people to have access to views of Lake Elsinore. The multi-use trail is consistent with the Trails Plan, Figure 4-21, outlined in the East Lake Specific Plan and would provide a transition area from the residential development to the east and the open space areas to the west. Additionally, the current informal path is not routinely maintained, with project implementation, routine maintenance would occur allowing for the removal of trash and debris, thereby creating a beneficial visual impact.

Moreover, development of the project is consistent with the vision of the East Lake Specific Plan, the associated goal and policies, and would follow the design guidelines contained in the East Lake Specific Plan, which would provide for consistency and integration in visual character between suburban development and undeveloped land in the East Lake Specific Plan area. Therefore, the project would not conflict with regulations governing scenic quality, and impacts related to visual character would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: East Lake Specific Plan)

**d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

There are two primary sources of light: light emanating from building interiors that passes through windows and light from exterior sources (e.g., street lighting, parking lot lighting, building illumination, security lighting, and landscape lighting). The introduction of light can be a nuisance by affecting adjacent areas and diminishing the view of the clear sky depending on the location of the light sources and its proximity to nearby light-sensitive areas.

According to the City's General Plan, light and glare impacts to the Mount Palomar Observatory are of concern to the City. Areas of light pollution impacts have been identified through a "ring analysis," where primary impacts to the Observatory are within a 30-mile radius, and secondary impacts are within a radius of up to 45 miles. According to General Plan Figure 4.12, the project site is located within the 45-mile secondary impacts radius. The project site is currently undeveloped, with no existing on-site sources of light or glare. Existing sources of night lighting attributed to nearby residential development include streetlamps, accent and security lighting, and vehicle headlights. Development of the project would include solar-powered light standards that would be 15 feet in height to provide lighting for nighttime navigation and security. All lighting would comply with Section 17.112.040, Lighting (for Nonresidential Development), of the Lake Elsinore Municipal Code (LEMC). Section 17.112.040 that requires all outdoor lighting fixtures in excess of 60 watts to be oriented and shielded to prevent direct illumination above the

horizontal plane passing through the luminaire and prevent glare or illumination on adjacent properties or streets.

Glare generally occurs when sunlight or manufactured lighting reflects from window glazing on buildings or other reflective materials, including vehicles. The project does include the use of any reflective materials, or any land uses that would contribute to traffic or parked cars.

Based on the above considerations, the project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Potential impacts associated with light and glare would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan, General Plan EIR, LEMC)

## II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

### 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? (No Impact)

Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status; the best quality land is called Prime Farmland. Unique farmland is land, other than prime farmland, that has combined conditions to produce sustained high quality and high yields of specialty crops. Farmland of Statewide Importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by State law. In some areas that are not identified as having national or statewide importance, land is considered to be Farmland of Local Importance. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) maintained by the California Department of Conservation (CDC) is the responsible state agency for overseeing the farmland classification.

The project site is undeveloped land that is classified by the FMMP as Farmland of Local Importance (CDC 2018). The CDC defines Farmland of Local Importance as land of importance to the local economy that is either currently producing or has the capability of production; but does not meet the criteria of Prime, Statewide, or Unique Farmland. No current agricultural operations are present within the project site and current zoning and land use designations do not include agricultural uses. The site is zoned as Specific Plan and the East Lake Specific Plan identifies the intended land uses as "Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation Area" and "Active Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Transitional Area." Therefore, there would be no conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to a non-agricultural use as a result of this project. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: CDC FMMP, East Lake Specific Plan)

### b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? (No Impact)

The Williamson Act, also known as the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use; in return, landowners receive property tax assessments which are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value. The Williamson Act is only applicable to parcels within an established agricultural preserve consisting of at least 20 acres of Prime Farmland, or at least 40 acres of land not designated as

Prime Farmland. The Williamson Act is designed to prevent the premature and unnecessary conversion of open space lands and agricultural areas to urban uses.

As stated in Item II(a), the project site is in an area classified by the CDC as Farmland of Local Importance. No farmland or agricultural resources are present. The project site is zoned as Specific Plan and does not allow for agricultural land uses. Further, the City's General Plan EIR indicates that there are no Williamson Act agricultural preserves within the City boundaries. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Zoning Map, General Plan EIR)

**c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?** (No Impact)

**d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest uses?** (No Impact)

Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) defines "forest land" as land that can support ten percent native cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits. Based on this definition, no forest land occurs within or adjacent to the project site. Moreover, there is no land zoned as forest land or timberland that exists within the project site or within its vicinity. There are scattered trees throughout the site; however, there are no concentration of trees within the site that would constitute a forest. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for or cause a rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. No impacts would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Zoning Map, Public Resources Code Section 12220(g))

**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?** (No Impact)

As stated in Item II(c), there is no forest land present on the site or in the vicinity. The site has not been historically and is not currently used or planned to be used for forest land. As such, implementation of the proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Zoning Map)

### **III. AIR QUALITY**

This section is based on the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Technical Analysis prepared for the proposed project by HELIX in August 2021 (Appendix A).

**a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? (No Impact)**

The City is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). SCAQMD and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) are responsible for formulating and implementing the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the SCAB. The AQMP is a series of plans adopted for the purpose of reaching short- and long-term goals for those pollutants the SCAB is designated as a ‘nonattainment’ area because the SCAQMD does not meet federal and/or state Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS). The land use and transportation control portions of the AQMP are based on the regional growth forecasts included in SCAG’s Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which is a long-range transportation plan that uses growth forecasts to project trends over a 20-year period to identify regional transportation strategies to address mobility needs. Both the RTP/SCS and AQMP are based, in part, on projections originating with County and City General Plans. The two principal criteria for conformance to the AQMP are (1) whether a project would result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations, cause or contribute to new violations, or delay timely attainment of air quality standards; and (2) whether a project would exceed the assumptions in the AQMP.

As described below under Item III(b), pollutant emissions from the project would be less than the SCAQMD thresholds and would not result in a significant impact. Further, the project does not involve a change to a General Plan or zoning designation and, therefore, would not exceed the growth assumptions in the AQMP. As such, the project would not conflict with the AQMP, and no impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: Air Quality and GHG Technical Analysis, HELIX [Appendix A])

**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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The main purpose of an AQMP is to bring an area into compliance with the requirements of federal and State air quality standards. For a project to be consistent with the AQMP, the pollutants emitted from the project should not (1) exceed the SCAQMD CEQA air quality significance thresholds or (2) conflict with or exceed the assumptions in the AQMP. The SCAQMD has adopted significance thresholds, referred to as mass emissions thresholds, to assess the regional impact of air pollutant emissions in the SCAB. A project with emissions rates below these thresholds is considered to have a less than significant effect on air quality.

Construction of the proposed project would generate short-term criteria air pollutant emissions. The SCAQMD has adopted significance thresholds, referred to as mass emissions thresholds, to assess the regional impact of air pollutant emissions in the SCAB. An estimate of the maximum daily emissions of each criteria air pollutant during each project construction phase is presented in Table 1, *Estimated Maximum Daily Regional Construction Emissions*.

**Table 1**  
**ESTIMATED MAXIMUM DAILY REGIONAL CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS**

<b>Construction Activity</b>	<b>ROG*</b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub>*</b>	<b>CO*</b>	<b>SO<sub>x</sub>*</b>	<b>PM<sub>10</sub>*</b>	<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub>*</b>
Grubbing/Land Clearing	1.6	16.0	13.1	<0.1	8.2	2.2
Grading/Excavation	5.3	55.3	47.0	0.1	9.9	3.7
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade/Retaining Wall	3.3	31.0	30.7	<0.1	8.9	2.9
Paving	1.6	15.0	18.5	<0.1	0.8	0.7
<b>Maximum Daily Emissions</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<i>SCAQMD Regional Thresholds (Construction)</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>55</i>

Source: HELIX in 2021a

\*Pollutant Emissions (pounds per day)

Reactive organic gases (ROG); nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>x</sub>); carbon monoxide (CO); sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>x</sub>);

Particulate matter (PM) 10 and 2.5 microns in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

As shown in Table 1, criteria pollutant emissions associated with project construction would be below SCAQMD construction thresholds for all pollutants and would not conflict with the AQMP. With the exception of the infrequent operation of maintenance vehicles along the trail, the proposed trail would not be used by motorized vehicles. Negligible operational emissions would be expected that would not increase long-term air pollutant emissions in the project area and therefore, operational emissions were not modeled. Project impacts would be less than significant in relation to this issue.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: Air Quality and GHG Technical Analysis, HELIX [Appendix A])

**c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Air quality impacts are analyzed relative to those persons with the greatest sensitivity to air pollution exposure. Such persons are called “sensitive receptors.” Sensitive population groups include young children, the elderly, and the acutely and chronically ill (especially those with cardio-respiratory disease). Residential areas are considered to be sensitive to air pollution exposure because they may be occupied for extended periods, and residents may be outdoors when exposure is highest. Schools are similarly considered to be sensitive receptors. The closest existing sensitive use to the project site is the residences located east of the trail alignment.

To assess potential impacts, SCAQMD developed a localized significance threshold (LST) methodology and mass rate look-up tables by source receptor area (SRA) that can be used by public agencies to determine whether a project may generate significant adverse localized air quality impacts. LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that will not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard; they are developed based on the ambient concentrations of that pollutant for each SRA. The LST methodology translates the concentration standards into emissions thresholds that are a function of project site area, source to receptor distance (specifically, within 25, 50, 100, 200, or 500 meters), and the location within the SCAB. The LST methodology is recommended to be limited to projects of five acres or less and to avoid the need for complex dispersion modeling. If a project exceeds the LST look up values, then the SCAQMD recommends that project-specific localized air quality modeling be performed.

The project is within SRA 25, Lake Elsinore. The closest sensitive receptors are the single-family residences located adjacent to the southernmost trail alignments. Using the LST methodology, the project would have

a maximum disturbance footprint of 3.5 acres per day. Therefore, the LSTs in the SRA 25 for receptors located within 82 feet (25 meters) are used for project sites five acres or less.

Localized emissions associated with construction of the proposed project were calculated and compared to SCAQMD’s mass emissions thresholds and SCAQMD LSTs at 82 feet (25 meters), as presented in Table 2, *Estimated Maximum Daily Localized Construction Emissions*.

**Table 2  
ESTIMATED MAXIMUM DAILY LOCALIZED CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS**

<b>Construction Activity</b>	<b>ROG*</b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub>*</b>	<b>CO*</b>	<b>SO<sub>x</sub>*</b>	<b>PM<sub>10</sub>*</b>	<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub>*</b>
Grubbing/Land Clearing	1.6	15.5	12.2	<0.1	8.1	2.2
Grading/Excavation	5.1	54.7	44.0	<0.1	9.8	3.6
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade/Retaining Wall	3.1	30.5	28.6	<0.1	8.8	2.8
Paving	1.5	14.1	17.4	<0.1	0.7	0.7
<b>Maximum Daily Emissions</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<i>SCAQMD LST Thresholds (25 meters)</i>	--	371	1,965	--	13	8

Source: HELIX in 2021a

\*Pollutant Emissions (pounds per day)

Reactive organic gases (ROG); nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>x</sub>); carbon monoxide (CO); Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>x</sub>); Particulate matter (PM) 10 and 2.5 microns in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

As shown in Table 2, construction period emissions would not exceed SCAQMD thresholds for localized emissions and impacts would be less than significant. As discussed previously, because the proposed project is a non-motorized trail that would support walking and biking, it would not increase long-term air pollutant emissions in the project area, and therefore operational emissions were not modeled.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: Air Quality and GHG Technical Analysis, HELIX [Appendix A])

**d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The State of California Health and Safety Code Sections 41700 and 41705 prohibit emissions from any source whatsoever in such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to the public health or damage to property. The project could produce odors during proposed construction activities resulting from construction equipment exhaust, application of asphalt, and/or the application of architectural coatings. However, standard construction practices would minimize the odor emissions and their associated impacts. Furthermore, odors emitted during construction would be temporary, short-term, and intermittent in nature, would disperse rapidly beyond the project site, and would cease upon the completion of the respective phase of construction.

The California Air Quality Resources Board (CARB) Air Quality and Land Use Handbook includes a list of the most common sources of odor complaints received by local air districts. Typical sources of odor complaints include facilities such as sewage treatment plants, landfills, recycling facilities, petroleum refineries, and livestock operations (CARB 2005).

Project construction (specifically, the use of diesel construction equipment and vehicles) could generate odors associated with fuel combustion. However, these odors would dissipate into the atmosphere upon release, and would only temporarily remain in proximity to the construction equipment and vehicles. Potential odors would be temporary and localized within the immediate project vicinity. Such temporary

odors may be detectable by a limited number of nearby residents. In addition, operation of the project would not generate objectionable odors, as fuel combustion would only occur through equipment used for occasional maintenance. Therefore, the proposed project would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. This impact is less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: CARB Air Quality and Land Use Handbook)

#### IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Consistency Analysis was prepared for the project by HELIX (Appendix B) to determine the presence/absence of biological resources within the project study area and evaluate the project's consistency with the adopted Western Riverside County MSHCP objectives for the project area. The analysis presented below is based on the findings of this report.

**a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

HELIX completed a general biological survey, habitat assessment, and surveys for special status plant and animal species that were determined to have potential to occur within the study area. The general biological survey and habitat assessment were conducted in April and May 2020. Rare plant surveys were conducted in April, May, and June 2020, as well as in May 2021. A habitat assessment and focused surveys for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) were conducted between April 30, 2020 and August 30, 2020. Focused surveys for the federally listed fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus* sp.), which included dry season sampling on December 23, 2020 and wet season surveys between December 30, 2020 and April 14, 2021. Prior to conducting field surveys, a search of regulatory agency databases was conducted for information regarding sensitive species known to occur within the project area.

The MSHCP Consistency Analysis evaluated the likelihood of project-related impacts to sensitive plant and wildlife species in the project vicinity. A complete list of plant and animal species observed in the project vicinity is included in the MSHCP Consistency Analysis (Appendix B). A summary of the status of sensitive species within the project site and vicinity, as well as potential impacts to these species, is presented below.

##### **Sensitive Plant Species**

Sensitive plant species are those listed as federally threatened or endangered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); state listed as threatened or endangered or considered sensitive by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); included in the MSHCP as Covered Species, Non-Covered Species, Criteria Area Species, and/or Narrow Endemic Plant Species; and/or are California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1A, 1B, or 2 species, as recognized in the CNPS' Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California and consistent with the CEQA Guidelines.

