5.2 AIR QUALITY

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) evaluates the potential for implementation of the proposed La Puerta School Site Specific Plan (Specific Plan) to impact air quality in a local and regional context. This evaluation is based on the methodology recommended by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD). The analysis focuses on air pollution from regional emissions and localized pollutant concentrations. In this section, "emissions" refers to the actual quantity of pollutant, measured in pounds per day (lbs/day), and "concentrations" refers to the amount of pollutant material per volumetric unit of air. Concentrations are measured in parts per million (ppm), parts per billion (ppb), or micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³).

Criteria air pollutant emissions modeling is included in Appendix B, of this DEIR. Transportation-sector impacts are based on trip generation and vehicle miles traveled as provided by EPD Solutions (see Appendix I). Cumulative impacts related to air quality are based on the regional boundaries of the South Coast Air Basin (SoCAB).

5.2.1 Environmental Setting

5.2.1.1 AIR POLLUTANTS OF CONCERN

Criteria Air Pollutants

The pollutants emitted into the ambient air by stationary and mobile sources are categorized as primary and/or secondary pollutants. Primary air pollutants are emitted directly from sources. Carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOC), nitrogen oxides (NO_X), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), coarse inhalable particulate matter (PM₁₀), fine inhalable particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and lead (Pb) are primary air pollutants. Of these, CO, SO₂, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} are "criteria air pollutants," which means that ambient air quality standards (AAQS) have been established for them. VOC and NO_X are criteria pollutant precursors that form secondary criteria air pollutants through chemical and photochemical reactions in the atmosphere. Ozone (O₃) and NO₂ are the principal secondary pollutants.

Each of the primary and secondary criteria air pollutants and its known health effects are described below.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas produced by incomplete combustion of carbon substances, such as gasoline or diesel fuel. CO is a primary criteria air pollutant. CO concentrations tend to be the highest during winter mornings with little to no wind, when surface-based inversions trap the pollutant at ground levels. Because CO is emitted directly from internal combustion, engines and motor vehicles operating at slow speeds are the primary source of CO in the SoCAB. The highest ambient CO concentrations are generally found near traffic-congested corridors and intersections. The primary adverse health effect associated with CO is interference with normal oxygen transfer to the blood, which may result in tissue oxygen deprivation (South Coast AQMD 2005, USEPA 2022a). The SoCAB is designated as being in attainment under the California AAQS and attainment (serious maintenance) under the National AAQS (CARB 2022a).

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_X) are a byproduct of fuel combustion and contribute to the formation of O₃, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. The two major forms of NO_X are nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). The principal form of NO₂ produced by combustion is NO, but NO reacts with oxygen to form NO₂, creating the mixture of NO and NO₂ commonly called NO_X. NO₂ acts as an acute irritant and, in equal concentrations, is more injurious than NO. At atmospheric concentrations, however, NO2 is only potentially irritating. NO2 absorbs blue light; the result is a brownish-red cast to the atmosphere and reduced visibility. NO₂ exposure concentrations near roadways are of particular concern for susceptible individuals, including asthmatics, children, and the elderly. Current scientific evidence links short-term NO₂ exposures, ranging from 30 minutes to 24 hours, with adverse respiratory effects, including airway inflammation in healthy people and increased respiratory symptoms in people with asthma. Also, studies show a connection between elevated short-term NO₂ concentrations and increased visits to emergency departments and hospital admissions for respiratory issues, especially asthma (South Coast AQMD 2005; USEPA 2022a). On February 21, 2019, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved the separation of the area that runs along the State Route 60 corridor through portions of Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles counties from the remainder of the SoCAB for state nonattainment designation purposes. The board designated this corridor as nonattainment. The remainder of the SoCAB is designated in attainment (maintenance) under the National AAQS and attainment under the California AAQS (CARB 2022a).

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) is a colorless, pungent, irritating gas formed by the combustion of sulfurous fossil fuels. It enters the atmosphere as a result of burning high-sulfur-content fuel oils and coal and chemical processes at plants and refineries. Gasoline and natural gas have very low sulfur content and do not release significant quantities of SO₂. When sulfur dioxide forms sulfates (SO₄) in the atmosphere, together these pollutants are referred to as sulfur oxides (SO_X). Thus, SO₂ is both a primary and secondary criteria air pollutant. At sufficiently high concentrations, SO₂ may irritate the upper respiratory tract. Current scientific evidence links short-term exposures to SO₂, ranging from 5 minutes to 24 hours, with an array of adverse respiratory effects, including bronchoconstriction and increased asthma symptoms. These effects are particularly adverse for asthmatics at elevated ventilation rates (e.g., while exercising or playing) at lower concentrations and when combined with particulates, SO₂ may do greater harm by injuring lung tissue. Studies also show a connection between short-term exposure and increased visits to emergency facilities and hospital admissions for respiratory illnesses, particularly in at-risk populations such as children, the elderly, and asthmatics (South Coast AQMD 2005; US EPA 2022). The SoCAB is designated as attainment under the California and National AAQS (CARB 2022a).

Suspended Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) consists of finely divided solids or liquids such as soot, dust, aerosols, fumes, and mists. Two forms of fine particulates are now recognized and regulated. Inhalable coarse particles, or PM₁₀, include the particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns (i.e., 10 millionths of a meter or 0.0004 inch) or less. Inhalable fine particles, or PM_{2.5}, have an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns (i.e., 2.5 millionths of a meter or 0.0001 inch) or less. Particulate discharge into the atmosphere results primarily from industrial, agricultural, construction, and transportation activities. However, wind action on arid landscapes also contributes substantially to local particulate loading (i.e., fugitive dust). Both PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} may adversely affect the human respiratory system, especially in people who are naturally sensitive or susceptible to breathing problems (South Coast AQMD 2005).

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The US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) scientific review concluded that PM_{2.5}, which penetrates deeply into the lungs, is more likely than PM₁₀ to contribute to health effects and at concentrations that extend well below those allowed by the current PM₁₀ standards. These health effects include premature death and increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits (primarily the elderly and individuals with cardiopulmonary disease); increased respiratory symptoms and disease (children and individuals with cardiopulmonary disease such as asthma); decreased lung functions (particularly in children and individuals with asthma); and alterations in lung tissue and structure and in respiratory tract defense mechanisms (South Coast AQMD 2005). There has been emerging evidence that ultrafine particulates, which are even smaller particulates with an aerodynamic diameter of <0.1 microns or less (i.e., ≤ 0.0001 millimeter) have human health implications because their toxic components may initiate or facilitate biological processes that may lead to adverse effects to the heart, lungs, and other organs (South Coast AQMD 2013). However, the EPA and CARB have not adopted AAQS to regulate these particulates. Diesel particulate matter is classified by CARB as a carcinogen (CARB 1998). Particulate matter can also cause environmental effects such as visibility impairment, environmental damage, and aesthetic damage (South Coast AQMD 2005; USEPA 2022). The SoCAB is a nonattainment area for PM_{2.5} under California and National AAQS and a nonattainment area for PM₁₀ under the California AAQS (CARB 2022a).

Ozone (O₃) is a key ingredient of "smog" and is a gas that is formed when VOCs and NO_X, both by-products of internal combustion engine exhaust, undergo photochemical reactions in sunlight. O₃ is a secondary criteria air pollutant. O₃ concentrations are generally highest during the summer months when direct sunlight, light winds, and warm temperatures create favorable conditions for its formation. O₃ poses a health threat to those who already suffer from respiratory diseases as well as to healthy people. Breathing O₃ can trigger a variety of health problems, including chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and congestion. It can worsen bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma. Ground-level O₃ also can reduce lung function and inflame the linings of the lungs. Repeated exposure may permanently scar lung tissue. O₃ also affects sensitive vegetation and ecosystems, including forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas. In particular, O₃ harms sensitive vegetation during the growing season (South Coast AQMD 2005; US EPA 2022). The SoCAB is designated extreme nonattainment under the California AAQS (1-hour and 8-hour) and National AAQS (8-hour) (CARB 2022a).

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) are composed primarily of hydrogen and carbon atoms. Internal combustion associated with motor vehicle usage is the major source of VOCs. Other sources include evaporative emissions from paints and solvents, asphalt paving, and household consumer products such as aerosols (South Coast AQMD 2005). There are no AAQS for VOCs. However, because they contribute to the formation of O₃, South Coast AQMD has established a significance threshold.