One special plant species, smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*), which has a CRPR of 1B.1 (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously threatened in California), is present in the southern portion of the project alignment. The project is anticipated to result in the permanent loss of approximately 50 individuals of smooth tarplant of the thousands of onsite individual plants. The trail was re-routed to avoid the concentration to the maximum extent practicable while maintaining required

geometries, but unavoidable impacts would occur at the edge of the concentration where individuals are growing in areas that appear to be routinely disced for fuel modification.

The impact is estimated at less than five percent of the on-site population, with greater than 95 percent of the on-site population being avoided. Otay tarplant is known from multiple locations in the Lake Elsinore area and the on-site population does not represent a critical population essential for the species' long-term survival. As mentioned, the concentration appears to be associated with areas that are routinely disced for fuel modification to protect the residential homes to the south. Project impacts of less than five percent of the on-site population that is growing within a fuel modification zone would be considered less than significant. To further reduce the impact, temporary impact areas would be revegetated using a native seed mix that contains smooth tarplant, as applicable and pursuant to mitigation measure BIO-1.

### **Sensitive Animal Species**

Sensitive animal species are those listed as threatened or endangered, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing by the USFWS; considered sensitive animals by the CDFW; and/or included in the MSHCP as Covered Species, Non-Covered Species, and/or Criteria Area Species. Sensitive animal species with potential to occur on site as identified in the MSHCP or observed during biological surveys are discussed below.

#### *Burrowing Owl*

The project site is located within the MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey Area, which requires a habitat assessment and/or presence/absence surveys for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) at the project site. An initial habitat assessment survey was completed in April 2020 that confirmed the presence of suitable burrowing owl habitat and the need to conduct focused burrow and burrowing owl surveys. Surveys were conducted May through August 2020. No burrowing owls or signs of burrowing owls (i.e., feathers, scat, pellets, and beetle carapace debris) were detected in the study area during any of the surveys. Burrows were observed in the survey area, but only two were found with potential to support burrowing owls and no sign of burrowing owl occupation was detected within these burrows. Therefore, no impacts to this sensitive species are expected.

Regardless, the MSHCP requires pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls for all properties that contain suitable burrowing owl habitat. Further, the MSHCP survey instructions state that a pre-construction survey is to take place within 30 days prior to disturbance of the property regardless if owls were found or not. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed more than 30 days after the pre-construction survey has been completed, the survey area must be resurveyed. To further minimize the potential for impacts to burrowing owl, the pre-construction survey as required by the MSHCP would be conducted pursuant to mitigation measure BIO-2.

#### *Least Bell's Vireo*

The study area was assessed for habitat that could support sensitive riparian bird species, including the federally and state listed endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). Least Bell's vireo were detected within the riparian woodland on the eastern portion of the trail alignment by HELIX in 2020. Other incidental observations of this listed sensitive species have been recorded by others in this area.

Direct impacts to suitable habitat for riparian birds, including least Bell's vireo, are largely being avoided by the project design; however, impacts to 0.05 acre (0.01 acre permanent and 0.04 acre temporary) would occur during project construction. The project would further be constructed within 500 feet of suitable vireo

nesting habitat, Therefore, potentially significant direct (through habitat modification) and indirect (construction noise) impacts to least Bell's vireo could occur.

Indirect construction noise impacts to least Bell's vireo and other riparian birds would be reduced to below a level of significance through implementation of mitigation measure BIO-3. Direct impacts due to habitat modification would be reduced to below a level of significance through implementation of mitigation measure BIO-4, as discussed in Item IV(b).

### *Fairy Shrimp*

A total of 11 vernal pools consisting of basins, depressions, and tire ruts were mapped in the project area. Dry season sampling and wet season surveys were conducted in these pools in 2020 and 2021. Although common fairy shrimp species (*Branchinecta* sp.) were detected, no federally listed fairy shrimp species (*Streptacephalus* sp.) were identified within the 11 sampled pools. Therefore, no impacts to listed fairy shrimp species would occur.

### *Nesting Birds*

The project site contains vegetation that provide potential nesting habitat for common birds, including birds and raptors protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game (CFG) Code. Construction of the project could occur during the general bird nesting season (January 15 through September 15) and therefore, could result in impacts to nesting birds in violation of the MBTA and CFG Code. Direct impacts could occur as a result of removal of vegetation or soil supporting an active nest. Indirect impacts could occur as a result of construction noise, if they supported an active nest within nearby trees or rocky areas. Impacts would be considered significant if construction occurred within 300 feet of an active passerine nest or within 500 feet of an active raptor nest. Implementation of mitigation measure BIO-3 would reduce impacts to less than significant.

### **Mitigation Measures:**

**BIO-1 Temporary Impact Revegetation.** Upon completion of construction activities, the City shall restore and revegetate temporary impact areas to conditions that are equivalent or superior to pre-activity conditions resulting in a functional uplift through implementation of the following:

- Removal of any remaining rooted non-native vegetation, debris, and any foreign aggregate (asphalt, concrete, etc.)
- Decompaction of the upper 4-6 inches of soil
- Pre-seeding wetting of the soil surface with a water truck
- Hydroseeding with native seed palette (to include native paniculate and smooth tarplant seed, if available), mycorrhizae, and carbon/fiber mulch mix.
- Post-seeding wetting with water truck.
- Monitoring and maintenance by biologist during 45-day plant establishment period.
- As-built report by biologist sent to the Resource Conservation Authority (RCA), USFWS, and CDFW (herein referred to as Wildlife Agencies).

**BIO-2 Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Survey and Avoidance.** Within 30 days prior to initiating ground-disturbance activities, the project applicant shall retain a qualified biologist to complete a 30-day pre-construction survey in accordance with the MSHCP. A 30-day pre-construction survey for burrowing owls is required prior to initial ground-disturbing activities (e.g., vegetation clearing, clearing and grubbing, tree removal, equipment staging, grading, site watering) to ensure that no owls have colonized the site in the days or weeks preceding the ground-disturbing activities. If burrowing owls have colonized the project site prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, the project proponent will immediately inform the RCA and the Wildlife Agencies, and as a result, will need to coordinate further with RCA and the Wildlife Agencies, including the possibility of preparing a Burrowing Owl Protection and Relocation Plan, prior to initiating ground disturbance. If the 30-day pre-construction survey is negative and burrowing owls are confirmed to be absent, then ground-disturbing activities shall be allowed to commence. If ground-disturbing activities occur, but the site is left undisturbed for more than 30 days, a pre-construction survey will again be necessary to ensure burrowing owl has not colonized the site since the time it was last disturbed. If burrowing owl is found, the same coordination described above will be necessary.

**BIO-3 Least Bell's Vireo and Nesting Bird Avoidance.** Construction activities within 500 feet of least Bell's vireo occupied habitat and/or an active raptor nest or within 300 feet of an active passerine nest shall be completed outside of the breeding season (March 15 to September 15 for least Bell's vireo and January 15 to September 15 for raptors and passerines). If construction cannot avoid the breeding season, construction noise could affect the breeding success. No loud construction noise (exceeding an hourly average of 60 dBA, or 3 dBA above hourly average ambient noise levels at the nesting site, whichever is higher) may take place within 500 feet of active nesting sites during the vireo breeding season (March 15 to September 15) or the breeding season for raptors (January 15 to September 15), or within 300 feet of active passerine nests during the breeding season (January 15 to September 15).

Noise levels may be mitigated with a noise control barrier. The use of noise control barriers is determined on a case-by-case basis subject to the approval of the Wildlife Agencies. The noise barriers may be 10 feet in height and be located between the facilities' construction operations and adjacent sensitive habitat to the east and west of the project construction site. Noise control barriers would be installed outside of the breeding season.

The barriers shall be solid and may be constructed of masonry, wood, plastic, fiberglass, steel, or a combination of those materials, with no cracks or gaps through or below the wall. Any seams or cracks should be filled or caulked. If wood is used, it can be tongue and groove or close butted seams and be at least ¾-inch thick or have a surface density of at least 3.5 pounds per square-foot. Sheet metal of 18 gauge (minimum) may be used if it meets the other criteria and is properly supported and stiffened so that it does not rattle or create noise itself from vibration or wind. Noise blankets, hoods, or covers also may be used, provided they are appropriately implemented to provide the required sound attenuation.

A qualified biologist shall monitor the construction operations. The biological monitor shall be present to monitor construction activities that occur adjacent to the undeveloped open space area potentially supporting breeding birds. The monitor shall verify that construction noise levels do not exceed the acceptable levels listed above and shall have the ability to halt construction work, if necessary, and confer with the City, and if applicable, the Wildlife Agencies, to ensure no breeding birds are adversely affected and additional protection measures are properly implemented during construction. The biologist shall report any violation to the Wildlife Agencies within 24 hours of its occurrence.

(Source: MSHCP Consistency Analysis, HELIX [Appendix B], Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project Noise Analysis, HELIX [Appendix E])

- b) **Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

Vegetation communities within the study area were mapped during the general biological survey. The study area contains a total of 11 vegetation communities/land covers, including seven riparian/riverine communities and four upland communities, as presented in Table 3, *Existing Vegetation Communities*.

**Table 3  
EXISTING VEGETATION COMMUNITIES**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>Riparian/Riverine</b>	
Arundo	0.01
Riparian Scrub (Disturbed)	0.13
Riparian Woodland (Disturbed)	1.92
Streambed	0.46
Tamarisk Scrub	4.90
Non-native Woodland (below 1,265 feet)	2.14
Disturbed/Ruderal (below 1,265 feet)	8.56
<b>Riparian/Riverine Subtotal</b>	<b>18.12</b>
<b>Upland</b>	
Non-Native Woodland	0.1
Riversidean Sage Scrub	0+.9
Disturbed Habitat	4.8
Developed	8.4
<b>Upland Subtotal</b>	<b>14.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>32.22</b>

Source: HELIX 2021b

Of these, riparian scrub, riparian woodland, and Riversidean sage scrub are considered sensitive vegetation communities. In addition, riparian/riverine communities below the 1,265-foot elevation are considered sensitive because that elevation represents the upper elevation extent of CDFW jurisdiction. As summarized in Table 4, *Impacts to Vegetation Communities*, project implementation would result in temporary and permanent impacts to these sensitive vegetation communities.

**Table 4  
IMPACTS TO VEGETATION COMMUNITIES**

<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Temporary Impacts (acres)*</b>	<b>Permanent Impacts (acres)*</b>	<b>Total Impacts (acres)*</b>
<b>Riparian/Riverine</b>			
Riparian Scrub	--	--	--
Riparian Woodland	0.10	0.05	0.15
Streambed	0.02	0.02	0.04
Arundo (below 1,265 feet)	--	--	--
Tamarisk Scrub (below 1,265 feet)	0.6	0.6	1.2
Non-native Woodland (below 1,265 feet)	0.2	0.3	0.6
Disturbed/Ruderal (below 1,265 feet)	0.8	0.9	1.8
<b>Riparian/Riverine Subtotal</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>3.79</b>
<b>Upland</b>			
Riversidean Sage Scrub	<0.1	<0.1	0.1
Non-native Woodland	<0.1	<0.1	0.1
Disturbed/Ruderal	0.7	0.7	1.4
Developed	0.3	0.6	0.9
<b>Upland Subtotal</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.82</b>	<b>3.27</b>	<b>6.29</b>

Source: HELIX 2021b  
\*Totals reflect rounding

### Temporary Impacts

Temporary impacts would occur to 0.10 acre of riparian woodland in the eastern portions of the trail as a result of placement of the free span bridge structure and storm drain culvert extension. Additional temporary impacts would occur to less than 0.1 acre of Riversidean sage scrub at the western extent of the trail near its connection with the existing Levee Trail. The remaining temporary impacts would occur to non-native habitat types (dominated by tamarisk, eucalyptus, non-native broadleaf forbs, and bare earth), as well as to unvegetated streambed and developed land. Temporary impacts would also occur to riparian/riverine and like-functioning habitat below the 1,265-foot elevation limit, including 0.02 acre of streambed along the future Stoneman Street extension, 0.6 acre of tamarisk scrub in the western portions of the trail, 0.2 acre of non-native woodland at the western end of the trail, and 0.8 acre of disturbed/ruderal.

These temporary impacts to sensitive vegetation communities and riparian/riverine communities below the 1,265-foot elevation would be considered significant and would require compensatory mitigation. Temporary impacts would be mitigated to below a level of significance with implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1 identified in Item IV(a).

### Permanent Impacts

Permanent impacts would occur to 0.05 acre of riparian woodland in the southern portions of the trail as a result of placement of the free span bridge structure and storm drain culvert extension. In addition, less than 0.1 acre of permanent impact would occur to Riversidean sage scrub at the western extent of the trail near its connection with the existing Levee Trail. The remaining permanent impacts would occur to non-native habitat types (dominated by tamarisk, non-native broadleaf forbs, and bare earth), as well as to developed land. Permanent impacts would also occur to riparian/riverine and like-functioning habitat below the 1,265-foot elevation limit, including 0.02 acre of streambed along the future Stoneman Street extension,

0.6 acre of tamarisk scrub in the western portions of the trail, 0.3 acre of non-native woodland at the western end of the trail, and 0.9 acre of disturbed/ruderal.

These permanent impacts to sensitive vegetation communities and riparian/riverine communities below the 1,265-foot elevation would be considered potentially significant and would require compensatory mitigation. Permanent impacts to sensitive vegetation communities would be mitigated to below a level of significance with implementation of mitigation measure BIO-4 below, which provides for in-kind compensation at on- and/or off-site locations in accordance with mitigation ratios approved by the RCA and Wildlife Agencies.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**BIO-1** Refer to Item IV(a)

**BIO-4 Permanent Impact Compensatory Mitigation.** Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the City shall mitigate for permanent impacts to habitat below the 1,265-foot elevation limit, including riparian/riverine and like-functioning grassland habitat, in accordance with the ratios and acreages specified below and through one or a combination of the following options:

Habitat	Permanent Impacts (Acres)	Mitigation Ratio	Total Mitigation Required
Riparian Woodland	0.05	3:1	0.15
Streambed	0.02	2:1	0.04
Tamarisk Scrub	0.6	2:1	1.2
Non-native Woodland	0.3	2:1	0.6
Disturbed/Ruderal	0.9	2:1	1.8

- Purchase of off-site re-establishment and/or rehabilitation credits from the Riverpark Mitigation Bank or alternative mitigation bank approved by the RCA and Wildlife Agencies; and/or,
- Preservation of land in perpetuity within the Lake Elsinore Back Basin or alternative location approved by the RCA and Wildlife Agencies.