Lead (Pb) is a metal found naturally in the environment as well as in manufactured products. Once taken into the body, lead distributes throughout the body in the blood and accumulates in the bones. Depending on the level of exposure, lead can adversely affect the nervous system, kidney function, immune system, reproductive and developmental systems, and the cardiovascular system. Lead exposure also affects the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood. The effects of lead most commonly encountered in current populations are neurological effects in children and cardiovascular effects in adults (e.g., high blood pressure and heart disease). Infants and young children are especially sensitive to even low levels of lead, which may contribute to behavioral problems, learning deficits, and lowered IQ (South Coast AQMD 2005; USEPA 2022). The major sources of lead

emissions have historically been mobile and industrial sources. As a result of the EPA's regulatory efforts to remove lead from gasoline, emissions of lead from the transportation sector dramatically declined by 95 percent between 1980 and 1999, and levels of lead in the air decreased by 94 percent between 1980 and 1999. Today, the highest levels of lead in air are usually found near lead smelters. The major sources of lead emissions today are ore and metals processing and piston-engine aircraft operating on leaded aviation gasoline. However, in 2008 the EPA and CARB adopted stricter lead standards, and special monitoring sites immediately downwind of lead sources recorded very localized violations of the new state and federal standards. As a result of these violations, the Los Angeles County portion of the SoCAB is designated nonattainment under the National AAQS for lead (South Coast AQMD 2012; CARB 2022a). There are no lead-emitting sources associated with development accommodated by the Specific Plan, and therefore, lead is not a pollutant of concern for the Specific Plan's implementation.

Table 5.2-1 summarizes the potential health effects associated with the criteria air pollutants.

Table 5.2-1 Criteria Air Pollutant Health Effects Summary

Pollutant	Health Effects	Examples of Sources
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	 Chest pain in heart patients Headaches, nausea Reduced mental alertness Death at very high levels 	Any source that burns fuel such as cars, trucks, construction and farming equipment, and residential heaters and stoves
Ozone (O ₃)	 Cough, chest tightness Difficulty taking a deep breath Worsened asthma symptoms Lung inflammation 	Atmospheric reaction of organic gases with nitrogen oxides in sunlight
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	Increased response to allergensAggravation of respiratory illness	Same as carbon monoxide sources
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5})	Hospitalizations for worsened heart diseases Emergency room visits for asthma Premature death	Cars and trucks (particularly diesels) Fireplaces and woodstoves Windblown dust from overlays, agriculture, and construction
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Aggravation of respiratory disease (e.g., asthma and emphysema) Reduced lung function	Combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels, smelting of sulfur-bearing metal ores, and industrial processes
Lead (Pb)	Behavioral and learning disabilities in children Nervous system impairment	Contaminated soil

Toxic Air Contaminants

People exposed to toxic air contaminants (TAC) at sufficient concentrations and durations may have an increased chance of getting cancer or experiencing other serious health effects. These health effects can include

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Source-oriented monitors record concentrations of lead at lead-related industrial facilities in the SoCAB, which include Exide Technologies in the City of Commerce; Quemetco, Inc., in the City of Industry; Trojan Battery Company in Santa Fe Springs; and Exide Technologies in Vernon. Monitoring conducted between 2004 through 2007 showed that the Trojan Battery Company and Exide Technologies exceed the federal standards (South Coast AQMD 2012).

damage to the immune system as well as neurological, reproductive (e.g., reduced fertility), developmental, respiratory, and other health problems (USEPA 2020). By the last update to the TAC list in December 1999, CARB had designated 244 compounds as TACs (CARB 1999). Additionally, CARB has implemented control measures for a number of compounds that pose high risks and show potential for effective control. There are no air quality standards for TACs. Instead, TAC impacts are evaluated by calculating the health risks associated with a given exposure. The majority of the estimated health risks from TACs can be attributed to relatively few compounds, the most relevant to development accommodated by the Specific Plan being particulate matter from diesel-fueled engines.

Diesel Particulate Matter

In 1998, CARB identified diesel particulate matter (DPM) as a TAC. Previously, the individual chemical compounds in diesel exhaust were considered TACs. Almost all diesel exhaust particles are 10 microns or less in diameter. Because of their extremely small size, these particles can be inhaled and eventually trapped in the bronchial and alveolar regions of the lungs. Long-term (chronic) inhalation of DPM is likely a lung cancer risk. Short-term (i.e., acute) exposure can cause irritation and inflammatory symptoms and may exacerbate existing allergies and asthma symptoms (USEPA 2002).

5.2.1.2 REGULATORY BACKGROUND

Ambient air quality standards have been adopted at the state and federal levels for criteria air pollutants. In addition, both the state and federal government regulate the release of TACs. The Project Area is in the SoCAB and is subject to the rules and regulations imposed by the South Coast AQMD, the California AAQS adopted by CARB, and National AAQS adopted by the EPA. Federal, state, regional, and local laws, regulations, plans, or guidelines that are potentially applicable to development accommodated by the Specific Plan are summarized in this section.

Federal and State

AAQS have been adopted at the state and federal levels for criteria air pollutants. In addition, both the State and federal government regulate the release of TACs. The City of Claremont is in the SoCAB and is subject to the rules and regulations imposed by the South Coast AQMD as well as the California AAQS adopted by CARB and National AAQS adopted by the EPA.

Ambient Air Quality Standards

The Clean Air Act (CAA) was passed in 1963 by the US Congress and has been amended several times. The 1970 CAA amendments strengthened previous legislation and laid the foundation for the regulatory scheme of the 1970s and 1980s. In 1977, Congress again added several provisions, including nonattainment requirements for areas not meeting National AAQS and the Prevention of Significant Deterioration program. The 1990 amendments represent the latest in a series of federal efforts to regulate the protection of air quality in the United States. The CAA allows states to adopt more stringent standards or to include other pollution species. The California Clean Air Act, signed into law in 1988, requires all areas of the state to achieve and maintain the

California AAQS by the earliest practical date. The California AAQS tend to be more restrictive than the National AAQS.

These National AAQS and California AAQS are the levels of air quality considered to provide a margin of safety in the protection of the public health and welfare. They are designed to protect "sensitive receptors" most susceptible to further respiratory distress, such as asthmatics, the elderly, very young children, people already weakened by other disease or illness, and persons engaged in strenuous work or exercise. Healthy adults can tolerate occasional exposure to air pollutant concentrations considerably above these minimum standards before adverse effects are observed.

Both California and the federal government have established health-based AAQS for seven air pollutants. As shown in Table 5.2-2, these pollutants are ozone (O₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), coarse inhalable particulate matter (PM₁₀), fine inhalable particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and lead (Pb). In addition, the state has set standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, vinyl chloride, and visibility-reducing particles. These standards are designed to protect the health and welfare of the populace with a reasonable margin of safety.

Table 5.2-2 Ambient Air Quality Standards for Criteria Pollutants

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Standard ¹	Federal Primary Standard ²	Major Pollutant Sources
Ozone (O ₃) ³	1 hour	0.09 ppm	*	Motor vehicles, paints, coatings, and solvents.
	8 hours	0.070 ppm	0.070 ppm	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 hour	20 ppm	35 ppm	Internal combustion engines, primarily gasoline-powered motor vehicles.
(00)	8 hours	9.0 ppm	9 ppm	motor verildes.
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.030 ppm	0.053 ppm	Motor vehicles, petroleum-refining operations, industrial sources, aircraft, ships, and railroads.
	1 hour	0.18 ppm	0.100 ppm	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Annual Arithmetic Mean	*	0.030 ppm	Fuel combustion, chemical plants, sulfur recovery plants, and metal processing.
	1 hour	0.25 ppm	0.075 ppm	
	24 hours	0.04 ppm	0.14 ppm	
Respirable Coarse Particulate Matter	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 μg/m ³	*	Dust and fume-producing construction, industrial, and agricultural operations, combustion, atmospheric
(PM ₁₀)	24 hours	50 μg/m ³	150 µg/m³	photochemical reactions, and natural activities (e.g., wind-raised dust and ocean sprays).
Respirable Fine Particulate Matter	Annual Arithmetic Mean	agricultural operations, combustion, atmospheric		
(PM _{2.5}) ⁴	24 hours	*	35 µg/m³	photochemical reactions, and natural activities (e.g., wind- raised dust and ocean sprays).

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Table 5.2-2 Ambient Air Quality Standards for Criteria Pollutants

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Standard ¹	Federal Primary Standard ²	Major Pollutant Sources
Lead (Pb)	30-Day Average	1.5 µg/m³	*	Present source: lead smelters, battery manufacturing &
	Calendar Quarter	*	1.5 µg/m³	recycling facilities. Past source: combustion of leaded gasoline.
	Rolling 3-Month Average	*	0.15 μg/m ³	
Sulfates (SO ₄) ⁵	24 hours	25 μg/m³	*	Industrial processes.
Visibility Reducing Particles	8 hours	ExCo =0.23/km visibility of 10≥ miles	*	Visibility-reducing particles consist of suspended particulate matter, which is a complex mixture of tiny particles that consists of dry solid fragments, solid cores with liquid coatings, and small droplets of liquid. These particles vary greatly in shape, size and chemical composition, and can be made up of many different materials such as metals, soot, soil, dust, and salt.
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 hour	0.03 ppm	*	Hydrogen sulfide (H ₂ S) is a colorless gas with the odor of rotten eggs. It is formed during bacterial decomposition of sulfur-containing organic substances. Also, it can be present in sewer gas and some natural gas and can be emitted as the result of geothermal energy exploitation.
Vinyl Chloride	24 hours	0.01 ppm	*	Vinyl chloride (chloroethene), a chlorinated hydrocarbon, is a colorless gas with a mild, sweet odor. Most vinyl chloride is used to make polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic and vinyl products. Vinyl chloride has been detected near landfills, sewage plants, and hazardous waste sites, due to microbial breakdown of chlorinated solvents.