(Source: MSHCP Consistency Analysis, HELIX [Appendix B])

**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? (Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated)**

A jurisdictional delineation was conducted within the study area in June 2020 to identify riparian/riverine areas and other habitat potentially under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and CDFW.

**Riparian/Riverine Areas**

Within the Back Basin of Lake Elsinore, there are generally two types of riparian/riverine areas: (1) traditional riparian/riverine habitat, such as stands of riparian trees/shrubs and unvegetated drainage features/streambed; and (2) other habitat types below the 1,265-foot elevation limit, which represents the upper elevation extent of CDFW jurisdiction. Habitat types below the 1,265-foot elevation would be under RWQCB and CDFW jurisdiction, and habitat types below the 1,246-foot elevation would be under USACE

jurisdiction. The study area supports both traditional riparian/riverine habitat and other habitat types below the 1,265-foot elevation.

Riparian areas within the study area consist primarily of native riparian woodland habitat comprising tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*) and black willow (*Salix gooddingii*) trees adjacent to the Pepper Tree mobile home park and along the sewer easement north of Oakview Lane in the eastern portions of the trail adjacent to the existing residential neighborhood. A small stand of riparian scrub was also mapped in the central portion of the trail consisting of tamarisk and mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) adjacent to the mobile home park on Stoneman Street. These stands are fed by existing ephemeral drainage features that generally run south-north, draining the existing developed lands near Stoneman Street, Ontario Way, and Oak Knoll Lane.

Riverine areas within the study area consist of a single unnamed ephemeral drainage feature that is mapped as streambed habitat in the central portion of the trail along the undeveloped Stoneman Drive right-of-way.

Although not observed in association with drainage features or traditional riparian landscape positions, tamarisk was also observed scattered throughout the alignment as both isolated individuals and groupings. The tamarisk stands that were mapped below the 1,265-foot elevation limit are considered to be riparian/riverine areas. Also considered to be riparian/riverine areas purely based on their position below the 1,265-foot elevation limit include areas supporting stands of Arundo, non-native woodland, and disturbed/ruderal.

Both riparian (vegetated) and riverine (unvegetated) areas are present within the study area. As shown in Table 5, *Existing Riparian/Riverine Areas*, a total of 2.05 acres of riparian habitat, 15.58 acres of habitat below 1,265 feet, and 0.46 acre of riverine were mapped within the study area.

**Table 5  
EXISTING RIPARIAN/RIVERINE AREAS**

<b>Riparian/Riverine Areas</b>	<b>Existing Acres</b>
<b>Riparian</b>	
Riparian Scrub	0.13
Riparian Woodland	1.92
Tamarisk Scrub (below 1,265 feet)	4.88
Non-native Woodland (below 1,265 feet)	2.14
Disturbed/Ruderal (below 1,265 feet)	8.56
<b>Riparian Subtotal</b>	<b>17.63</b>
<b>Riverine</b>	
Streambed	0.46
<b>Riverine Subtotal</b>	<b>0.46</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.09</b>

Source: HELIX 2021b

Project implementation would result in direct temporary and permanent impacts to riparian/riverine areas, as summarized below in Table 6, *Impacts to Riparian/Riverine Areas*.

**Table 6  
IMPACTS TO RIPARIAN/RIVERINE AREAS**

<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Temporary Impacts (acres)*</b>	<b>Permanent Impacts (acres)*</b>	<b>Total Impacts (acres)*</b>
<b>Riparian/Riverine</b>			
Riparian Scrub	--	--	--
Riparian Woodland	0.10	0.05	0.15
Tamarisk Scrub (below 1,265 feet)	0.6	0.6	1.2
Non-native Woodland (below 1,265 feet)	0.2	0.3	0.5
Disturbed/Ruderal (below 1,265 feet)	0.8	0.9	1.7
<b>Riparian Subtotal</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>3.55</b>
<b>Riverine</b>			
Streambed	0.02	0.02	0.04
<b>Riverine Subtotal</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.04</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>3.59</b>

Source: HELIX 2021b

\* Totals reflect rounding

As identified in Table 6, temporary impacts to riparian areas would occur to 0.10 acre of riparian woodland in the eastern portions of the trail as a result of placement of the free span bridge structure and storm drain culvert extension. Temporary impacts would also occur to riparian and like-functioning habitat below the 1,265-foot elevation limit, including 0.6 acre of tamarisk scrub in the western portions of the trail, 0.2 acre of non-native woodland at the western end of the trail, and 0.8 acre of disturbed/ruderal. Temporary impacts to riverine areas would occur to 0.02 acre in the central portion of the proposed trail along the undeveloped Stoneman Street right-of-way. These temporary impacts to riparian/riverine areas would be considered significant and would require compensatory mitigation. Temporary impacts would be mitigated to below a level of significance with implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1 identified in Item IV(a).

Permanent impacts to riparian areas would occur to 0.05 acre of riparian woodland in the southern portions of the trail as a result of placement of the free span bridge structure and storm drain culvert extension. Permanent impacts would also occur to riparian and like-functioning habitat below the 1,265-foot elevation limit, including 0.6 acre of tamarisk scrub in the western portions of the trail, 0.3 acre of non-native woodland at the western end of the trail, and 0.9 acre of disturbed/ruderal. Permanent impacts to riverine areas would occur to 0.02 acre in the central portion of the proposed trail along the undeveloped Stoneman Street right-of-way.

These permanent impacts to riparian/riverine areas would be considered significant and would require compensatory mitigation. Permanent impacts to riparian/riverine areas would be mitigated to below a level of significance with implementation of mitigation measure BIO-4 identified in in Item IV(a).

### **Vernal Pools**

Vernal pools have been mapped throughout the greater study area as part of a separate larger survey effort completed by others in coordination with the City. HELIX biologists confirmed the mapping during wet season surveys during the 2020/2021 wet season. The vernal pools were mapped based on observations in the field, aerial imagery, and topographic mapping. Focused surveys were conducted concurrent with the wet season mapping effort from December 2020 through April 2021 to determine the presence or absence of fairy shrimp, sensitive plants, and vernal pool indicator plant species. The average and maximum water depth, air and water temperature, basin length and width, habitat condition of water-holding basins were recorded throughout wet season fairy shrimp surveys.

A hydrology and drainage study was also completed for the project to evaluate the existing flow regime and estimate vernal pool watershed areas within the study area and immediate vicinity. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) web soil survey was also used to confirm mapped soil types. Finally, vegetation sampling was also completed during the general biological survey and during wet season fairy shrimp surveys to obtain information on seasonal flora composition.

A total of 11 vernal pools consisting of basins, depressions, and tire ruts were mapped during the 2020 and 2021 surveys for the project and larger survey effort.

The project has been specifically sited and designed to avoid all impacts to vernal pools and their contributing watershed areas. Thus, no direct impacts to vernal pools would occur.

Potential indirect impacts to vernal pools during construction would be avoided through the implementation of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other standard construction practices identified in Volume I, Appendix C of the MSHCP. Potential indirect impacts during operation would be avoided using concrete or aggregate dip structures at low spot elevations where unusually high flood flows could overland across the trail. In addition, aggregate base, and DG recovery zones (shoulders) would be used to prevent erosion and promote infiltration processes. Furthermore, fencing would be installed on either side of the trail to prevent intrusion into restricted areas containing vernal pools and their watersheds.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**BIO-1** Refer to Item IV(a).

**BIO-4** Refer to Item IV(b).

(Sources: MSHCP Consistency Analysis, HELIX [Appendix B])

**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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

No known linkages or other potential wildlife movement corridors or travel routes occur within the study area. Wildlife movement within the greater Back Basin area is expected to be sprawling and not concentrated along specific linear routes. This is because of the flat terrain and general scattered arrangement of habitat stands. Nevertheless, wildlife is expected to cross the trail alignment to get to and from potential use areas in the Back Basin area. Proposed trail fencing would incorporate an open split rail or similar design to allow for wildlife to move freely through the trail corridor and to prevent inadvertent entrapment. Impacts to wildlife corridors would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: MSHCP Consistency Analysis, HELIX [Appendix B])

**e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? (No Impact)**

The proposed project would be consistent with local policies and ordinances related to biological resources. The LEMC includes a City Tree Preservation Ordinance (Ordinance 1256) that protects the City's streetscape and trees. The City has also determined that certain species of palm trees in the family *Palmaceae* are locally significant resources through the City Significant Palm Tree Ordinance (LEMC

Ordinance 1160). Implementation of the project would be in accordance with LEMC Ordinance 1256. As such, the project would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources and no impacts would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: LEMC)

**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? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

The Western Riverside County MSHCP is a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional effort that includes unincorporated County of Riverside lands and multiple cities in the western portion of the County, including the City. Rather than address sensitive species on an individual basis, the MSHCP focuses on the conservation of 146 species, proposing a reserve system of approximately 500,000 acres and a mechanism to fund and implement the reserve system (County 2003). The MSHCP allows participating entities to issue take permits for listed species so that individual applicants need not seek their own permits from USFWS and/or CDFW.

The project is located in the Lake Elsinore Back Basin and Elsinore Plan Area of the MSHCP, specifically within Criteria Cells 5033, 5137, 5140, and 5240. Furthermore, the project site is located within an MSHCP-required survey area for the burrowing owl and Narrow Endemic Plant Species [Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*), San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*), many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*), California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*), Wrights's trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii*)].

An MSHCP Consistency Analysis was prepared for the project (HELIX 2021) that addressed project consistency with applicable goals, objectives, and requirements of the MSCHP. The proposed project is identified as a planned regional trail (in MSCHP Figure 7-4) and a covered public access activity in the MSHCP. The project would be consistent with the guidelines contained in MSHCP Section 7.4.2 pertaining to siting and design of trails, interpretive centers, trailheads, operations, maintenance, hiking, mountain biking, litter and trash control, pets, and signage. The MSCHP Consistency Analysis also concluded that the project would be consistent with the conservation goals and objectives for reserve assembly of Criteria Cells 5033, 5137, 5140, and 5240. In addition, the trail has been specifically sited to occur outside of Public Quasi-Public (PQP) lands in the Back Basin. The closest PQP lands occur at the trail northern terminus where it connects with the existing Levee Trail. There are no biological resources in this immediate area that could be indirectly and adversely affected by the trail. Therefore, the trail would not conflict with PQP lands contribution to reserve assembly.

Biological surveys conducted in 2020 and 2021 confirmed the project would impact MSHCP Section 6.1.2 riparian/riverine areas and associated species, including habitat occupied by smooth tarplant and least Bell's vireo as discussed in Items IV(a) and IV(b). Impacts would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures BIO-1, BIO-3, and BIO-4 (as identified in Items IV(a) and IV(b)), which include restoration and revegetation of temporary impact areas, construction avoidance of the least Bell's vireo breeding season, and compensatory mitigation for direct impacts to riparian/riverine areas, respectively. No burrowing owl, occupied burrows, or evidence of recent burrowing owl were observed within the study area. Impacts to burrowing owl are not anticipated and the potential for impacts to occur would be further minimized through a pre-construction clearance survey for burrowing owl, as required per the MSHCP and included as mitigation measure BIO-2 (as identified in Item IV(a)). With the implementation of these measures, the project would be consistent with MSHCP Section 6.1.2.

Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP includes urban wildlands interface guidelines (UWIG) intended to address indirect effects associated with development near MSHCP Conserved Areas. The project site is adjacent to an MSHCP Conservation Area in that it occurs nearby PQP lands and preserve lands in the Back Basin. The MSHCP UWIG guidelines discussed below demonstrate how the project would prevent and/or reduce potential impacts to off-site Conservation Areas to ensure consistency with Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP.

**Drainage:** The project would incorporate measures, including general construction BMPs, and measures required by the NPDES to ensure that the quantity and quality of runoff discharged off-site is not altered in an adverse way when compared with existing conditions. The project is a non-motorized trail and shall be designed to prevent the release of toxins, chemicals, petroleum products, exotic plant materials, or other elements that might degrade or harm biological resources or ecosystem processes, downstream from the study area.

**Toxics:** The project does not propose toxic impacts to sensitive species habitats. No land uses that use chemicals or generate bio-products that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife species, habitat, or water quality are proposed as part of the project.

**Lighting:** Solar powered pedestrian lighting is proposed along the trail. Lighting will be shielded and directed downward and away from adjacent habitat.

**Noise:** Proposed noise generating land uses affecting MSHCP Conserved Area are required to incorporate setbacks, berms, and/or walls to minimize the effects of noise on MSHCP Conserved Area resources pursuant to applicable rules, regulations, and guidelines related to land use noise standards. For planning purposes, wildlife within MSHCP Conserved Area should not be subject to noise that would exceed residential noise standards. As discussed in Item IV(a), project construction-related noise could potentially affect nesting birds within adjacent sensitive habitat, some of which is present in an MSHCP Conserved Area. Implementation of mitigation measure BIO-3 would reduce indirect noise impacts to avian species to less than significant. As discussed in Item XIII(a), no new permanent operational noise-generating components would be introduced and therefore long-term operations would not affect MSHCP Conserved Areas in proximity to the project site.

**Invasives:** The project would not use invasive plants for erosion control, landscaping, or other purposes. The project would comply with the MSHCP and avoid the use of invasive, non-native plants in accordance with MSHCP Table 6-2.

**Barriers:** The project would include signs and fencing to prevent public access into the adjacent PQP Conservation Area. Fencing would be designed to restrict humans and pets, with the expected design to be split-rail fence or similar, with additional preventative material within the lower portion of the fence to restrict access. Fencing would be installed on either side of the trail. Signs documenting the sensitivity of the adjacent habitat and instructing people to stay on the trail would be posted along the fence line. Mitigation measure BIO-5 below specifying fencing and signage requirements would be implemented as a condition of project approval to avoid impacts.

**Grading/Land Development:** The trail footprint would be limited to within the 10-foot-wide area, with an additional two feet on either side of the trail all being captured within the fenced 20-foot-wide limits. Temporary impact areas are estimated to be restricted to areas within 10 feet on either side of the permanent impact area. The trail has been sited and designed within generally flat areas that substantially minimize the amount of ground disturbance and grading.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**BIO-1** Refer to Item IV(a).