Source: CARB 2016.

Notes: ppm: parts per million; µg/m³: micrograms per cubic meter

California has also adopted a host of other regulations that reduce criteria pollutant emissions:

 Assembly Bill (AB) 1493: Pavley Fuel Efficiency Standards. Pavley I is a clean-car standard that reduces greenhouse gas emissions from new passenger vehicles (light-duty auto to medium-duty vehicles)

^{*} Standard has not been established for this pollutant/duration by this entity.

¹ California standards for O₃, CO (except 8-hour Lake Tahoe), SO₂ (1 and 24 hour), NO₂, and particulate matter (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and visibility reducing particles), are values that are not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. California ambient air quality standards are listed in the Table of Standards in Section 70200 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.

² National standards (other than O₃, PM, and those based on annual arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The O₃ standard is attained when the fourth highest 8-hour concentration measured at each site in a year, averaged over three years, is equal to or less than the standard. For PM₁₀, the 24-hour standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with a 24-hour average concentration above 150 μg/m³ is equal to or less than one. For PM_{2.5}, the 24-hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over three years, are equal to or less than the standard.

³ On October 1, 2015, the national 8-hour ozone primary and secondary standards were lowered from 0.075 to 0.070 ppm.

⁴ On December 14, 2012, the national annual PM_{2.5} primary standard was lowered from 15 μg/m³ to 12.0 μg/m³. The existing national 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards (primary and secondary) were retained at 35 μg/m³, as was the annual secondary standard of 15 μg/m³. The existing 24-hour PM₁₀ standards (primary and secondary) of 150 μg/m³ also were retained. The form of the annual primary and secondary standards is the annual mean, averaged over 3 years.

⁵ On June 2, 2010, a new 1-hour SO₂ standard was established and the existing 24-hour and annual primary standards were revoked. The 1-hour national standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the 1-hour national standard to the California standard the units can be converted to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 75 ppb is identical to 0.075 ppm.

from 2009 through 2016. In January 2012, CARB approved the Advanced Clean Cars program (formerly known as Pavley II) for model years 2017 through 2025.

- Senate Bill (SB) 1078 and SB 107: Renewables Portfolio Standards. A major component of California's Renewable Energy Program is the renewables portfolio standard (RPS) established under SB 1078 (Sher) and SB 107 (Simitian). Under the RPS, certain retail sellers of electricity were required to increase the amount of renewable energy each year by at least 1 percent to reach at least 20 percent by December 30, 2010.
- Heavy-Duty (Tractor-Trailer) Greenhouse Gas Regulation. The tractors and trailers subject to this regulation must either use EPA SmartWay-certified tractors and trailers or retrofit their existing fleet with SmartWay-verified technologies. The regulation applies primarily to owners of 53-foot or longer box-type trailers, including both dry-van and refrigerated-van trailers, and owners of the heavy-duty tractors that pull them on California highways. These owners are responsible for replacing or retrofitting their affected vehicles with compliant aerodynamic technologies and low rolling resistance tires. Sleeper cab tractors model year 2011 and later must be SmartWay certified. All other tractors must use SmartWay-verified low-rolling-resistance tires. There are also requirements for trailers to have low-rolling-resistance tires and aerodynamic devices.
- California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 20: Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards. The 2006 Appliance Efficiency Regulations (20 CCR Sections 1601–1608) were adopted by the California Energy Commission on October 11, 2006, and approved by the California Office of Administrative Law on December 14, 2006. The regulations include standards for both federally regulated appliances and non-federally regulated appliances.
- 24 CCR, Part 6: Building and Energy Efficiency Standards. Energy conservation standards for new residential and nonresidential buildings adopted by the California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (now the California Energy Commission) in June 1977.
- 24 CCR, Part 11: Green Building Standards Code. Establishes planning and design standards for sustainable site development, energy efficiency (in excess of the California Energy Code requirements), water conservation, material conservation, and internal air contaminants.²

Tanner Air Toxics Act and Air Toxics Hot Spot Information and Assessment Act

Public exposure to TACs is a significant environmental health issue in California. In 1983, the California legislature enacted a program to identify the health effects of TACs and reduce exposure to them. The California Health and Safety Code defines a TAC as "an air pollutant which may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health" (17 CCR Section 93000). A substance that is listed as a hazardous air pollutant pursuant to Section 112(b) of the federal Clean Air Act (42 US Code Section 7412[b]) is a TAC. Under state law, the California Environmental Protection Agency, acting through CARB, is authorized to identify a substance as a TAC if it is an air pollutant

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² The green building standards became mandatory in the 2010 edition of the code.

that may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or serious illness or may pose a present or potential hazard to human health.

California regulates TACs primarily through Assembly Bill (AB) 1807 (Tanner Air Toxics Act) and AB 2588 (Air Toxics "Hot Spot" Information and Assessment Act of 1987). The Tanner Air Toxics Act sets forth a formal procedure for CARB to designate substances as TACs. Once a TAC is identified, CARB adopts an "airborne toxics control measure" for sources that emit designated TACs. If there is a safe threshold for a substance (i.e., a point below which there is no toxic effect), the control measure must reduce exposure to below that threshold. If there is no safe threshold, the measure must incorporate toxics best available control technology to minimize emissions. To date, CARB has established formal control measures for 11 TACs that are identified as having no safe threshold.

Under AB 2588, TAC emissions from individual facilities are quantified and prioritized by the air quality management district or air pollution control district. High-priority facilities are required to perform a health risk assessment, and if specific thresholds are exceeded, are required to communicate the results to the public through notices and public meetings.

CARB has promulgated the following specific rules to limit TAC emissions:

- 13 CCR Chapter 10 Section 2485: Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Limit Diesel-Fueled Commercial Motor Vehicle Idling. Generally restricts on-road diesel-powered commercial motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of greater than 10,000 pounds from idling more than five minutes.
- 13 CCR Chapter 10 Section 2480: Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Limit School Bus Idling and Idling at Schools. Generally restricts a school bus or transit bus from idling for more than five minutes when within 100 feet of a school.
- 13 CCR Section 2477 and Article 8: Airborne Toxic Control Measure for In-Use Diesel-Fueled Transport Refrigeration Units (TRU) and TRU Generator Sets and Facilities Where TRUs Operate. Regulations established to control emissions associated with diesel-powered TRUs.

Regional

The state is divided into air pollution control districts/air quality management districts. These agencies are county or regional governing authorities that have primary responsibility for controlling air pollution from stationary sources. CARB and local air districts are also responsible for developing clean air plans to demonstrate how and when California will attain AAQS established under both the federal and California Clean Air Acts. For the areas in California that have not attained air quality standards, CARB works with air districts to develop and implement state and local attainment plans. In general, attainment plans contain a discussion of ambient air quality data and trends; a baseline emissions inventory; future year projections of emissions, which account for growth projections and already adopted control measures; a comprehensive control strategy of additional measures needed to reach attainment; an attainment demonstration, which generally involves

complex modeling; and contingency measures. Plans may also include interim milestones for progress toward attainment. The SoCAB is managed by the South Coast AQMD.

Air Quality Management Planning

The South Coast AQMD is the agency responsible for improving air quality in the SoCAB and ensuring that the National and California AAQS are attained and maintained. South Coast AQMD is responsible for preparing the AQMP for the SoCAB in coordination with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Since 1979, a number of AQMPs have been prepared.

2016 AQMP

On March 3, 2017, South Coast AQMD adopted the 2016 AQMP, which serves as an update to the 2012 AQMP. The 2016 AQMP addresses strategies and measures to attain the following National AAQS:

- 2008 National 8-hour ozone standard by 2031
- 2012 National annual PM_{2.5} standard by 2025³
- 2006 National 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard by 2019
- 1997 National 8-hour ozone standard by 2023
- 1979 National 1-hour ozone standard by 2022

It is projected that total NOx emissions in the SoCAB would need to be reduced to 150 tons per day (tpd) by year 2023 and to 100 tpd in year 2031 to meet the 1997 and 2008 federal 8-hour ozone standards. The strategy would also attain the 1979 federal 1-hour ozone standard by year 2022, which requires reducing NOx emissions to 250 tpd (South Coast AQMD 2017). The strategies in the 2016 AQMP results in approximately 45 percent additional reductions above existing regulations for the 2023 ozone standard and 55 percent additional reductions to above existing regulations to meet the 2031 ozone standard.