**BIO-2** Refer to Item IV(a).

**BIO-3** Refer to Item IV(a).

**BIO-4** Refer to Item IV(b).

**BIO-5: Fencing and Signage Plans.** Prior to initiating ground disturbance, the City shall prepare and submit to the RCA and Wildlife Agencies for approval plans detailing the trail fencing and signage type, materials, and specifications. At a minimum, the fencing shall be designed to restrict humans and pets, with the expected design to be split-rail fence or similar. Signage will be installed at trailheads to convey proper trail usage, with bollards to preclude vehicular access. Signs will convey proper trail usage, including requiring users to stay on the trail, prohibiting littering, asking people to report littering, prohibiting feeding of all wildlife, and requiring that pets be on leash. The RCA and Wildlife Agencies shall provide their written approval via e-mail or alternative format prior to the City initiating ground disturbance activities for construction.

(Source: MSHCP Consistency Analysis, HELIX [Appendix B]).

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES**

HELIX prepared an Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) in June 2021 in support of the proposed project's environmental compliance with CEQA and with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This report details the methods and results of the records search and literature review, the archaeological survey, Sacred Lands File search, and tribal outreach. The ASR is included as Appendix C of this document.

**a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5? (No Impact)**

A records search was obtained from the Eastern Information Center (EIC) on September 1, 2020. The records search revealed that 24 studies have been conducted within a one-mile radius around the survey area, and nine additional studies provide overviews of cultural resources in the general project vicinity. Of these, five studies involved portions of the project study area.

The records search results indicate that 20 cultural resources have been recorded within one mile of the proposed project including nine historic resources, and three multicomponent resources. The historic resources include four houses, a cabin, a tree, the Skylark Airport, and the remains of several structures. The multicomponent resources include Lake Elsinore, a lithic scatter with a piece of historic glass, and two bedrock milling features with the remains of a residence built before 1951. None of the recorded historic or multicomponent resources occur within the project alignment. Based on this, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance if a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5. No impacts would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: ASR, HELIX [Appendix C])

**b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

As discussed above under Item V(a), the records search conducted for the ASR indicated that 20 previously recorded cultural resources have been identified within a one-mile radius of the project site. Of the 20, there are eight prehistoric resources, and three multicomponent resources. The prehistoric resources are comprised of artifact scatters, milling features, a midden site, and isolates (two ground stone fragments and one flake). The multicomponent resources include Lake Elsinore, a lithic scatter with a piece of historic glass, and two bedrock milling features with the remains of a residence built before 1951. None of these recorded archaeological resources occur within the project alignment.

Pedestrian archaeological field surveys of the archaeological study were conducted in June and October 2020 and May 2021. During these surveys, one additional unrecorded site was identified, which is not within the project alignment. While no on-site archaeological resources were identified, there is potential for encountering buried archaeological resources during project construction due to the cultural significance of Lake Elsinore associated with past human occupation and use of the area. As such, mitigation measures CUL-1 through CUL-5 would be implemented and would reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measures**

**CUL-1 Unanticipated Resources.** The developer/permit holder or any successor in interest shall comply with the following for the life of this permit. If during ground disturbance activities, unanticipated cultural resources are discovered, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. All ground disturbance activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resource shall be halted until a meeting is convened between the developer, the Project Archaeologist, the Native American tribal representative(s) from consulting tribes (or other appropriate ethnic/cultural group representative), and the Community Development Director or their designee to discuss the significance of the find.
2. The developer shall call the Community Development Director or their designee immediately upon discovery of the cultural resource to convene the meeting.
3. At the meeting with the aforementioned parties, the significance of the discoveries shall be discussed and a decision is to be made, with the concurrence of the Community Development Director or their designee, as to the appropriate mitigation (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) for the cultural resource.
4. Further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of the discovery until a meeting has been convened with the aforementioned parties and a decision is made, with the concurrence of the Community Development Director or their designee, as to the appropriate mitigation measures.

**CUL-2 Archaeologist/Cultural Resources Monitoring Program.** Prior to issuance of grading permits, the applicant/developer shall provide evidence to the Community Development Department that a Secretary of Interior Standards qualified and certified Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) has been contracted to implement a Cultural Resource Monitoring Program (CRMP) that addresses the details of all activities that must be completed and procedures that must be followed regarding cultural resources associated

with this project. The CRMP document shall be created in coordination with the consulting tribe(s) and provided to the Community Development Director or their designee for review and approval prior to issuance of the grading permit. The CRMP provides direction as to how the project mitigation measures will be implemented. The CRMP requires that impacts on cultural resources will not occur without procedures in place, which would reduce any impacts to less than significant. These measures shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

Archaeological Monitor - An adequate number of qualified monitors shall be present to ensure that all earth-moving activities are observed and shall be on-site during all grading activities for areas to be monitored including off-site improvements. Inspections will vary based on the rate of excavation, the materials excavated, and the presence and abundance of artifacts and features. The frequency and location of inspections will be determined by the Project Archaeologist, in consultation with the Tribal monitor.

Cultural Sensitivity Training - The Project Archaeologist and a representative designated by the consulting Tribe(s) shall attend the pre-grading meeting with the contractors to provide Cultural Sensitivity Training for all Construction Personnel. Training will include a brief review of the cultural sensitivity of the Project and the surrounding area; what resources could potentially be identified during earthmoving activities; the requirements of the monitoring program; the protocols that apply in the event unanticipated cultural resources are identified, including who to contact and appropriate avoidance measures until the find(s) can be properly evaluated; and any other appropriate protocols. This is a mandatory training and all construction personnel must attend prior to beginning work on the project site. A sign-in sheet for attendees of this training shall be included in the Phase IV Monitoring Report.

Unanticipated Resources - In the event that previously unidentified potentially significant cultural resources are discovered, the Archaeological and/or Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to divert or temporarily halt ground disturbance operations in the area of discovery to allow evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. The Project Archaeologist, in consultation with the Tribal monitor(s) shall determine the significance of the discovered resources. The Community Development Director or their designee must concur with the evaluation before construction activities will be allowed to resume in the affected area. Before construction activities are allowed to resume in the affected area, the artifacts shall be recovered and features recorded using professional archaeological methods.

Phase IV Report – A final archaeological report shall be prepared by the Project archaeologist and submitted to the Community Development Director or their designee prior to grading final. The report shall follow County of Riverside requirements and shall include at a minimum: a discussion of the monitoring methods and techniques used; the results of the monitoring program including any artifacts recovered; an inventory of any resources recovered; updated DPR forms for all sites affected by the development; final disposition of the resources including GPS data; artifact catalog and any additional recommendations. A final copy shall be submitted to the City, Project Applicant, the Eastern Information Center (EIC), and the Tribe.

### **CUL-3**

**Cultural Resources Disposition.** In the event that Native American cultural resources are discovered during the course of grading (inadvertent discoveries), the following procedures shall be carried out for final disposition of the discoveries:

One or more of the following treatments, in order of preference, shall be employed with the tribes. Evidence of such shall be provided to the Community Development Department:

1. Preservation-In-Place of the cultural resources, if feasible. Preservation in place means avoiding the resources, leaving them in the place where they were found with no development affecting the integrity of the resources.
2. Relocation of the resources on the Project property. The measures for relocation shall include, at least, the following: Measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts by means of a deed restriction or other form of protection (e.g., conservation easement) in order to demonstrate avoidance in perpetuity.

Relocation shall not occur until all legally required cataloging and basic recordation have been completed, with an exception that sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains, as they are excluded. Any reburial process shall be culturally appropriate. Listing of contents and location of the reburial shall be included in the confidential Phase IV report. The Phase IV Report shall be filed with the City under a confidential cover and not subject to Public Records Request.

3. If relocation is not agreed upon by the Consulting Tribes, then the resources shall be curated in a culturally appropriate manner at a Riverside County curation facility that meets State Resources Department Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Resources, ensuring access and use pursuant to the Guidelines. The collection and associated records shall be transferred, including title, and are to be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation. Evidence of curation in the form of a letter from the curation facility stating that subject archaeological materials have been received and that all fees have been paid, shall be provided by the landowner to the City. There shall be no destructive or invasive testing on sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains. Results concerning finds of any inadvertent discoveries shall be included in the Phase IV monitoring report.

**CUL-4 Tribal Monitoring.** Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the applicant shall contact the consulting Native American Tribe(s) that have requested monitoring through consultation with the City during the AB 52 and/or the SB 18 process (“Monitoring Tribes”). The applicant shall coordinate with the Tribe(s) to develop individual Tribal Monitoring Agreement(s). A copy of the signed agreement(s) shall be provided to the City of Lake Elsinore Community Development Department, Planning Division prior to the issuance of a grading permit. The Agreement shall address the treatment of any known TCRs including the project’s approved mitigation measures and conditions of approval; the designation, responsibilities, and participation of professional Tribal Monitors during grading, excavation and ground disturbing activities; project grading and development scheduling; terms of compensation for the monitors; and treatment and final disposition of any cultural resources, sacred sites, and human remains/burial goods discovered on the site per the Tribe(s) customs and traditions and the City’s mitigation measures/conditions of approval. The Tribal Monitor will have the authority to stop and redirect grading in the immediate area of a find in order to evaluate the find and determine the appropriate next steps, in consultation with the Project archaeologist.

**CUL-5 Phase IV Report.** Upon completion of the implementation phase, a Phase IV Cultural Resources Monitoring Report shall be submitted that complies with the Riverside County

Planning Department's requirements for such reports for all ground disturbing activities associated with this grading permit. The report shall follow the County of Riverside Planning Department Cultural Resources (Archaeological) Investigations Standard Scopes of Work posted on the County website. The report shall include results of any feature relocation or residue analysis required as well as evidence of the required cultural sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the required pre-grade meeting.

(Source: ASR, HELIX [Appendix C])

**c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

The project is not located on or adjacent to a known formal or informal cemetery. No impacts to human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, are anticipated. In the unlikely event that unknown human remains are uncovered during project construction, Mitigation measures CUL-6 and CUL-7, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, would ensure that the project's impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures**

**CUL-6**      **Discovery of Human Remains.** In the event that human remains (or remains that may be human) are discovered at the project site during grading or earthmoving, the construction contractors, project archaeologist and/or designated Native American Monitor shall immediately stop all activities within 100 feet of the find. The project applicant shall then inform the Riverside County Coroner and the City of Lake Elsinore Community Development Department immediately, and the coroner shall be permitted to examine the remains as required by California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(b). Section 7050.5 requires that excavation be stopped in the vicinity of discovered human remains and that no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. If human remains are determined to be Native American, the applicant shall comply with the state law relating to the disposition of Native American burials that fall within the jurisdiction of the NAHC (PRC Section 5097). The coroner shall contact the NAHC within 24 hours and the NAHC will make the determination of most likely descendant. The most likely descendant shall then make recommendations and engage in consultation concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in Public Resource Code Section 5097.98. In the event that the applicant and the MLD disagree regarding the disposition of the remains. State law will apply and the mediation process will occur with the NAHC, if requested (see PRC Section 5097.98(e) and 5097.94(k)).

According to the California Health and Safety Code, six or more human burial at one location constitutes a cemetery (Section 81 00), and disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony (Section 7052).

**CUL-7**      **Non-Disclosure of Reburial Location.** It is understood by all parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of Native American human remains or associated grave goods shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act. The Coroner, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r), parties, and Lead Agencies, will be asked to withhold public disclosure information related to such reburial, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r).

(Source: ASR, HELIX [Appendix C])

## VI. ENERGY

**a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Energy used during construction would primarily consist of fuels in the form of diesel and gasoline for the operation of construction equipment and construction worker vehicles. While construction activities would consume petroleum-based fuels, consumption of such resources would be temporary and would cease upon the completion of construction. Construction of the proposed commercial development would require the typical use of energy resources. There are no unusual project characteristics or construction processes that would require the use of equipment that would be more energy intensive than is used for comparable activities, or equipment that would not conform to current emissions standards (and related fuel efficiencies). Equipment employed in construction of the project would therefore not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of fuel.

Energy used during project operations would primarily consist of fuel in the form of gasoline for maintenance vehicles traveling to and from the project site. The project is intended to promote non-motorized forms of transportation and recreation and would not result in a permanent increase in traffic. Based on these considerations, the project would not result in a substantial increase in demand of local or regional energy supplies, and would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? (Less than Significant Impact)**

The project is a multi-use trail that is in part being funded by Active Transportation Program (ATP) created by Senate Bill 99 (SB) and AB 101. The main purpose of the ATP is to encourage and increase the use of non-motorized active modes of transportation. As such the project supports the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP), which outlines the actions necessary to achieve the City's proportional share of state GHG emission reductions to be compliant with AB 32 and Executive Order S-3-05 (City 2011c). Accordingly, the project would not conflict with state or local plans related to renewable energy or energy efficiency, and potential impacts associated with obstructing a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

## VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

**a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:**

- i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Seismically induced surface or ground rupture occurs when movement on a fault deep within the earth breaks through to the surface as a result of seismic activity. Fault rupture almost always follows pre-existing faults, which are zones of weakness. Sudden displacements are more damaging to structures because they are accompanied by shaking. Under the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (A-P Act), which was passed in 1972, the California State Geologist identifies areas in the State that are at risk from surface fault rupture. The A-P Act's main purpose is to prevent the construction of buildings used for human occupancy on the surface trace of active faults. That requires the State Geologist to establish regulatory zones, known as Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, around the surface traces of active faults and to issue appropriate maps that identify these zones.