Reducing NOx emissions would also reduce PM_{2.5} concentrations in the SoCAB. However, because the goal is to meet the 2012 federal annual PM_{2.5} standard no later than year 2025, South Coast AQMD is seeking to reclassify the SoCAB from "moderate" to "serious" nonattainment under this federal standard. A "moderate" nonattainment would require meeting the 2012 federal standard by no later than 2021.

Overall, the 2016 AQMP consisted of stationary and mobile-source emission reductions from regulatory control measures, incentive-based programs, co-benefits from climate programs, mobile-source strategies, and reductions from federal sources such as aircrafts, locomotives, and ocean-going vessels. Strategies in the 2016 AQMP are implemented in collaboration with CARB and the EPA (South Coast AQMD 2017).

2022 AQMP

On October 1, 2015, the EPA strengthened the National AAQS for ground-level ozone, lowering the primary and secondary ozone standard levels to 70 parts per billion (ppb) from 75 ppb. The SoCAB is classified as an "extreme" nonattainment area for the 2015 National AAQS for ozone. In May 2022, South Coast released the

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³ The 2016 AQMP requests a reclassification from moderate to serious nonattainment for the 2012 National PM_{2.5} standard.

draft 2022 AQMP to address the requirements for meeting this standard. The Draft 2022 AQMP builds upon measures already in place from previous AQMPs. It also includes a variety of additional strategies such as regulation, accelerated deployment of available cleaner technologies (e.g., zero emission technologies, when cost-effective and feasible, and low NOx technologies in other applications), best management practices, cobenefits from existing programs (e.g., climate and energy efficiency), incentives, and other CAA measures to achieve the 2015 8-hour ozone standard. The 2015 8-hour ozone standard is the most stringent standard to date. Because current ozone levels in the SoCAB are so high, meeting the standard will require substantial emission reductions above and beyond current programs. South Coast AQMD forecasts that emissions of NOx—the key pollutant controlling formation of ozone—must be reduced by 71 percent beyond what we would achieve through current programs by 2037 to meet the standard. By year 2037, 42 percent of NOx emissions will come from federal sources, 39 percent will come from State-regulated sources, and only 19 percent will come from sources regulated by the South Coast AQMD (South Coast AQMD 2022).

AB 617: Community Air Protection Program

AB 617 (C. Garcia, Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017) requires local air districts to monitor and implement air pollution control strategies that reduce localized air pollution in communities that bear the greatest burdens. In response to AB 617, CARB has established the Community Air Protection Program.

Air districts are required to host workshops to help identify disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately affected by poor air quality. Once the criteria for identifying the highest priority locations have been identified and the communities have been selected, new community monitoring systems would be installed to track and monitor community-specific air pollution goals. In 2018 CARB prepared an air monitoring plan (Community Air Protection Blueprint) that evaluates the availability and effectiveness of air monitoring technologies and existing community air monitoring networks. Under AB 617, the Blueprint is required to be updated every five years.

Under AB 617, CARB is also required to prepare a statewide strategy to reduce TACs and criteria pollutants in impacted communities; provide a statewide clearinghouse for best available retrofit control technology; adopt new rules requiring the latest best available retrofit control technology for all criteria pollutants for which an area has not achieved attainment of California AAQS; and provide uniform, statewide reporting of emissions inventories. Air districts are required to adopt a community emissions reduction program to achieve reductions for the communities impacted by air pollution that CARB identifies.

Lead Implementation Plan

In 2008, the EPA designated the Los Angeles County portion of the SoCAB as a nonattainment area under the federal lead (Pb) classification because of the addition of source-specific monitoring under the new federal regulation. This designation was based on two source-specific monitors in the City of Vernon and the City of Industry that exceeded the new standard in the 2007 to 2009 period. The remainder of the SoCAB, outside the Los Angeles County nonattainment area, remains in attainment of the new 2008 lead standard. On May 24, 2012, CARB approved the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision for the federal lead standard, which the EPA revised in 2008. Lead concentrations in this nonattainment area have been below the level of the federal standard since December 2011. The SIP revision was submitted to the EPA for approval.

South Coast AQMD PM25 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan

In 1997, the EPA adopted the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard of 65 μg/m³. In 2006, this standard was lowered to a more health-protective level of 35 μg/m³. The SoCAB is designated nonattainment for both the 65 and 35 μg/m³ 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards (24-hour PM_{2.5} standards). In 2020, monitored data demonstrated that the SoCAB attained both 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards. The South Coast AQMD developed the "2021 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan" for the 1997 and 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} Standards, demonstrating that the SoCAB has met the requirements to be redesignated to attainment (South Coast AQMD 2021b).

South Coast AQMD Rules and Regulations

All projects are subject to South Coast AQMD rules and regulations in effect at the time of activity, including:

- Rule 401, Visible Emissions. This rule is intended to prevent the discharge of pollutant emissions from an emissions source that results in visible emissions. Specifically, the rule prohibits the discharge of any air contaminant into the atmosphere by a person from any single source of emission for a period or periods aggregating more than three minutes in any one hour that is as dark as or darker than designated No. 1 on the Ringelmann Chart, as published by the US Bureau of Mines.
- Rule 402, Nuisance. This rule is intended to prevent the discharge of pollutant emissions from an emissions source that results in a public nuisance. Specifically, this rule prohibits any person from discharging quantities of air contaminants or other material from any source such that it would result in an injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public. Additionally, the discharge of air contaminants would also be prohibited where it would endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any number of persons or the public, or that cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property. This rule does not apply to odors emanating from agricultural operations necessary for the growing of crops or the raising of fowl or animals.
- Rule 403, Fugitive Dust. This rule is intended to reduce the amount of particulate matter entrained in the ambient air as a result of anthropogenic (human-made) fugitive dust sources by requiring actions to prevent, reduce, or mitigate fugitive dust emissions. Rule 403 applies to any activity or human-made condition capable of generating fugitive dust and requires best available control measures to be applied to earth-moving and grading activities.
- Rule 445, Wood Burning Devices. In general, the rule prohibits new developments from the installation of wood-burning devices. This rule is intended to reduce the emission of particulate matter from wood-burning devices and applies to manufacturers and sellers of wood-burning devices, commercial sellers of firewood, and property owners and tenants that operate a wood-burning device.
- Rule 1113, Architectural Coatings. This rule serves to limit the VOCs content of architectural coatings used on projects in the South Coast AQMD. Any person who supplies, sells, offers for sale, or manufactures any architectural coating for use on projects in the South Coast AQMD must comply with the current VOC standards set in this rule.

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- Rule 1403, Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities. The purpose of this rule is to specify work practice requirements to limit asbestos emissions from building demolition and renovation activities, including the removal and associated disturbance of asbestos-containing materials (ACM). The requirements for demolition and renovation activities include asbestos surveying, notification, ACM removal procedures and time schedules, ACM handling and clean-up procedures, and storage, disposal, and landfilling requirements for asbestos-containing waste materials. All operators are required to maintain records, including waste shipment records, and are required to use appropriate warning labels, signs, and markings.
- Rule 2305, Warehouse Actions and Investments to Reduce Emissions (WAIRE) Program. Rule 2305 applies to both the operators and owners of warehouses greater than or equal to 100,000 square feet in size, although most requirements apply to warehouse operators. The rule is being phased in over a three-year period based on warehouse. Under Rule 2305, warehouse operations over 100,000 square feet are required to earn a specified number of WAIRE points using any combination of items from the WAIRE menu, implementation of a custom WAIRE plan, or payment of a mitigation fee. The amount of points every warehouse operator must earn annually depends on the number of truck trips to their warehouse during the 12-month compliance period. The WAIRE menu includes acquisition of or visits from near-zero-emissions and zero-emissions (ZE) on-road trucks, acquiring or using ZE yard trucks, installing or using ZE charging/fueling infrastructure, installing or using solar panels, or installing particulate filters for nearby sensitive land uses. Alternatively, an operator may choose to apply for a site-specific custom WAIRE plan that incorporates actions that are not on the WAIRE menu.

5.2.1.3 EXISTING CONDITIONS

South Coast Air Basin Meteorology

The Project Area lies in the SoCAB, which includes all of Orange County and the nondesert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. The SoCAB is in a coastal plain with connecting broad valleys and low hills and is bounded by the Pacific Ocean in the southwest quadrant, with high mountains forming the remainder of the perimeter. The general region lies in the semipermanent high-pressure zone of the eastern Pacific. As a result, the climate is mild, tempered by cool sea breezes. This usually mild weather pattern is interrupted infrequently by periods of extremely hot weather, winter storms, and Santa Ana winds (South Coast AQMD 2005).

Temperature and Precipitation

The annual average temperature varies little throughout the SoCAB, ranging from the low to middle 60s, measured in degrees Fahrenheit (°F). With a more pronounced oceanic influence, coastal areas show less variability in annual minimum and maximum temperatures than inland areas. The climatological station nearest to the Project Area with temperature data is the Claremont Pomona College. (ID 041779). The lowest average temperature is reported at 38.6°F in January, and the highest average temperature is 90.4°F in July (WRCC 2022).