The project site is within Planning Area 3 of the East Lake Specific Plan, According to the East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone for the Wildomar Fault, an Elsinore fault zone strand, is found within the southwestern boundary of Planning Area 3; however, the fault zone is approximately 0.5 miles west of the project site. Further, the project does not include any habitable structures and the proposed low-profile multi-use trail contains no features that would create a risk in the event of fault rupture. As such, impacts related to fault rupture would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

**ii. Strong seismic ground shaking? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project site is in a seismically active region and is likely to be subjected to moderate to severe seismic ground shaking in response to a major earthquake occurring on the Wildomar strand of the Lake Elsinore Fault or another major regional active fault. An earthquake along any of the known active fault zones could result in severe ground shaking, and consequently cause injury and/or property damage in the project vicinity. However, where applicable (span bridge, Arizona crossing, etc.), the proposed project would be designed to comply with current seismic design standards in accordance with the California Building Code (CBC) to avoid adverse effects related to strong seismic ground shaking. In addition, the multi-use trail is less susceptible to the hazards of strong seismic ground shaking than would other structures such as a building. Mandatory compliance with applicable seismic-safety development requirements would minimize seismic ground shaking effects in the event of a major earthquake and ensure that the potential seismic or geologic hazard impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

**iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? (Less than Significant Impact)**

Liquefaction is a soil phenomenon in which water-saturated soils lose strength when subject to the forces of intense and prolonged ground shaking. Liquefaction generally occurs in areas where four criteria are met: (1) the site is subject to seismic activity, (2) on-site soil consists of cohesionless soil or silt and clay with low plasticity, (3) groundwater is encountered within 50 feet of the surface, and (4) soil relative densities are less than 70 percent. The City's General Plan EIR Figure 3.11-3 (Liquefaction Susceptibility in Lake Elsinore Area) identifies the project site as within an area of low potential for liquefaction (City 2011). The project entails the construction and operation of a multi-use trail and construction associated with the project would be required to comply with applicable CBC guidelines that would reduce impacts to people or structures, such as the span bridge to an acceptable level of risk. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: General Plan EIR)

**iv. Landslides? (No Impact)**

The General Plan PEIR indicates that slopes of 30 percent or steeper are at risk of seismically induced slope failure. The project site and surrounding areas are characterized by generally level topography without slopes that would be at risk of failure. Specifically, the project site ranges in elevation from 1,260 feet AMSL to 1,270 AMSL, sloping north/northwest. As such, the project site is not at risk for landslides. Thus, the proposed project would not expose people to substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death, involving landslides. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR)

**b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

During construction, substantial soil erosion would be avoided through conformance with a NPDES Construction General Permit. This permit would include preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which would incorporate BMPs to prevent soil erosion and the loss of topsoil. The selection and implementation of BMPs would be in accordance with the California Stormwater Quality Association's Stormwater Best Management Practices Handbook and City's Plan Preparation and Design Manual detailed in the SWPPP. The trail is to be constructed of Class II aggregate base, which is fine to crush concrete overlaid with asphalt. The shoulders would be surfaced with DG. Erosion controls incorporated into the project design would ensure that the project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

As discussed above in Items VII(a)(iii) and VII(a)(iv), the project would not be subject to landslide-related risks or liquefaction. Development of the project site would be required to incorporate measures and recommendations proposed by the CBC to accommodate potential geologic hazards. Based on the incorporation of applicable design guidelines, potential impacts associated with a geologic unit or soil that is unstable would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan and General Plan EIR)

**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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Expansive soils are attributable to the water holding capacity of clay materials. Such behavior can adversely affect structural integrity (including underground facilities) through shifting of support materials during the

shrink-swell process. There is currently no soil mapping that identifies specific areas within the City that are subject to expansive soils, however, such soils are known to exist in the City. Expansive soils are generally a concern for foundations for buildings, which the project does not include. As appropriate, the project would incorporate standard engineering techniques in accordance with the CBC to avoid adverse effects of expansive soils. Conformance with the described regulatory standards would reduce potential impacts related to expansive soils from project implementation to less than significant levels.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan and East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

**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? (No Impact)**

The project does not involve the generation of wastewater or the need for wastewater infrastructure. No septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems would be installed as part of the proposed project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? (Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated)**

The project site is within Planning Area 3 of the East Lake Specific Plan. The East Lake Specific Plan FEIR states that Planning Area 3 contains geological units associated with the Pauba Formation, which also has a high sensitivity for paleontological resources. Thus, ground-disturbing activities associated with project construction have the potential to uncover paleontological resources. In the event that paleontological resources are encountered during construction, such resources could potentially be damaged or destroyed. Therefore, the implementation of the proposed project could potentially result in significant impacts to paleontological resources. Implementation of mitigation measure GEO-1 would reduce this impact to below a level of significance.

**Mitigation Measure**

**GEO-1 Paleontological Resources Survey.** Prior to the commencement of construction, a qualified paleontologist shall be retained to conduct a Paleontological Resources Survey of the project site to determine the site-specific potential of finding paleontological resources within the project site. If the approved Paleontological Resources Survey determines that it is unlikely that paleontological resources will be uncovered, grading and construction activities may proceed. However, if the approved Paleontological Resources Survey determines that there is potential for the likelihood to uncover paleontological resources during construction, a qualified paleontologist shall be retained to develop a Paleontological Resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan (PRMTP) for approval by the Community Development Director. Following Community Development Director approval of the PRMTP, grading and construction activities may proceed in compliance with the provisions of the approved PRMTP. The PRMTP shall include the following measures:

- Identification of those locations within the project site where paleontological resources have potential to be uncovered during grading.

- A monitoring program specifying the procedures for the monitoring of grading activities by a qualified paleontologist.
- If fossil remains large enough to be seen are uncovered by earth-moving activities, a qualified paleontologist or qualified designee shall temporarily divert earth-moving activities around the fossil site until the remains have been evaluated for significance and, if appropriate, have been recovered; and the paleontologist or qualified designee allows earth-moving activities to proceed through the site. If potentially significant resources are encountered, a letter of notification shall be provided in a timely manner to the Community Development Director, in addition to the report (described below) that is filed at completion of grading.
- If a qualified paleontologist or qualified designee is not present when fossil remains are uncovered by earth-moving activities, these activities shall be stopped and a qualified paleontologist or qualified designee shall be called to the site immediately to evaluate the significance of the fossil remains.
- At a qualified paleontologist's or qualified designee's discretion and to reduce any construction delay, a construction worker shall assist in removing fossiliferous rock samples to an adjacent location for temporary stockpiling pending eventual transport to a laboratory facility for processing.
- A qualified paleontologist or qualified designee shall collect all significant identifiable fossil remains. All fossil sites shall be plotted on a topographic map of the Project site. h. If the qualified paleontologist or qualified designee determines that insufficient fossil remains have been found after fifty percent of earthmoving activities have been completed, monitoring can be reduced or discontinued.
- Any significant fossil remains recovered in the field as a result of monitoring or by processing rock samples shall be prepared, identified, catalogued, curated, and accessioned into the fossil collections of the San Bernardino County Museum, or another museum repository complying with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standard guidelines. Accompanying specimen and site data, notes, maps, and photographs also shall be archived at the repository.
- Within 6 months following completion of the above tasks, a qualified paleontologist or qualified designee shall prepare a final report summarizing the results of the mitigation program and presenting an inventory and describing the scientific significance of any fossil remains accessioned into the museum repository. The report shall be submitted to the Community Development Department – Planning Division and the museum repository. The report shall comply with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standard guidelines for assessing and mitigating impacts on paleontological resources.

With implementation of GEO-1, potential impacts to paleontological resources would be reduced to less than significant.

(Sources: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

## VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

This section is based on the Air Quality and GHG Technical Analysis prepared for the proposed project by HELIX (Appendix A).

- a) **Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? (Less Than Significant Impact)**
  
- b) **Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project would generate GHG emissions during construction associated with off-road diesel equipment exhaust and from worker and truck trips to and from the project site. The primary emissions would be carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from gasoline and diesel combustion, with more limited vehicle tailpipe emissions of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>). Emissions of GHG are presented in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e), which is a metric used to compare the emissions from various GHGs based on their global warming potential. The CO<sub>2</sub>e of a gas is determined by multiplying the tons of that gas by its global warming potential.

The City of Lake Elsinore has prepared and adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP; City 2011). The CAP is the City’s long-range plan to reduce local GHG emissions in accordance with State law. The CAP is intended to be a reference document, and its implementation mitigates the City’s GHG emissions resulting from new development and redevelopment. It is accepted as unlikely that any individual development project such as the size and character of the proposed project would have GHG emissions of a magnitude to directly impact global climate change; therefore, any impact would be considered on a cumulative basis. The analysis of the project’s impacts is based on consistency with applicable GHG reduction plans, regulations, and programs.

GHG emissions generated from construction activities are finite and occur for a relatively short-term period. Unlike the numerous opportunities available to reduce a project’s long-term GHG emissions through design features, operational restrictions, use of green-building materials, or other methods, GHG-reduction measures for construction equipment are relatively limited. Therefore, SCAQMD staff recommends that construction emissions be amortized over a 30-year project lifetime so that GHG-reduction measures will address construction GHG emissions as part of the operational GHG-reduction strategies. Therefore, total GHG emissions during project construction and the 30-year amortized construction emissions are presented in Table 7, *Construction Greenhouse Gas Emissions*.

**Table 7  
CONSTRUCTION GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (MT/YR)**

Construction Activity	CO <sub>2</sub> e
Grubbing/Land Clearing	29.8
Grading/Excavation	457.7
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade/Retaining Wall	181.0
Paving	48.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>716.9</b>
<i>Amortized Emissions<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>23.9</i>

Source: HELIX in 2021a

<sup>1</sup> Combined total amortized over 30 years.

MT/yr: metric tons per year; CO<sub>2</sub>e: carbon dioxide equivalent

The project involves the construction of a non-motorized trail; therefore, operational GHG emissions would be negligible. As such, operational emissions were not modeled, and are assumed to largely consist of the 30-year amortized construction emissions of 23.9 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

The SCAQMD established a working group to develop an interim significance threshold for GHG emissions under CEQA. The SCAQMD's recommended interim GHG significance threshold proposal uses a tiered approach to determining significance. At their September 28, 2010, meeting, the Working Group suggested a Tier 3 threshold of 3,000 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e per year for all land use types. It is noted that the use of the Tier 3 threshold is selected for the proposed project because it is located in the SCAB and these thresholds are based on the best available information and data at the time of preparation of this document. As discussed above, operational emissions for the project are anticipated to be 23.9 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e per year, which is well below the SCAQMD threshold of 3,000 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e. Additionally, the project involves the construction of a non-motorized trail, which supports the measures within the City's CAP related to pedestrian and bicycle pathways. The project would result in less than significant impacts related to GHG emissions.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: CAP, City of Lake Elsinore, Air Quality and GHG Technical Analysis, HELIX [Appendix A])

## **IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

An Initial Site Assessment (ISA) was prepared for the proposed project by Ninyo & Moore in June 2020 (see Appendix D). The purpose of the ISA is to identify recognized environmental conditions (RECs), which are defined as “the presence or likely presence of any hazardous substances or petroleum products in, on, or at a property: (1) due to any release to the environment; (2) under conditions indicative of a release to the environment; or (3) under conditions that pose a material threat of a future release to the environment. De minimis conditions are not recognized environmental conditions.” There are three categories of RECs: existing RECs (as defined above), Historical RECs (HRECs), or Controlled RECs (CRECs). An HREC is defined as “a past release of any hazardous substances or petroleum products that has occurred in connection with the property and has been addressed to the satisfaction of the applicable regulatory authority or meeting unrestricted use criteria established by a regulatory authority, without subjecting the property to any required controls.” An HREC is an environmental condition that was recognized in the past but may or may not still be recognized as a current environmental condition. A CREC is defined as a “recognized environmental condition resulting from a past release of hazardous substances or petroleum products that has been addressed to the satisfaction of the applicable regulatory authority, with hazardous substances or petroleum products allowed to remain in place subject to the implementation of required controls.” A CREC is an active environmental concern because while the hazardous substances have been corrected to meet certain regulatory levels, the contaminants still remain and have the potential to be above regulatory levels for some types of development.

The ISA included a review of the historical records to assess historical land use and indications of potential contamination or sources of contamination within the project site; an environmental database search to identify documented “hazardous waste” facilities within proximity to the project site; interviews with persons familiar with the site, and a site reconnaissance.

### **a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Materials and waste are generally considered hazardous if they are poisonous (toxicity); can be ignited by open flame (ignitability); corrode other materials (corrosivity); or react violently, explode, or generate

vapors when mixed with water (reactivity). The term “hazardous material” is defined in the State Health and Safety Code (Chapter 6.95, Section 25501[o]) as any material that, because of quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment. Hazardous waste is defined as any hazardous material that is abandoned, discarded, or recycled, as defined in the State Health and Safety Code (Chapter 6.95, Section 25125). The transportation, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, as well as the potential releases of hazardous materials to the environment, are closely regulated through many state and federal laws.

Construction activities associated with the proposed project would require transportation and use of limited quantities of fuel, oil, sealants, and other hazardous materials related to construction. The use of hazardous materials and substances during construction would be subject to federal, state, and local health and safety requirements for handling, storage, and disposal. As a result, hazardous material impacts related to construction activities would be less than significant. Typically, day-to-day activities within the project site would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Potentially, regular maintenance could use solvents or other agents. No special permits would be required for such limited transport, use and/or disposal of these common products. With the required compliance with local, state, and federal regulations, impacts would be less than significant in relation to this issue.

**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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Potential release of hazardous materials and/or wastes during project construction is discussed above in Item IX(a). As noted therein, potential impacts associated with construction-related hazardous materials would be less than significant based on compliance with regulatory requirements and standard construction measures. Additionally, the potential to encounter contaminated soils and/or groundwater during construction activities is low, as discussed in IX(d). Long-term operation of the proposed project would not involve the use or transport of hazardous materials. Infrequent operation of maintenance vehicles may involve the use of cleaning agents or other chemicals typically used for maintenance, but the types of such agents transported in maintenance vehicles would not be considered acutely hazardous substances. Thus, project construction and operation would not 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. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? (No Impact)**

There are two schools in the vicinity of the trail alignment, but neither school is within a quarter mile. Julia Lee Performing Arts Academy on Grand Avenue is approximately one-third of a mile from the southern terminus of the trail near Serenity Park, and Lakeland Village School on Grand Avenue is approximately one-half mile from the nearest portion of the alignment. As discussed above in Items IX(a-b), the project is a multi-use trail, which does not involve the routine use of hazardous materials that could adversely affect humans at nearby schools. Therefore, the proposed 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. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**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? (Less than Significant Impact)**

Government Code 65962.5 stipulates that the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Department of Health Services (DHS), the SWRCB, and any local enforcement agency, as designated by Section 18051, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), identify and update annually a list of sites that have been reported to have certain types of contamination. To determine if the project site is listed on any such site, an environmental information database search was performed by Environmental Data Resources, Inc. (EDR). The EDR review did not identify the project site on an environmental database maintained in accordance with Government Code 65962.5, and the ISA did not identify any information indicating that the site is a REC, HREC, or CREC.

However, it is noted that there was a single off-site property listed on environmental databases that was evaluated for the potential to impact soil and/or groundwater at the site. Additionally, to supplement the information in the EDR report, the SWRCB GeoTracker and DTSC Envirostor databases were reviewed.<sup>1</sup>

Information indicated that Lakeland Village School was listed on the CERS (California Environmental Reporting Programs for sites with Hazardous Materials Business Plans), Envirostor (sites of known contamination or reason to investigate further), and SCH (School Property Evaluation) databases in relation to the site's past agricultural land uses. Soil samples detected pesticides at levels below threshold reporting limits and soils associated with a burn pit were excavated and removed offsite. DTSC closed the case reporting no further action required. The ISA concluded that based on the closed case status, proximity to the site, the nature of the database on which it was listed, and the assumed direction of groundwater flow in the site vicinity, this listing is not considered a concern to the project site.

Therefore, since the project site is not listed on a government database compiled pursuant to 65962.5 and no properties within the search radius are of concern, impacts are less than significant in relation to this issue.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: ISA, Ninyo & Moore [Appendix D])

**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? (No Impact)**

According to Figure 2.7 of the General Plan, the project site is within the Influence Area of Skylark Airport, which is approximately 0.5 mile east of the project site. The project is a multi-use trail, and no tall structures or other vertical elements are proposed that would require notification to the Federal Aviation Administration or pose a safety hazard to airport operations or people using the trail. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. No impact would occur.

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<sup>1</sup> GeoTracker is a database and geographic information system (GIS) that provides online access to environmental data. It tracks regulatory data about leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs), Department of Defense, Spills-Leaks- Investigations-Cleanups, and landfill sites. EnviroStor is an online database search and GIS tool for identifying sites that have known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. It also identifies facilities that are authorized to treat, store, dispose, or transfer hazardous waste.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: General Plan)

**f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The City contracts with the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) for fire protection and emergency management services. Project construction could temporarily affect access for emergency vehicles; however, construction would not result in the full closure of roadways and emergency access would be maintained.

The Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) for the Riverside Operational Area is the primary emergency response plan for the project site and surrounding area. The EOP establishes roles and responsibilities, assigns tasks, and specifies policies and general procedures. The plan includes critical elements of the Standardized Emergency Management System, the National Incident Management System, the Incident Command System, and the National Response Framework. As noted, the EOP is a programmatic document outlining responsibilities and as such the construction and operation of a multi-use trail would not interfere with the ability of the EOP to be implemented. During construction, emergency access would be maintained as required by LEMC Section 15.56 (adoption of the California Fire Code). Following construction, the multi-use trail would not affect vehicular traffic patterns or roadways in the project area, and it would not include any obstacles, or barriers that would impede access to the surrounding area. As such, implementation of the project would not impair an emergency response or evacuation plan, and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan, County of Riverside's EOP)

**g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

According to Figure 5.7-2, *City of Lake Elsinore Wildfire Susceptibility*, of the East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, which is based on CalFire's fire hazard severity zone mapping, the project site and surrounding areas are mapped as a high to very high hazard severity zone. The project is not introducing any new habitable structures and the multi-use trail would include trail maintenance, unlike the existing informal dirt roads and paths that currently traverse the project site. Additionally, the project would be subject to the plan check process and would undergo a fire, life, and safety review by the Fire Department to determine the specific fire requirements applicable to ensure compliance with Fire Department requirements. Therefore, potential impacts associated with wildland fires would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

## **X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

### **a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project site is located within the San Jacinto River Basin Sub-Watershed of the Santa Ana Watershed region of Riverside County. The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQCB) sets water quality standards for all ground and surface waters within this region. Water quality standards are defined under the Clean Water Act to include both the beneficial uses of specific water bodies and the levels of water quality that must be met and maintained to protect those uses (water quality objectives).

Construction of the proposed project would include site clearing, grading, and other earthmoving activities that would have the potential to cause erosion that could degrade surface or ground water quality and/or violate water quality standards. The use of construction equipment could result in the accidental release of hazardous materials (e.g., oils, fuels, and other water quality pollutants) that also could potentially affect surface and/or ground water quality. As required by the Clean Water Act, the project would comply with the SARWQCB Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) NPDES Permit. The NPDES MS4 Permit outlines the regulations and prescribes the programs that the City must implement in order to control pollution to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP). Further, since the proposed project would disturb one or more acres of soil, construction activities would be subject to the Construction General Permit (NPDES General Permit No. CAS000002, Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ), issued by SWRCB. The Construction General Permit requires implementation of a SWPPP for site clearing, grading, and disturbances such as excavation.

Operationally, the project does not meet the requirements for the preparation of a water quality management plan and the implementation of structural BMPs. The project does not involve any activities that would utilize chemicals or other products that would degrade water quality. Runoff from the project would sheet flow into the adjacent pervious areas where it would percolate into the ground. Given that the project would adhere to the Construction General Permit as required, the lack of operational pollutants, and the maintenance of existing drainage patterns for off-site flows, the project would have a less than significant impact in relation to this issue.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: Chen Ryan Associates)

### **b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

According to the East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, the area of East Lake is not particularly suited for groundwater recharge due to the presence of a semipermeable clay layer at depth. Runoff from the project site would sheet flow into the adjacent permeable areas and percolate into the ground. Off-site drainage would be conveyed through a culvert under an Arizona crossing to maintain the existing drainage pattern. Further, the project does not involve the extraction of groundwater or involve uses dependent upon groundwater resources. Therefore, implementation of the project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge or impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR and Chen Ryan Associates)

**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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

There is a potential for erosion and siltation to occur during project construction, specifically during site clearing, grading, and other earthmoving activities. Grading activities would be conducted in accordance with the LEMC, Chapter 15.72, Grading Standards and as directed in the City's Plan Preparation and Design Manual (City 2018). The Plan Preparation and Design Manual identifies that an Erosion Control Plan shall be prepared and implemented such that, it shall include details of protective measures, temporary drainage or control measures, or both, as may be necessary to protect the water quality of receiving water bodies or to protect adjoining public and private property from damage from erosion, flooding or the deposition of mud or debris which may originate from the site or result from such grading operations. Implementation of the NPDES permit as discussed above under Item X(a) and the requirements and an erosion control plan would reduce potential erosion, siltation, and water quality impacts to receiving water bodies and adjacent property.

Moreover, as discussed above in Items X(a) and (b) the project would install an Arizona crossing that would allow the existing off-site runoff to be conveyed across the trail to maintain the existing flow pattern. The span bridge would not include any features that would be placed in the ephemeral drainage. Furthermore, the pipe culvert extension would maintain existing drainage patterns. Therefore, potential impacts associated with erosion or siltation would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: LEMC and Plan Preparation and Design Manual)

**ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Presently there is no drainage infrastructure to capture or redirect runoff. As shown in Figure 5.8-2 of the East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, the project site is located within a 100-year floodplain. As such, it is likely that during the lifetime of the project, flooding would be experienced in the project area. The project itself would not contribute to exacerbating any current conditions; runoff is anticipated to remain the same as the project is designed to maintain the existing pattern of drainage for offsite runoff and convey project runoff via sheet flow to the surrounding permeable surfaces such as the DG in the trail shoulders and the adjacent undeveloped lands. Therefore, the project would not result in on- or off-site flooding and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, Chen Ryan Associates)

**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; (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Currently there is no stormwater drainage infrastructure in the project area. According to Figure 5.8-4, Conceptual East Lake Master Plan Drainage, the nearest feature is the existing 36-inch Serenity Drainage Channel south of the proposed alignment and an 84-inch pipeline that parallels Ontario Road east of the site and not within the East Lake Specific Plan area. There is no planned infrastructure within or near the trail alignment. Project runoff would sheet flow into the adjacent permeable surfaces and the existing off-site drainage patterns would be maintained through the installation of the Arizona crossing and pipe culvert extension. As discussed above in item X(a), operationally, the project does not include any land uses that would contribute to polluted runoff. Therefore, the project would not 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. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

**iv. Impede or redirect flood flows? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Please see Item X(c)(ii). Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, Chen Ryan Associates)

**d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Tsunamis are usually caused by displacement of the ocean floor causing large waves and are typically generated by seismic activity. Based on distance to the Pacific Ocean (approximately 24 miles), there is no potential for a tsunami inundation at the project site. A seiche is a standing wave in an enclosed or partly enclosed body of water. Seiches are normally caused by earthquake activity, and can affect harbors, bays, lakes, rivers, and canals. The nearest body of water is Lake Elsinore, which is approximately a half mile north of the project site. According to the Lake Elsinore Specific Plan FEIR, Lake Elsinore lacks significant potential for a damaging seiche because it is very shallow, and because of flood control devices constructed by the USACE including the berm fill at the southern end of the lake. Additionally, implemented flood control devices lower the potential for a seiche to occur. Moreover, as discussed, operationally, the project would not include the use of polluting substances. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

**e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project site is located within the Santa Ana River watershed, which is regulated by the SARWQCB. The SARWQCB has developed a “Water Quality Control Plan” for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan establishes water quality standards for the ground and surface waters of the region. The Basin Plan includes an implementation plan describing the actions by the SARWQCB and others that are necessary to achieve and maintain the water quality standards. The SARWQCB regulates waste discharges to minimize and control their effects on the quality of the region’s ground and surface water. Permits are issued under several programs and authorities. The terms and conditions of these discharge permits are

enforced through a variety of technical, administrative, and legal means. The SARWQCB ensures compliance with the Basin Plan through its issuance of NPDES Permits, issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR), and Water Quality Certifications pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the Basin Plan, and potential impacts associated with implementation of a water quality control plan would be less than significant.

Since the City has a large amount of vacant land, substantial changes to recharge systems could occur from development of the vacant parcels. In order to reduce pollutants, the City has implemented policies to minimize pollutants in the local and regional waterways, which includes water that percolates into the groundwater through General Plan Resources and Protection Chapter Water Resources Policies 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3. Water Resources Policies 4.1 and 4.2 require development projects to acquire a NPDES permit and implement BMPs to reduce pollutants. Water Resources Policy 4.3 requires the City to review future development project's beneficial uses during the environmental review stage. As described in Items X(a) and X(b), above, the project would not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge or result in adverse impacts associated with release of pollutants into groundwater. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with applicable sustainable groundwater management plans, and potential impacts associated with implementation of a groundwater management plan would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR)

## **XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING**

### **a) Physically divide an established community? (No Impact)**

A significant impact would occur if the proposed project were sufficiently large or configured in such a way that it would create a physical barrier within an established community. The proposed project is expected to, among other things, encourage pedestrians and other non-motorized modes of transportation to obtain access to recreational facilities within the project area, including neighborhood and regional parks, other segments of the City's community trail network, and other areas served by the Lake Elsinore Regional Trail system. Therefore, the project is promoting connectivity within the community and regional trail network. No impacts would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

### **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? (Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated)**

The project site is zoned Specific Plan (SP) and has a General Plan land use designation of Specific Plan (East Lake Specific Plan designations of "Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation Area" and "Active Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Transitional Area"). The proposed alignment is consistent with the vision of the General Plan and the East Lake Specific Plan, and is identified on General Plan Figure 2.6, Elsinore Area Trails Plan, and East Lake Specific Plan Figure 4-21, Trails Plan. Further Policy 2.1 of the General Plan Community Form Chapter states that the City should encourage recreational uses including parks, beaches, marinas, motocross, soaring, skydiving, and a multipurpose trail within the City's rights of way (General Plan 2011). As discussed in Item IV(f), with mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-4, the project would not conflict with the MSHCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans. Thus, with the implementation of BIO-1 through BIO-4, land-use related impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**BIO-1** Refer to Item IV(a).

**BIO-2** Refer to Item IV(a).

**BIO-3** Refer to Item IV(a).

**BIO-4** Refer to Item IV(b).

(Sources: General Plan, East Lake Specific Plan, MSHCP)

**XII. MINERAL RESOURCES**

**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? (Less than Significant Impact)**

The California Department of Conservation classifies the availability of mineral resources in a region into four mineral resource zone (MRZ) categories: MRZ 1 for no mineral resources, MRZ 2 for significant resources areas with the quality and quantity known, MRZ 3 for known or inferred resource areas with the quality and quantity unknown, and MRZ 4 for areas with no information.

According to Figure 3.12-1 of the General Plan PEIR, the project site is in MRZ-3. However, the East Lake Specific Plan FEIR notes that project site is not located within an area that has been classified or designated as a mineral resource area by the State Board of Mining and Geology, nor has mineral extraction been documented to occur on site. The project site has a land use designation of Specific Plan – East Lake Specific Plan designations of “Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation Area” and “Active Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Transitional Area” and is not planned for mineral extraction use. Further, given the location of the site in relation to residential development to the east, it is highly unlikely that surface mining or mineral recovery operations could occur on site. Therefore, potential impacts associated with the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR and East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

**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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

As discussed in Item XII(a), the project is located in an area designated as MRZ-3, areas that are considered to have mineral deposits of unknown quantity and quality. The project site is not located within a designated locally important mineral resource areas as delineated within City planning documents. Therefore, potential impacts associated with loss of a mineral resource recovery site would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan PEIR and East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

### **XIII. NOISE**

This section is based on the Noise Analysis prepared for the proposed project by HELIX in August 2021 (Appendix E).

- 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 other applicable standards of other agencies? (Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated)**

Noise-sensitive land uses are associated with indoor and/or outdoor activities that may be subject to stress and/or substantial interference from noise, and often include residential dwellings, mobile homes, hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes, educational facilities, libraries, parks, and nature/wildlife preserves. Surrounding land uses are comprised of open space to the west and residential development to the east. The nearest residential use area is located between 25 to 30 feet (at the nearest location at the southern terminus of the project alignment) northeast of Skylark Drive. An evaluation of potential noise impacts is provided below.

#### **Construction Noise**

LEMC Section 17.176.080 prohibits the generation construction noise between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the next day, on weekends, and on holidays. Section 17.176.080 also provides construction noise level limits at affected properties, “where technically and economically feasible” to achieve. For single-family residences, this would be 75 dBA for mobile equipment (less than 10 days of operation at the same location) and 60 dBA for stationary (greater than 10 days of operation at the same location).

The project would result in temporary increases in noise levels during its various construction phases, primarily from the use of heavy off-road construction equipment. The magnitude of the impact would depend on the type of construction activity, equipment, duration of each construction phase, distance between the noise source and receiver, and intervening structures. Construction would generate elevated noise levels that may be audible at nearby residential uses in the vicinity of the project site.