In contrast to a very steady pattern of temperature, rainfall is seasonally and annually highly variable. Almost all rain falls from October through April. Summer rainfall is normally restricted to widely scattered thundershowers near the coast, with slightly heavier shower activity in the east and over the mountains. Rainfall historically averages 16.95 inches per year in the project area (WRCC 2022).

Humidity

Although the SoCAB has a semiarid climate, the air near the Earth's surface is typically moist because of a shallow marine layer. This "ocean effect" is dominant except for infrequent periods when dry, continental air is brought into the SoCAB by offshore winds. Low clouds, often referred to as high fog, are a characteristic climatic feature. Annual average humidity is 70 percent at the coast and 57 percent in the eastern portions of the SoCAB (South Coast AQMD 2005).

Wind

Wind patterns across the southern coastal region are characterized by westerly or southwesterly onshore winds during the day and easterly or northeasterly breezes at night. Wind speed is somewhat greater during the dry summer months than during the rainy winter season.

Between periods of wind, periods of air stagnation may occur in the morning and evening hours. Air stagnation is one of the critical determinants of air quality conditions on any given day. During the winter and fall months, surface high-pressure systems over the SoCAB combined with other meteorological conditions can result in very strong, downslope Santa Ana winds. These winds normally continue a few days before predominant meteorological conditions are reestablished.

The mountain ranges to the east inhibit the eastward transport and diffusion of pollutants. Air quality in the SoCAB generally ranges from fair to poor and is similar to air quality in most of coastal Southern California. The entire region experiences heavy concentrations of air pollutants during prolonged periods of stable atmospheric conditions (South Coast AQMD 2005).

Inversions

In conjunction with the two characteristic wind patterns that affect the rate and orientation of horizontal pollutant transport, two distinct types of temperature inversions control the vertical depth through which pollutants are mixed. These inversions are the marine/subsidence inversion and the radiation inversion. The height of the base of the inversion at any given time is known as the "mixing height." The combination of winds and inversions are critical determinants in leading to the highly degraded air quality in summer and the generally good air quality in the winter in the Project Area (South Coast AQMD 2005).

SoCAB Nonattainment Areas

The AQMP provides the framework for air quality basins to achieve attainment of the state and federal ambient air quality standards through the SIP. Areas are classified as attainment or nonattainment areas for particular pollutants depending on whether they meet the AAQS. Severity classifications for ozone nonattainment range in magnitude from marginal, moderate, and serious to severe and extreme.

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- *Unclassified.* A pollutant is designated unclassified if the data are incomplete and do not support a designation of attainment or nonattainment.
- Attainment. A pollutant is in attainment if the AAQS for that pollutant was not violated at any site in the area during a three-year period.
- **Nonattainment.** A pollutant is in nonattainment if there was at least one violation of an AAQS for that pollutant in the area.
- **Nonattainment/Transitional.** A subcategory of the nonattainment designation. An area is designated nonattainment/transitional to signify that the area is close to attaining the AAQS for that pollutant.

The attainment status for the SoCAB is shown in Table 5.2-3.

Table 5.2-3 Attainment Status of Criteria Air Pollutants in the South Coast Air Basin

Pollutant	State	Federal
Ozone – 1-hour	Extreme Nonattainment	No Federal Standard
Ozone – 8-hour	Extreme Nonattainment	Extreme Nonattainment
PM ₁₀	Serious Nonattainment	Attainment
PM _{2.5}	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
CO	Attainment	Attainment
NO ₂	Attainment	Attainment/Maintenance
SO ₂	Attainment	Attainment
Lead	Attainment	Nonattainment (Los Angeles County only) ¹
All others	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment/Unclassified

Source: CARB 2022a.

Remaining areas in the SoCAB are unclassified.

Existing Ambient Air Quality

Existing levels of ambient air quality and historical trends and projections in the vicinity of the Project Area are best documented by measurements taken by the South Coast AQMD. The Project Area is located within Source Receptor Area (SRA) 10: Pomona/Walnut Valley.⁴ The air quality monitoring station closest to the Project Area is the Pomona Monitoring Station, which is one of 31 monitoring stations South Coast AQMD

On February 21, 2019, CARB's board approved the separation of the area that runs along State Route 60 corridor through portions of Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles counties from the remainder of the SoCAB for State nonattainment designation purposes. The board designated this corridor as nonattainment. The remainder of the SoCAB remains in attainment for NO₂ (CARB 2019). CARB is proposing to redesignate SR-60 Near-Road Portion of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties in the SoCAB as attainment for NO₂ at the February 24, 2022, board hearing (CARB 2022b).

The SoCAB is pending a resignation request from nonattainment to attainment for the 24-hour federal PM_{2.5} standards. The 2021 PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan demonstrates that the South Coast meets the requirements of the CAA to allow the EPA to redesignate the SoCAB to attainment for the 65 μg/m³ and 35 μg/m³ 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards. CARB will submit the 2021 PM2.5 Redesignation Request to the US EPA as a revision to the California SIP (CARB 2021).
 In 2010, the Los Angeles portion of the SoCAB was designated nonattainment for lead under the new 2008 federal AAQS as a result of large industrial emitters.

⁴ Per South Coast AQMD Rule 701, an SRA is defined as: "A source area is that area in which contaminants are discharged and a receptor area is that area in which the contaminants accumulate and are measured. Any of the areas can be a source area, a receptor area, or both a source and receptor area." There are 37 SRAs in the South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction.

operates and maintains within the SoCAB.⁵ Data from this station includes O₃ and NO₂ and is summarized in Table 5.2-4. Data for PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} is supplemented by information from the Azusa Monitoring Station. The data show that the area regularly exceeds the state and federal one-hour and eight-hour O₃ standards within the last five recorded years. Additionally, the area has regularly exceeded the state PM₁₀ standards and has exceeded the federal PM_{2.5} standard.

Table 5.2-4 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Summary

	Number of Days Thresholds Were Exceeded and Maximum Levels ¹					
Pollutant/Standard	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Ozone (O ₃)						
State 1-Hour ≥ 0.09 ppm (days exceed threshold)	20	18	7	3	51	
Federal 8-hour ≥ 0.070 ppm (days exceed threshold)	26	35	10	12	84	
Max. 1-Hour Conc. (ppm)	0.127	0.147	0.112	0.098	0.180	
Max. 8-Hour Conc. (ppm)	0.092	0.114	0.092	0.083	0.124	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)						
State 1-Hour ≥ 0.18 ppm (days exceed threshold)	0	0	0	0	0	
Max. 1-Hour Conc. (ppm)	0.0693	0.0812	0.0679	0.0644	0.0679	
Coarse Particulates (PM ₁₀)						
State 24-Hour > 50 µg/m³ (days exceed threshold)	12	7	10	4	9	
Federal 24-Hour > 150 µg/m³ (days exceed threshold)	0	0	0	0	1	
Max. 24-Hour Conc. (µg/m³)	74.0	83.9	78.3	82.0	152.3	
Fine Particulates (PM _{2.5})						
Federal 24-Hour > 35 μg/m³ (days exceed threshold)	0	0	1	1	5	
Max. 24-Hour Conc. (μg/m³)	32.1	24.9	41.8	70.3	102.5	

Source: CARB 2022c.

Notes: ppm = parts per million; ppb = parts per billion; µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter; * = Data not available

Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study V

The Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (MATES) is a monitoring and evaluation study on existing ambient concentrations of TACs and the potential health risks from air toxics in the SoCAB. In April 2021, South Coast AQMD released the latest update to the MATES study, MATES V. The first MATES analysis began in 1986 but was limited because of the technology available at the time. Conducted in 1998, MATES II was the first MATES iteration to include a comprehensive monitoring program, an air toxics emissions inventory, and a modeling component. MATES III was conducted in 2004 to 2006, with MATES IV following in 2012 to 2013.

MATES V uses measurements taken during 2018 and 2019, with a comprehensive modeling analysis and emissions inventory based on 2018 data. The previous MATES studies quantified the cancer risks based on the inhalation pathway only. MATES V includes information on the chronic noncancer risks from inhalation and non-inhalation pathways for the first time. Cancer risks and chronic noncancer risks from MATES II

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Data for O₃ and NO₂ obtained from the Pomona Monitoring Station. Data for PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} obtained from the Azusa Monitoring Station.

⁵ Locations of the SRAs and monitoring stations are shown here: http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/map-of-monitoring-areas.pdf.

through IV measurements have been re-examined using current Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment and California Environmental Protection Agency risk assessment methodologies and modern statistical methods to examine the trends over time.