Construction equipment would not all operate at the same time or location. Furthermore, construction equipment would not be in constant use during a typical 8-hour operating day. Table 8, *Construction Equipment Noise Levels*, below provides the 30-foot distance noise levels for expected construction equipment.

**Table 8  
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT NOISE LEVELS**

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Percent Operating Time</b>	<b>dBA L<sub>EQ</sub> at 30 feet</b>
Backhoe	40	78.0
Compactor	20	80.7
Compressor	40	78.1
Crane	16	77.0
Excavator	40	81.2
Front-End Loader	40	79.6
Generator	50	82.1
Grader	40	85.5
Paver	50	78.6
Pumps	50	82.4
Roller	20	77.4
Scraper	40	84.0
Tractor	40	84.5

Source: HELIX 2021d

As shown in Table 8, operation of each piece of construction equipment that would be used during project construction would exceed the City’s 75 dBA L<sub>EQ</sub> mobile equipment construction noise threshold at the nearest single-family residences, with the grader resulting in the highest noise levels (85.5 dBA L<sub>EQ</sub> at 30 feet). However, these noise levels do not account for existing barriers, such as walls, that may attenuate noise at adjacent properties.

In addition, according to the roadway Construction Noise Model, operation of a grader, the loudest piece of anticipated equipment, would generate a noise level of 75.0 dBA L<sub>EQ</sub> at 100 feet. Therefore, it is noted that construction of the portions of the trail farther than 100 feet from the closest residences would have a less than significant impact related to construction noise. During construction of the portions of the trail located within 100 feet of the nearby residences, construction noise may exceed the 75 dBA L<sub>EQ</sub> mobile equipment construction noise threshold in the LEMC. However, such impacts would be temporary in nature and would not occur during the entire construction period due to the linear nature of the project alignment. Still, potentially significant impacts may occur during construction. Implementation of mitigation measure NOI-1 would reduce impacts related to noise generated during construction to below a level of significance.

In addition, as discussed in Section IV, *Biological Resources*, construction noise could result in indirect noise impacts to nesting birds if noise levels would be greater than 60 dBA L<sub>EQ</sub> or, if the existing ambient noise level is above 60 dBA L<sub>EQ</sub>, increase the ambient noise level by 3 dBA L<sub>EQ</sub> at the edge of occupied habitat during the avian species breeding season. Implementation of mitigation measure BIO-3 identified in Item IV(a) would reduce impacts related to noise generated during construction to below a level of significance.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**BIO-3** refer to Section IV(a).

**NOI-1 Construction Management Plan.** Noise levels from project-related construction activities shall not exceed the noise limit specified in the City of Lake Elsinore Municipal Code of 75 dBA, when measured at the boundary line of any occupied property where noise is being received. A Construction Management Plan that describes the measures included on the construction plans to ensure compliance with the noise limit shall be prepared and approved by the City prior the

commencement of construction. The following measures may be included to reduce construction noise:

- Construction equipment to be properly outfitted and maintained with manufacturer-recommended noise-reduction devices.
- Diesel equipment to be operated with closed engine doors and equipped with factory-recommended mufflers.
- Mobile or fixed “package” equipment (e.g., arc welders and air compressors) to be equipped with shrouds and noise control features that are readily available for that type of equipment.
- Electrically powered equipment to be used instead of pneumatic or internal combustion-powered equipment, where feasible.
- Unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines (e.g., in excess of 5 minutes) to be prohibited.
- Material stockpiles and mobile equipment staging, parking, and maintenance areas to be located as far as practicable from noise sensitive receptors.
- The use of noise-producing signals, including horns, whistles, alarms, and bells, shall be for safety warning purposes only.
- No project-related public address or music system shall be audible at any adjacent sensitive receptor.
- Temporary sound barriers or sound blankets may be installed between construction operations and adjacent noise-sensitive land uses to adequately reduce noise levels. If a barrier is used, the project Contractor shall construct a temporary noise barrier at least six feet in height meeting the specifications listed below (or of a Sound Transmission Class [STC] 19 rating or better) to attenuate noise.
- If a temporary barrier is used, all barriers shall be solid and constructed of wood, plastic, fiberglass, steel, masonry, or a combination of those materials, with no cracks or gaps through or below the wall. Any seams or cracks must be filled or caulked. If wood is used, it can be tongue and groove or close butted seams and must be at least ¾-inch thick or have a surface density of at least 3.5 pounds per square-foot. Sheet metal of 18 gauge (minimum) may be used if it meets the other criteria and is properly supported and stiffened so that it does not rattle or create noise itself from vibration or wind. Noise blankets, hoods, or covers also may be used, provided they are appropriately implemented to provide the required sound attenuation.
- The project applicant shall notify residences within 100 feet of the project’s property line in writing within one week of any construction activity. The notification shall describe the activities anticipated, provide dates and hours, and provide contact information with a description of a complaint and response procedure.
- The on-site construction supervisor shall have the responsibility and authority to receive and resolve noise complaints. A clear appeal process for the affected resident shall be

established prior to construction commencement to allow for resolution of noise problems that cannot be immediately solved by the site supervisor.

(Sources: MSHCP Consistency Analysis, HELIX [Appendix B] and Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project Noise Analysis, HELIX [Appendix E])

### **Operational Noise**

Upon construction of the project, operational noise would be from individual users of the trail, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized modes of transportation. No new permanent operational noise-generating components would be introduced. Infrequent maintenance of the trail would occur, but this would not be a permanent source of operational noise. Operation of the project therefore would not generate or expose persons to excessive noise levels, and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project Noise Analysis, HELIX [Appendix E] and LEMC)

### **b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? (Less than Significant Impact)**

Groundborne vibration can result in a range of impacts, from minor annoyances to people to major shaking that damages buildings. The most prominent vibration-generating construction activities are typically pile driving and rock blasting; the proposed project would not include either of these activities. However, compaction of the soil could create vibration. Construction of the project alignment between Stoneman Street and Skylark Drive would occur adjacent to single-family residences, with the nearest houses occurring as close as 25 feet from the edge of the proposed trail, and approximately 30 feet from the centerline of the proposed trail. Due to the width of the trail alignment, hand tools or a small vibratory plate compactor or tamping rammer would likely be used. The anticipated methods would have no measurable vibration beyond 10 to 15 feet. Impacts from excessive vibration during project construction would therefore be less than significant.

Post construction, the trail would be used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and others utilizing non-motorized modes of transportation. No new permanent operational vibration-generating components would be introduced. Operation of the project would therefore not generate or expose persons to excessive vibration levels. Impacts would be less than significant.

(Source: Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project Noise Analysis, HELIX [Appendix E])

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

### **c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The closest public use airport to the project site is the Perris Valley Airport, located approximately 15 miles to the northeast. The closest private airstrip to the project site is the Skylark Airport, located approximately 0.5 mile to the east. According to the General Plan EIR, Skylark Airport provides glider and skydiving opportunities, but due to its private use restrictions and gravel/sand runway surface, it generally does not provide optimal conditions for frequent and convenient airport operations. The General Plan EIR notes that

future peak-hour exterior aircraft noise levels associated with Skylark Airport were estimated to range from 51.3 dBA to 66.7 dBA  $L_{EQ}$ , which is not excessively loud. Moreover, trails users are not static; they will be moving along the trail during the duration of their exercise or commute and so their exposure to noise sources would vary as travel along the trail. Therefore, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels from airport operations. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: General Plan EIR)

#### **XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING**

- 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)? (No Impact)**

The project entails the construction of a multi-use trail, extending from Skylark Drive in the south to the existing Levee Trail in the north. As discussed in the East Lake Specific Plan, the Murietta Creek Trail is intended for urban accessibility and connectivity. The project would serve the existing communities and planned growth in the area and proposes no housing, facilities, or infrastructure that would incentivize housing. The project would result in an increase in temporary construction jobs; in an urbanized area, these jobs are expected to be filled by members of the existing population. Furthermore, the project would not result in the extension of roads or other infrastructure that would indirectly induce substantial population growth. Therefore, the project would not induce substantial direct or indirect population growth. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? (No Impact)**

The project site is currently vacant. No existing people or housing would be displaced upon implementation of the project. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

#### **XV. PUBLIC SERVICES**

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

- a) Fire protection? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The City Fire Department is comprised of contracted fire services with RCFD and CalFire. The RCFD provides fire suppression, emergency medical, rescue, and fire prevention services throughout Riverside County. Equipment used by RCFD can respond to both urban and wildland emergency conditions. The nearest fire station is Station No. 11, located approximately two miles northeast of the project site.

The project does not include the construction and operation of any new fire protection facilities, nor would it create a demand for additional facilities. The project would not directly or indirectly introduce any new residents or employees to the project site or the City that would increase the demand for services. The project would not increase traffic congestion on streets in the project area, or otherwise interfere with the ability or fire protection to maintain acceptable service ratios, meet target response times, or other performance objectives for police protection. No new facilities, equipment, or staff would be required to continue to provide fire protection to the area. There may be occurrences or events where paramedics or other fire protection personnel would be needed to provide services at the site; however, this could be handled with the existing resources. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

**b) Police protection? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The City contracts police services through the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to provide police protection within the City, including enforcement of local, state, and federal statutes; public safety; traffic enforcement; and maintaining public order. The California Highway Patrol provides traffic enforcement to the County with additional support from the local County Sheriff's Department. The Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station is located at 333 Limited Avenue, approximately three miles northeast of the project site.

The project would not increase population in the project area or cause increased traffic congestion on streets in the project area, or otherwise interfere with the ability of police services to maintain acceptable service ratios, meet target response times, or other performance objectives for police protection.

The trail does not pose any unique design or location criteria that would introduce a substantial new demand for services. As such, the project would not require new or altered police facilities and would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts related to police protection. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

**c) Schools? (No Impact)**

The proposed project would not increase or contribute to an increase in the existing student population in the project area because no housing or other facilities are proposed that would generate students. Therefore, no new school facilities would be required which could result in adverse physical changes in the environment. There is no impact.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**d) Parks? (Less than Significant Impact)**

The proposed project would not introduce a new population to the area. However, the proposed project would increase non-motorized connectivity through the area, which may indirectly increase access to existing parks. This increase in park use resulting from indirectly increased access would not substantially affect the performance of existing parks such that new or altered facilities would be required. The project is consistent with the East Lake Specific Plan, and as identified in the East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, there are no significant impacts to parks that would occur with plan buildout. Therefore, the proposed project

would not result in substantial adverse physical effects related to parks, and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**e) Other public services/facilities? (No Impact)**

Other public facilities may include libraries, senior centers, community centers, and pools, all of which are intended to serve the general public. The project involves the construction of a multi-use trail to primarily serve the existing and planned population and would not directly or indirectly introduce any new residents that would require additional public facilities. Therefore, no impacts would occur in relation to this issue.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

## **XVI. RECREATION**

**a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The proposed project is expected to, among other things, encourage pedestrians and other non-motorized forms of transportation to obtain access to recreational facilities within the project area, including neighborhood and regional parks, other segments of the City's community trail network and other areas served by the Lake Elsinore Regional Trail system. However, users can currently access these recreational facilities from other areas. As a result, the increase in use of recreational facilities which can be accessed from the proposed project would not be such that substantial physical deterioration of existing neighborhood and regional parks or recreational facilities would occur or be accelerated. This impact is less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR and East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

**b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? (Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated)**

The project entails the construction of a multi-use trail, which as identified in this IS/MND could lead to potentially significant impacts if left unmitigated. However, implementation of mitigation measures identified in this document would reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** See mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-5, CUL-1 through CUL-5, GEO-1 and NOI-1.

(Sources: MSHCP Consistency Analysis, HELIX [Appendix B], ASR, HELIX [Appendix C], East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, and Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project Noise Analysis, HELIX [Appendix E]))

## XVII. TRANSPORTATION

### a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? (Less Than Significant Impact)

The project entails a non-motorized multi-use trail that would connect to the community and regional trail system. The project is funded through the ATP created by SB 99 and AB 101. The main purpose of the ATP is to encourage and increase the use of non-motorized active modes of transportation.

The project would be consistent with the SCAG 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) (SCAG 2020), which is the applicable plan for establishing the long-range transportation strategies for increasing mobility options and a more sustainable growth pattern. A component of the RTP/SCS is active transportation, which is human-powered transportation that includes walking and biking. Specifically, the RTP/SCS states that active transportation is a critical component in developing and implementing sustainable community strategies; reducing GHG emissions; increasing public health; and making the region a more enjoyable place to live, work, and play. Additionally, the proposed alignment is consistent with the vision of the General Plan and the East Lake Specific Plan, and is identified on General Plan Figure 2.6, Elsinore Area Trails Plan, and East Lake Specific Plan Figure 4-21, Trails Plan. Further Policy 2.1 of the General Plan Community Form Chapter states that the City should encourage recreational uses including parks, beaches, marinas, motocross, soaring, skydiving, and a multipurpose trail within the City's rights of way (General Plan 2011). As mentioned above, the project is a non-motorized multi-purpose trail, which promotes active transportation and it provides linkages between designed and existing trail systems in accordance with local planning documents. As such, the project would not conflict with an adopted plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system with implementation of proposed design features, and impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: SCAG RTP/SCS, General Plan, and Lake Elsinore Specific Plan)

### b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? (Less Than Significant Impact)

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b) sets forth specific criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts as related to vehicle miles traveled (VMT). In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b) and SB 743, the City recently updated their Traffic Impact Analysis Preparation Guide to include VMT analysis methodology. Land use projects that have the potential to increase the average VMT per service population (compared to the City's baseline threshold) are evaluated for potential impacts. The project is a non-motorized multi-use trail that provides connections to the community and regional trail network through designed and existing trail systems. The project would result in some construction-related traffic during the short-term construction period; however, this would result in temporary increases as employees travel to the work site. In a developed area such as Lake Elsinore, it is considered that the work force would be local and employees would not be traveling long distances. As a passive use that is intended to promote non-motorized forms of transportation and recreation, the project would not result in a permanent increase in traffic. Based on the City's Traffic Impact Analysis Preparation Guide, project that would generate less than 110 daily traffic trips are presumed to have a less than significant VMT impact (City 2020). Therefore, the project's impacts related to VMT would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project is a non-motorized multi-use trail connecting to a network of community and regional trails that traverses through undeveloped areas within the City's East Lake District. While the trail would not be parallel to any developed roadways, it would cross existing streets in residential areas. Bollards and signage are planned at the public access points located at the Levee Trail connection, Stoneman Street, and Skylark Drive. The bollards would deter vehicle access and the signs would be posted requiring users to stay on the trail. Access gates would be provided at locations to allow emergency and maintenance vehicles to safely access the trail. The access would be restricted only to emergency and maintenance activities and the gates would be locked at all other times. Thus, the project would not result in comingling of incompatible transportation uses. As shown in Figure 2, the trail does not include any sharp curves or dangerous intersections and it traverses relatively flat topography that allows for line of sight. Therefore, impacts associated with hazardous geometric design features would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: Site Plan, Chen Ryan Associates)

**d) Result in inadequate emergency access? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Refer to Item IX(f). Potential impacts to emergency access would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: Site Plan, Chen Ryan Associates)

## **XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

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

**b) 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 Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

### **Sacred Land Files Search**

HELIX contacted the NAHC to request a search of its Sacred Lands File and a list of Native American individuals and organizations who might have knowledge of, or concerns regarding, cultural resources within the project areas. The NAHC indicated in a response dated May 13, 2020, that the Sacred Lands File search was positive and suggested contacting Pechanga for further information. The response also included a list of Native American representatives and interested parties. Letters were sent on May 18, 2020, to these 12 tribal contacts identified by the NAHC. Two responses have been received to date. The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians (Rincon) indicated that the project area is within the Band's Area of Historic Interest and that the City of Lake Elsinore is considered a "Traditional Cultural Place (TCP) and Landscape (TCL) by the Rincon Band, as it is associated with the Luiseño creation." The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians (Soboba) also indicated that the project area falls within the boundary of their Tribal Traditional Use Area,

and that the area is culturally sensitive to the Tribe. Soboba requested consultation with the City and that a Native American Monitor from Soboba be present during any ground disturbance.

Further, HELIX staff had informal communication with a representative from the Pechanga Cultural Resources Department regarding the project and the positive Sacred Lands File search on May 26, 2020. The representative indicated that the project area is within a TCP that covers the lake and surrounding area; additionally, a Luiseño place name is associated with the area. The area surrounding Lake Elsinore is of great cultural and spiritual significance to the people of Pechanga. The representative also noted that a Native American canoe had been found on the north face of a hill near Lake Elsinore; she believes that the hill in question is Rome Hill, which falls partially within the northwestern portion of the study area; outside the survey buffer for the chosen alignment.

### **AB 52 Consultation**

AB 52, signed into law in 2014, amended CEQA and established new requirements for tribal notification and consultation. AB 52 applies to all projects for which a notice of preparation or notice of intent to adopt a negative declaration/mitigated negative declaration is issued after July 1, 2015. AB 52 also broadly defines a new resource category of tribal cultural resources and establishes a more robust process for meaningful consultation that includes:

- Prescribed notification and response timelines;
- Consultation on alternatives, resource identification, significance determinations, impact evaluation, and mitigation measures; and
- Documentation of all consultation efforts to support CEQA findings.

A tribe must submit a written request to the relevant lead agency if it wishes to be notified of projects within its traditionally and culturally affiliated area. The lead agency must provide written, formal notification to the tribes that have requested it within 14 days of determining that a project application is complete or deciding to undertake a project. The tribe must respond to the lead agency within 30 days of receipt of the notification if it wishes to engage in consultation on the project, and the lead agency must begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving the request for consultation. Consultation concludes when either (1) the parties agree to mitigation measures to avoid a significant effect, if one exists, on a tribal cultural resource, or (2) a party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. AB 52 also addresses confidentiality during tribal consultation per Public Resources Code Section 21082.3(c).

AB 52 notifications were sent by the City to registered tribal representatives on June 25, 2020 inviting the tribes to consult on the project under AB 52. The City conducted AB 52 consultation with three tribes: Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians. Consultation was completed on October 21, 2021. As a result of the consultation, the City's standard cultural resources mitigation measures were applied to the project.

The project area is within an identified TCR/TCP; as noted, the City consulted with Tribes under AB 52 to address potential effects to TCRs. Mitigation measures CUL-1 through CUL-7 identified in Items V(b) and V(c) would be implemented to ensure that potential impacts to TCRs pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1 would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** Mitigation measures CUL-1 through CUL-7.

(Source: ASR, HELIX [Appendix C])

## **XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

- a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? (No Impact)**

The proposed project would not create a demand for water, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, and would not generate wastewater. As discussed under Item X(a), the project does not include storm drain infrastructure. Project runoff would sheet flow into the adjacent pervious surfaces and the existing offsite runoff patterns would be maintained through the installation of an Arizona crossing. Based on these considerations, the project would have no impacts associated with the relocation or construction of new or expanded utility infrastructure.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

- b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years? (Less than Significant Impact)**

Construction of the project would involve minimal water use associated with watering for dust control and soil compaction associated with grading activities during construction. Operation of the multi-use trail may require minimal water use for infrequent maintenance activities. The limited demand for water associated with infrequent maintenance activities could be handled through existing water allocations. The project would have a less than significant impact in relation to this issue.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

- c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? (No Impact)**

The project would not require wastewater services. No impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

- 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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The project would generate construction waste and operationally, trail users would have waste to dispose such as food wrappers, beverage bottles, etc. Trash receptacles would be provided at the access points. The amount of trash that would be generated by trail users would not substantially impact regional landfills. The project would be required to comply with applicable State and local regulations, including Section 40050 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code, to reduce the volume of solid waste entering landfills. Chapter 14.12 of the LEMC requires that project construction divert a minimum of 50 percent of construction and demolition debris. The amount of solid waste generated by the proposed project is anticipated to be accommodated by the existing landfills, and recycling and green waste collection would reduce the overall solid waste generated. Therefore, potential impacts associated with solid waste disposal would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Source: LEMC)

**e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, Sher, Chapter 1095, Statutes of 1989 as amended [IWMA]) under the Public Resource Code requires that local jurisdictions divert at least 50 percent of all solid waste generated by January 1, 2000, and 50 percent diversion each year following. This is achieved at the city-wide level. Chapter 14.12 of the LEMC requires that project applicants divert a minimum of 50 percent of construction and demolition debris; the project would comply with this requirement. The proposed project would comply with applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, impacts associated with solid waste would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: LEMC, Public Resources Code)

## **XX. WILDFIRE**

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

**a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

Refer to Item IX(f). Potential impacts to emergency response or evacuation plans would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan, County of Riverside's EOP)

**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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

**c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

**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? (Less Than Significant Impact)**

According to Figure 5.7-2 (City of Lake Elsinore Wildfire Susceptibility) of the East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, which is based on CalFire's fire hazard severity zone mapping, the project site and surrounding areas are in areas mapped as a high to very high hazard severity zone. The project is not introducing any new habitable structures and the multi-use trail would include trail maintenance. Further, due the generally level

topography of the project site and surrounding areas, the project would not expose people or structures to significant risks related to downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. Impacts related to wildfire would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

(Sources: General Plan EIR and East Lake Specific Plan FEIR)

## V. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following are Mandatory Findings of Significance in accordance with Section 21083 of CEQA and Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines.

- a) **Does the project 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? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

Potentially significant impacts to the environment resulting from the proposed project have been identified for biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils (paleontological resources), noise and TCRs. Potentially significant impacts to biological resources related to special status species and sensitive habitat would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-5. The project is not expected to impact resources related to major period of California history or prehistory. Based on the cultural sensitivity and the geologic formations of the area, however, the project would have the potential to impact unknown subsurface cultural and paleontological resources or TCRs. Implementation of mitigation measures CUL-1 through CUL-7 and GEO-1 would reduce potential impacts associated with cultural and paleontological resources or TCRs to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, the project would not 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.

**Mitigation Measures:** Mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-5, CUL-1 through CUL-7, GEO-1, and NOI-1.

(Sources: MSHCP Consistency Analysis, HELIX [Appendix B], ASR HELIX [Appendix C], East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, and Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project Noise Analysis, HELIX [Appendix E])

- b) **Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? (Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)**

Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual project effects that, when considered together or in concert with other projects, combine to result in a significant impact (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). As demonstrated in this Initial Study, the proposed project would result in potentially significant project-specific impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, paleontological resources, noise, and TCRs; however, project-related effects either would be avoided by incorporation of project design measures or mitigated to levels below significance.

As described in Item IV, project construction could result in potentially significant direct and/or indirect impacts to special status species and sensitive vegetation communities. Potentially significant impacts would be reduced to a level of less than significant through compliance with applicable permits (pursuant to the MBTA, federal Endangered Species Act, and California Endangered Species Act) and implementation of mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-5. Other development in the project area also

would be required to comply with applicable environmental laws and mitigation requirements. The Western Riverside County MSHCP, which has been adopted by local jurisdictions and approved by the wildlife agencies, is largely designed to address potential cumulative impacts to sensitive biological resources resulting from development in the western portion of the County through assembly of a comprehensive reserve system. Based on the project-specific mitigation measures that would be implemented and on the existence of an approved region-wide conservation plan, the proposed project would not incrementally contribute to a significant cumulative biological resources impact.

As discussed in Items V, VII, and XVIII, the proposed project would not adversely affect known cultural and/or paleontological resources. Potentially significant impacts could occur if archaeological or paleontological resources, TCRs, and/or human remains are disturbed during ground-disturbing activities associated with project construction. While it is possible that such unknown resources may be encountered during construction, implementation of mitigation measures CUL-1 through CUL-7 and GEO-1 would reduce impacts to these resources to below a level of significance. Accordingly, the proposed project would not incrementally contribute to a significant cumulative cultural resources impact.

As discussed in Section XIII, the proposed project may exceed the noise limit specified in the City of Lake Elsinore Municipal Code of 75 dBA, when measured at the boundary line of any occupied property where noise is being received. Implementation of NOI-1 reduces temporary construction noise impacts to below a level of significance. Thus, cumulatively there would be no impact. Further, there would be no significant operational noise impacts.

The Air Quality and GHG Technical Analysis prepared for the project considered short-term cumulative impacts. The project would be consistent with local and regional plans, including the City's CAP and the project's air quality emissions would not exceed established thresholds of significance; therefore, no cumulatively considerable impacts related to air quality would occur. As a non-motorized multi-use trail, the project would not contribute to any long-term operational air quality or GHG emissions and therefore would have no cumulative impact.

The proposed project is consistent with the East Lake Specific Plan, East Lake Specific Plan "Action Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Recreation Area" and "Active Sports, Tourism, Commercial and Transitional Area" land use designation and with the existing zoning. Therefore, incremental increases in impacts to the environment would be within the thresholds set by the General Plan, East Lake Specific Plan, and supporting planning and regulatory documents. When considering all potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, including impacts identified as less than significant in the Initial Study, together with the impacts of other present, past, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, there would not be a cumulatively considerable impact on the environment.

**Mitigation Measures:** Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-5, CUL-1 through CUL-7, GEO-1, and NOI-1.

(Sources: MSHCP Consistency Analysis, HELIX [Appendix B], ASR, HELIX [Appendix C], East Lake Specific Plan FEIR, and Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project Noise Analysis, HELIX [Appendix E]))

**c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? (Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated)**

Construction and operation of the project would not cause environmental effects that would significantly directly or indirectly impact human beings. The proposed project would adhere to regulatory codes, ordinances, regulations, standards, and guidelines applicable to each of the environmental issue areas

analyzed herein. For project-related construction activities that have the potential to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings (sound, erosion, dust), the project is required to meet all LEMC grading and construction requirements and BMPs, which would be implemented during project construction to reduce these effects to below a level of significance. Implementation of NOI-1 would reduce construction-related noise impacts upon the residents located east of the project site.

As evidenced by the Initial Study, no other substantial adverse effects on human beings, either indirectly or directly, would occur as a result of project implementation. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measure:** NOI-1

## **VI. PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED**

This section identifies those persons who prepared or contributed to the preparation of this document. This section is prepared in accordance with Section 15129 of the CEQA Guidelines.

### HELIX Environmental Planning

Kara Palm, Project Manager  
Tim Belzman, Principal Environmental Planner  
Sean Bohac, Senior GIS Specialist  
Ana Topete, Word Processor/Document Specialist

### City of Lake Elsinore

Yu Tagai, PE, Associate Engineer  
Richard MacHott, LEED Green Associate, Planning Manager

## VII. REFERENCES

The following documents were used as information sources during preparation of this document. Except as noted, they are available for public review at the City of Lake Elsinore, Community Development Department, 130 South Main Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530, ph. (951) 674-3124.

California Air Resources Board (CARB)

2005 Air Quality and Land Use Handbook. April.

California Department of Conservation

2018 California Important Farmland Finder. Available at:  
<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

2019 List of Designated and Eligible State Scenic Highways. Available at:  
<http://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>.

Chen Ryan Associates

2021 Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project Site Plans

City of Lake Elsinore (City)

2021 Lake Elsinore Municipal Code (LEMC). Available at:  
<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/LakeElsinore/>.

2020 Traffic Impact Analysis Preparation Guide. June 23.

2018 Plan Preparation and Design Manual

2017a East Lake Specific Plan. Adopted November 28, 2018, updated September 7, 2018.

2017b East Lake Specific Plan Amendment No. 11, Final Environmental Impact Report  
Adopted November 29, 2017.

2014 City of Lake Elsinore Zoning Map. September 23, as amended.

2011a City of Lake Elsinore General Plan. December 13.

2011b City of Lake Elsinore General Plan Update Final Recirculated Program Environmental  
Impact Report. December 13.

2011c City of Lake Elsinore Climate Action Plan. December 13.

County of Riverside

- 2003 Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP).  
Available at: <https://rctlma.org/Portals/0/mshcp/volume1/index.html>.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- 2021 FEMA Flood Map Service Center: Search by Address. Available at:  
<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=lake%20elsinore#searchresultsanchor>.

HELIX Environmental Planning Inc. (HELIX)

- 2021a Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Technical Analysis for the Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project. August 31.
- 2021b Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Conservation Plan Consistency Analysis. September.
- 2021c Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project Archaeological Survey Report. June.
- 2021d Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project Noise Analysis. August 31, 2021

Ninyo and Moore

- 2020 Initial Site Assessment Murrieta Creek Multi-Use Trail Project, Lake Elsinore, California, June 27.

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

- 2020 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Available at:  
<http://scag.ca.gov/read-plan-adopted-final-plan>

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