The MATES V study showed that cancer risk in the SoCAB decreased to 454 in a million from 997 in a million in the MATES IV study. Overall, air toxics cancer risk in the SoCAB decreased by 54 percent since 2012 when MATES IV was conducted. MATES V showed the highest risk locations near the Los Angeles International Airport and the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. DPM continues to be the major contributor to air toxics cancer risk (approximately 72 percent of the total cancer risk). Goods movement and transportation corridors have the highest cancer risk. Transportation sources account for 88 percent of carcinogenic air toxics emissions, and the remainder is from stationary sources, which include large industrial operations such as refineries and power plants as well as smaller businesses such as gas stations and chrome-plating facilities (South Coast AQMD 2021a).

Existing Emissions

The Project Area is currently vacant and does not generate criteria air pollutant emissions from transportation, area sources, or energy use.

Sensitive Receptors

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution (i.e., TACs) than others due to the types of population groups or activities involved. Sensitive population groups include children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill, especially those with cardiorespiratory diseases.

Residential areas are also considered sensitive to air pollution because residents (including children and the elderly) tend to be at home for extended periods of time, resulting in sustained exposure to any pollutants present. Other sensitive receptors include retirement facilities, hospitals, and schools. Recreational land uses are considered moderately sensitive to air pollution. Although exposure periods are generally short, exercise places a high demand on respiratory functions, which can be impaired by air pollution. In addition, noticeable air pollution can detract from the enjoyment of recreation. Industrial, commercial, retail, and office areas are considered the least sensitive to air pollution. Exposure periods are relatively short and intermittent because the majority of workers tend to stay indoors most of the time. In addition, the workforce is generally the healthiest segment of the population.

The nearest off-site sensitive receptors are the single-family residences surrounding the Project Area to the north along Butler Court, east along Forbes Avenue, and south along Dana Court and Coalinga Court.

5.2.2 Thresholds of Significance

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project would:

AQ-1 Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

- AQ-2 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.
- AQ-3 Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- AQ-4 Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.

5.2.2.1 SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT THRESHOLDS

South Coast AQMD has adopted regional construction and operational emissions thresholds to determine a project's cumulative impact on air quality in the SoCAB, as shown in Table 5.2-5. The table lists thresholds that are applicable for all projects uniformly, regardless of size or scope. There is growing evidence that although ultrafine particulate matter contributes a very small portion of the overall atmospheric mass concentration, it represents a greater proportion of the health risk from PM. However, the EPA and CARB have not adopted AAQS to regulate ultrafine particulate matter; therefore, South Coast AQMD has not developed thresholds for it.

Table 5.2-5 South Coast AQMD Significance Thresholds

Air Pollutant ¹	Construction Phase	Operational Phase
Reactive Organic Gases (ROGs)/Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	75 lbs/day	55 lbs/day
Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)	100 lbs/day	55 lbs/day
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	550 lbs/day	550 lbs/day
Sulfur Oxides (SO _X)	150 lbs/day	150 lbs/day
Particulates (PM ₁₀)	150 lbs/day	150 lbs/day
Particulates (PM _{2.5})	55 lbs/day	55 lbs/day
Source: South Coast AQMD 2019.		

Health Outcomes Associated with the Regional Significance Thresholds

Projects that exceed the regional significance threshold contribute to the nonattainment designation of the SoCAB. The attainment designations are based on the AAQS, which are set at levels of exposure that are determined to not result in adverse health effects. Exposure to fine particulate pollution and ozone causes myriad health impacts, particularly to the respiratory and cardiovascular systems:

- Increases cancer risk (PM_{2.5}, TACs)
- Aggravates respiratory disease (O₃, PM_{2.5})
- Increases bronchitis (O₃, PM_{2.5})
- Causes chest discomfort, throat irritation, and increased effort to take a deep breath (O₃)
- Reduces resistance to infections and increases fatigue (O₃)
- Reduces lung growth in children (PM_{2.5})

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- Contributes to heart disease and heart attacks (PM_{2.5})
- Contributes to premature death (O₃, PM_{2.5})
- Contributes to lower birth weight in newborns (PM_{2.5}) (South Coast AQMD 2015a)

Exposure to fine particulates and ozone aggravates asthma attacks and can amplify other lung ailments such as emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Exposure to current levels of PM_{2.5} is responsible for an estimated 4,300 cardiopulmonary-related deaths per year in the SoCAB. In addition, a landmark children's health study by University of Southern California scientists found that lung growth improved as air pollution declined for children aged 11 to 15 in five communities in the SoCAB (South Coast AQMD 2015b).

South Coast AQMD is the primary agency responsible for ensuring the health and welfare of sensitive individuals exposed to elevated concentrations of air pollutants in the SoCAB and has established thresholds that would be protective of these individuals. To achieve the health-based standards established by the EPA, South Coast AQMD prepares an AQMP that details regional programs to attain the AAQS. Mass emissions shown in Table 5.2-5 are not correlated with concentrations of air pollutants but contribute to the cumulative air quality impacts in the SoCAB. The thresholds are based on the trigger levels for the federal New Source Review Program. This program was created to ensure projects are consistent with attainment of health-based federal AAQS. Regional emissions from a single project do not single-handedly trigger a regional health impact, and it is speculative to identify how many more individuals in the air basin would be affected by the health effects listed previously. Projects that do not exceed the South Coast AQMD regional significance thresholds in Table 5.2-6 would not violate any air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.

If projects exceed the emissions in Table 5.2-6, emissions would cumulatively contribute to the nonattainment status and would contribute to elevating health effects associated with these criteria air pollutants. Known health effects related to ozone include worsening of bronchitis, asthma, and emphysema and a decrease in lung function. Health effects associated with particulate matter include premature death of people with heart or lung disease, nonfatal heart attacks, irregular heartbeat, decreased lung function, and increased respiratory symptoms. Reducing emissions would further contribute to reducing possible health effects related to criteria air pollutants. However, for projects that exceed the emissions in Table 5.2-6, it is speculative to determine how exceeding the regional thresholds would affect the number of days the region is in nonattainment, because mass emissions are not correlated with concentrations of emissions or how many additional individuals in the air basin would be affected by the health effects cited previously.

South Coast AQMD has not provided methodology to assess the specific correlation between mass emissions generated and the effect on health to address the issue raised in *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (Friant Ranch, L.P.) (2018) 6 Cal.5th 502, Case No. S21978. Ozone concentrations are dependent on a variety of complex factors, including the presence of sunlight and precursor pollutants, natural topography, nearby structures that cause building downwash, atmospheric stability, and wind patterns. Because of the complexities of predicting ground-level ozone concentrations in relation to the National and California AAQS, it is not possible to link health risks to the magnitude of emissions exceeding the significance thresholds. However, if a project in the SoCAB exceeds the regional significance thresholds, the project could contribute to an increase in health effects in the basin until the attainment standards are met in the SoCAB.

CO Hotspots

Areas of vehicle congestion have the potential to create pockets of CO called hotspots. These pockets have the potential to exceed the state one-hour standard of 20 parts per million (ppm) or the eight-hour standard of 9 ppm. Because CO is produced in greatest quantities from vehicle combustion and does not readily disperse into the atmosphere, adherence to ambient air quality standards is typically demonstrated through an analysis of localized CO concentrations. Hotspots are typically produced at intersections, where traffic congestion is highest because vehicles queue for longer periods and are subject to reduced speeds. With the turnover of older vehicles and introduction of cleaner fuels, as well as implementation of control technology on industrial facilities, CO concentrations in the SoCAB and the state have steadily declined.

In 2007, the SoCAB was designated in attainment for CO under both the California AAQS and National AAQS. The CO hotspot analysis conducted for attainment by South Coast AQMD did not predict a violation of CO standards at the busiest intersections in Los Angeles during the peak morning and afternoon periods.⁶ As identified in South Coast AQMD's 2003 AQMP and the 1992 Federal Attainment Plan for Carbon Monoxide (1992 CO Plan), peak carbon monoxide concentrations in the SoCAB in years before redesignation were a result of unusual meteorological and topographical conditions and not of congestion at a particular intersection. Under existing and future vehicle emission rates, a project would have to increase traffic volumes at a single intersection by more than 44,000 vehicles per hour—or 24,000 vehicles per hour where vertical and/or horizontal air does not mix—to generate a significant CO impact (BAAQMD 2017).⁷

Localized Significance Thresholds

South Coast AQMD identifies localized significance thresholds (LST), shown in Table 5.2-6. Emissions of NO₂, CO, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} generated at a project site could expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of criteria air pollutants. Off-site mobile-source emissions are not included in the LST analysis. A project that would generate a significant impact if it generates emissions that, when added to the local background concentrations, violate the AAQS.

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⁶ The four intersections were: Long Beach Boulevard and Imperial Highway; Wilshire Boulevard and Veteran Avenue; Sunset Boulevard and Highland Avenue; and La Cienega Boulevard and Century Boulevard. The busiest intersection evaluated (Wilshire and Veteran) had a daily traffic volume of approximately 100,000 vehicles per day with LOS E in the morning peak hour and LOS F in the evening peak hour.

⁷ The CO hotspot analysis refers to the modeling conducted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for its CEQA Guidelines because it is based on newer data and considers the improvement in mobile-source CO emissions. Although meteorological conditions in the Bay Area differ from those in the Southern California region, the modeling conducted by BAAQMD demonstrates that the net increase in peak hour traffic volumes at an intersection in a single hour would need to be substantial. This finding is consistent with the CO hotspot analysis South Coast AQMD prepared as part of its 2003 AQMP to provide support in seeking CO attainment for the SoCAB. Based on the analysis prepared by South Coast AQMD, no CO hotspots were predicted for the SoCAB. As noted in the preceding footnote, the analysis included some of Los Angeles' busiest intersections, with daily traffic volumes of 100,000 or more peak hour vehicle trips operating at LOS E and F.

Table 5.2-6 South Coast AQMD Localized Significance Thresholds

Air Pollutant (Relevant AAQS)	Concentration
1-Hour CO Standard (CAAQS)	20 ppm
8-Hour CO Standard (CAAQS)	9.0 ppm
1-Hour NO ₂ Standard (CAAQS)	0.18 ppm
Annual NO ₂ Standard (CAAQS)	0.03 ppm
24-Hour PM ₁₀ Standard – Construction (South Coast AQMD) ¹	10.4 µg/m³
24-Hour PM _{2.5} Standard – Construction (South Coast AQMD) ¹	10.4 µg/m³
24-Hour PM ₁₀ Standard – Operation (South Coast AQMD) ¹	2.5 μg/m³
24-Hour PM _{2.5} Standard – Operation (South Coast AQMD) ¹	2.5 μg/m³
Annual Average PM ₁₀ Standard (South Coast AQMD) ¹	1.0 μg/m³

Source: South Coast AQMD 2019.

ppm - parts per million; µg/m3 - micrograms per cubic meter

To assist lead agencies, South Coast AQMD developed screening-level LSTs to back-calculate the mass amount (pounds per day) of emissions generated on-site that would trigger the levels shown in Table 5.2-7 for projects under five acres. These "screening-level" LST tables are the LSTs for all projects of five acres and less and are based on emissions over an 8-hour period; however, they can be used as screening criteria for larger projects to determine whether or not dispersion modeling may be required.

The screening-level LSTs in SRA 10 are shown in Table 5.2-7. For construction activities, the screening-level LSTs are based on the distance to the nearest sensitive receptors and the acreage disturbed per day and equipment use (South Coast AQMD 2011) up to the Project Area acreage. The different types of construction activities would require different equipment mixes, resulting in multiple LSTs. The screening-level LSTs reflect the thresholds for receptors within 82 feet (25 meters) for NOx, CO, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}.

Table 5.2-7 South Coast AQMD Screening-Level Localized Significance Thresholds

		Threshold (lbs/day)							
Acreage Disturbed	Nitrogen Oxides (NO _x)	Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Coarse Particulates (PM ₁₀)	Fine Particulates (PM _{2.5})					
≤1.00 Acre Disturbed Per Day	103	612	4.00	3.00					
1.50 Acres Disturbed Per Day	126	748	5.00	3.50					
2.50 Acres Disturbed Per Day	163	998	7.00	4.50					
3.00 Acres Disturbed Per Day	178	1,112	8.00	5.00					
3.50 Acres Disturbed Per Day	192	1,225	9.00	5.50					
≥5.00 Acres Disturbed Per Day	236	1,566	11.99	7.00					

Source: South Coast AQMD 2008, South Coast AQMD 2011. Based on receptors in SRA 10.

¹ Threshold is based on South Coast AQMD Rule 403. Since the SoCAB is in nonattainment for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, the threshold is established as an allowable change in concentration. Therefore, background concentration is irrelevant.

¹ The screening-level LSTs are based on receptors with exposure durations less than 24-hours within 82 feet (25 meters) for NO_x, CO, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}

Health Risk

Whenever a project would require use of chemical compounds that have been identified in South Coast AQMD Rule 1401, placed on CARB's air toxics list pursuant to AB 1807, or placed on the EPA's National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, a health risk assessment is required by the South Coast AQMD. Table 5.2-8 lists the TAC incremental risk thresholds for operation of a project. The type of land uses that typically generate substantial quantities of criteria air pollutants and TACs from operations include industrial (stationary sources) and warehousing (truck idling) land uses (CARB 2005). Residential and commercial uses do not use substantial quantities of TACs, thus these thresholds are typically applied to new industrial projects only. Additionally, the purpose of this environmental evaluation is to identify the significant effects of implementation of the Specific Plan on the environment, not the significant effects of the environment on the Specific Plan. (California Building Industry Association v. Bay Area Air Quality Management District (2015) 62 Cal.4th 369 (Case No. S213478).) However, the environmental document must analyze the impacts of environmental hazards on future users when a proposed project exacerbates an existing environmental hazard or condition. Residential, school, commercial, and office uses do not use substantial quantities of TACs and typically do not exacerbate existing hazards, so these thresholds are typically applied to new industrial projects.

Table 5.2-8 South Coast AQMD Toxic Air Contaminants Incremental Risk Thresholds

Maximum Incremental Cancer Risk	≥ 10 in 1 million
Cancer Burden (in areas ≥ 1 in 1 million)	> 0.5 excess cancer cases
Hazard Index (project increment)	≥ 1.0
Source: South Coast AQMD 2019.	

5.2.3 Environmental Impacts

5.2.3.1 METHODOLOGY

This air quality evaluation was prepared in accordance with the requirements of CEQA to determine if significant air quality impacts are likely to occur in conjunction with future development that would be accommodated by the Specific Plan. South Coast AQMD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook (Handbook) and updates on its website are intended to provide local governments with guidance for analyzing and mitigating project-specific air quality impacts. The Handbook provides standards, methodologies, and procedures for conducting air quality analyses in environmental impact reports, and they were used in this analysis.

Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions

Air pollutant emissions are calculated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), version 2022.1.0 (CAPCOA 2022). CalEEMod compiles an emissions inventory of construction (fugitive dust, off-gas emissions, on-road emissions, and off-road emissions), area sources, indirect emissions from energy use, mobile sources, indirect emissions from waste disposal (annual only), and indirect emissions from water/wastewater (annual only). Criteria air pollutant emissions modeling is included in Appendix B of this DEIR. The calculated

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emissions of development accommodated by the Specific Plan are compared to thresholds of significance for individual projects using the South Coast AQMD's Handbook. Following is a summary of the assumptions used for the analysis of development accommodated by Specific Plan.

Construction Phase

Construction would entail asphalt demolition and debris haul, rough grading and soil haul, fine grading, utilities trenching, building construction, paving, architectural coating, and finishing and landscaping on approximately 9.58 acres of the Project Area. Development accommodated by the Specific Plan is anticipated to be constructed over a period of 15 months, from the summer of 2023 to the fall of 2025. Construction air pollutant emissions are based on the preliminary information provided or verified by the applicant.

Operational Phase

- Transportation. The primary source of mobile criteria air pollutant emissions is tailpipe exhaust emissions from the combustion of fuel (i.e., gasoline and diesel). For particulate matter, brake and tire wear and fugitive dust are created by vehicles traveling roadways. Development accommodated by the Specific Plan (58 single-family dwelling units and 10 accessory dwelling units are analyzed in this DEIR) would generate a 612 average weekday trips, 596 Saturday trips, and 531 Sunday trips from the residential uses (EPD 2022). Project-related on-road criteria air pollutant emissions are based on calendar year 2025 for the project buildout year.
- Area Sources. Area source emissions from use of consumer cleaning products, landscaping equipment, and VOC emissions from paints for buildings are based on information provided or verified by the applicant. Area source emissions are based on CalEEMod default values and the square footage of the proposed single-family housing units.
- Energy. Criteria air pollutant emissions from energy use (natural gas used for cooking, heating, etc.) are based on the CalEEMod defaults for natural gas usage for the nonresidential land uses. Criteria air pollutant emissions from energy use are associated with natural gas used for heating.

5.2.3.2 IMPACT ANALYSIS

The following impact analysis addresses the thresholds of significance for which the Notice of Preparation disclosed potentially significant impacts. The applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

Impact 5.2-1: Implementation of the Specific Plan would be consistent with the applicable air quality management plan. [Threshold AQ-1]

Impact Analysis: A consistency determination with the AQMP plays an important role in local agency project review by linking local planning and individual projects to the AQMP. It fulfills the CEQA goal of informing decision makers of the environmental effects of development accommodated by the Specific Plan under

consideration early enough to ensure that air quality concerns are fully addressed. It also provides the local agency with ongoing information as to whether they are contributing to the clean air goals in the AQMP.

The regional emissions inventory for the SoCAB is compiled by South Coast AQMD and SCAG. Regional population, housing, and employment projections developed by SCAG are based, in part, on cities' general plan land use designations. These projections form the foundation for the emissions inventory of the AQMP. These demographic trends are incorporated into SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy to determine priority transportation projects and vehicle miles traveled in the SCAG region. Because the AQMP strategy is based on projections from local general plans, projects that are consistent with the local general plan are considered consistent with the air-quality-related regional plan.

Changes in population, housing, or employment growth projections have the potential to affect SCAG's demographic projections and therefore the assumptions in South Coast AQMD's AQMP. The project would result in up to 58 new single-family residential units. As discussed in Section 5.12, *Population and Housing*, the population growth and contribution to housing associated with development accommodated by the Specific Plan would be within SCAG's forecast growth projections for the City. Additionally, the project would address the need for additional housing to accommodate population growth in the city. Due to the nature of the Specific Plan, it would not result in new long-term employment. Construction activities associated with development accommodated by the Specific Plan would result in short-term employment only and would end upon project completion.

The long-term emissions generated by implementation of the Specific Plan would not produce criteria air pollutants that exceed the South Coast AQMD significance thresholds for operation of development accommodated by the Specific Plan (see Impact 5.2-3). South Coast AQMD's significance thresholds identify whether a project has the potential to cumulatively contribute to the SoCAB's nonattainment designations. Because implementation of the Specific Plan would not exceed the South Coast AQMD's regional significance thresholds (see Impact 5.2-2 and Impact 5.2-3) and growth is consistent with regional growth projections, development accommodated by the Specific Plan would not interfere with South Coast AQMD's ability to achieve the long-term air quality goals identified in the AQMP. Therefore, implementation of the Specific Plan would not conflict nor obstruct implementation of the AQMP, and impacts would be less than significant.

Impact 5.2-2: Construction activities associated with development accommodated by the Specific Plan would not generate short-term emissions in exceedance of South Coast AQMD's threshold criteria. [Threshold AQ-2]

Impact Analysis: Construction activities produce combustion emissions from various sources, such as on-site heavy-duty construction vehicles, vehicles hauling materials to and from the site, and motor vehicles transporting the construction crew. Construction of development accommodated by the Specific Plan would generate criteria air pollutants associated with construction equipment exhaust and fugitive dust from asphalt demolition and debris haul, rough grading and soil haul, fine grading, utilities trenching, building construction, architectural coating, paving, and finishing and landscaping of the site. Air pollutant emissions from construction activities on-site would vary daily as construction activity levels change. An estimate of maximum

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daily construction emissions for implementation of the Specific Plan is provided in Table 5.2-9. The table shows the highest daily emissions that would be generated over the anticipated development period.

Table 5.2-9 Maximum Daily Regional Construction Emissions

	Pollutants (lb/day) ^{1, 2}						
Construction Phase	VOC	NOx	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	
Year 2023							
Asphalt Demolition and Demolition Debris	1	34	16	<1	11	2	
Asphalt Demolition and Demolition Debris, Rough Grading and Soil Haul	5	78	49	<1	16	5	
Rough Grading and Soil Haul	4	44	33	<1	5	3	
Rough Grading	4	36	29	<1	5	3	
Rough Grading and Fine Grading	6	62	46	<1	9	5	
Fine Grading	2	26	17	<1	4	2	
Fine Grading and Utility Trenching	3	34	29	<1	5	3	
Utility Trenching	1	8	12	<1	<1	<1	
Utility Trenching, Building Construction 2023, and Paving 2023	4	37	40	<1	2	1	
Building Construction 2023 and Paving 2023	3	29	28	<1	1	1	
Year 2024		-	-	÷	-	<u>:</u>	
Building Construction 2024 and Paving 2024	3	26	27	<1	1	1	
Building Construction 2024, Paving 2024, and Finishing/Landscaping 2024	3	27	28	<1	1	1	
Building Construction 2024 and Finishing/Landscaping 2024	1	7	11	<1	<1	<1	
Year 2025							
Building Construction 2025 and Finishing/Landscaping 2025	1	8	10	<1	<1	<1	
Building Construction 2025, Finishing/Landscaping 2025, and Architectural Coating 2025	13	9	12	<1	<1	<1	
Maximum Daily Construction Emissions							
Maximum Daily Emissions	13	78	49	<1	16	5	
South Coast AQMD Regional Construction Threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55	
Significant?	No	No	No	No	No	No	

Source: CalEEMod Version 2022.1.0. Highest winter or summer emissions are reported.

The SoCAB is designated nonattainment for O₃ and PM_{2.5} under the California and National AAQS, nonattainment for PM₁₀ under the California AAQS, and nonattainment for lead (Los Angeles County only) under the National AAQS. According to South Coast AQMD methodology, any project that does not exceed

Based on the preliminary information provided by the applicant. Where specific information regarding construction activities associated with the Specific Plan was not available, construction assumptions were based on CalEEMod defaults, which are based on construction surveys conducted by South Coast AQMD of construction equipment

Includes implementation of fugitive dust control measures required by South Coast AQMD under Rule 403, including watering disturbed areas a minimum of two times per day, reducing speed limit to 15 miles per hour on unpaved surfaces, replacing ground cover quickly, and street sweeping with Rule 1186–compliant sweepers.

Portions of the SoCAB along SR-60 in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties are proposed as nonattainment for NO₂ under the California AAQS.

or can be mitigated to less than the daily threshold values would not add significantly to a cumulative impact (South Coast AQMD 1993). As shown in Table 5.2-10, the maximum daily emissions for VOC, NOx, CO, SO₂, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} from construction-related activities would be less than their respective South Coast AQMD regional significance threshold values. Therefore, short-term air quality impacts from construction activities associated with development accommodated by the Specific Plan would be less than significant.

Impact 5.2-3: Long-term operation of development accommodated by the Specific Plan would not generate additional vehicle trips and associated emissions in exceedance of South Coast AQMD's threshold criteria. [Threshold AQ-2]

Impact Analysis: Development accommodated by the Specific Plan would generate an increase in criteria air pollutant emissions from on-road mobile sources, area sources (e.g., landscaping equipment, architectural coating), and energy use (i.e., natural gas used for heating and cooking). As shown in Table 5.2-10 the maximum daily emissions between the weekday and weekend operation-related activities would be less than their respective South Coast AQMD regional significance threshold values. Projects that do not exceed the South Coast AQMD regional significance thresholds would not result in an incremental increase in health impacts in the SoCAB from project-related increases in criteria air pollutants. Therefore, impacts to the regional air quality associated with operation of the development associated with the Specific Plan would be less than significant.

Table 5.2-10 Maximum Daily Regional Operation Emissions

	Maximum Daily Emissions (lbs/Day)						
Source	VOC	NO _x	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	
Mobile	3	3	42	<1	4	1	
Area	4	<1	3	<1	<1	<1	
Energy	<1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	
Total	7	3	45	<1	4	1	
South Coast AQMD Regional Threshold	55	55	550	150	150	550	
Exceeds Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No	No	

Source: CalEEMod Version 2022.1.0. Highest winter or summer emissions are reported. bs: Pounds.

Impact 5.2-4: Development accommodated by the Specific Plan could expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations during construction. [Threshold AQ-3]

Impact Analysis: The following impact analysis describes changes in localized impacts from short-term construction activities. Development accommodated by the Specific Plan could expose sensitive receptors to elevated pollutant concentrations during construction activities if it would cause or contribute significantly to elevated levels. Unlike the mass of emissions shown in the regional emissions analysis shown in Table 5.2-10 and Table 5.2-11, which are described in pounds per day, localized concentrations refer to an amount of pollutant in a volume of air (ppm or μg/m³) and can be correlated to potential health effects.

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Construction-Phase Localized Significance Thresholds

Screening-level LSTs (pounds per day) are the amount of project-related mass emissions at which localized concentrations (ppm or µg/m³) could exceed the AAQS for criteria air pollutants for which the SoCAB is designated nonattainment. They are based on the acreage disturbed and distance to the nearest sensitive receptor. Screening-level LSTs are based on the proposed project site size and distance to the nearest sensitive receptor. Thresholds are based on the California AAQS, which are the most stringent, established to provide a margin of safety in the protection of the public health and welfare. They are designed to protect sensitive receptors most susceptible to further respiratory distress, such as asthmatics, the elderly, very young children, people already weakened by other disease or illness, and persons engaged in strenuous work or exercise. The nearest off-site sensitive receptors are the single-family residences to the north, east, and south of the Project Area (see Figure 3-1, Aerial Photograph of Project Area).

Table 5.2-11 shows the maximum daily construction emissions (pounds per day) generated during on-site construction activities. The on-site PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions shown represent the total on-site particulate matter emissions from vehicle exhaust and fugitive dust. On-site NO_x emissions are from off-road equipment exhaust. As shown in Table 5.2-12, construction of development accommodated by the Specific Plan would generate construction-related on-site emissions that would exceed the screening-level LSTs for PM₁₀ during the asphalt demolition and debris haul as well as the overlapping asphalt demolition, debris haul, rough grading, and soil haul construction activities. Thus, construction activities would potentially expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and localized air quality impacts from construction activities would be potentially significant.

Table 5.2-11 Maximum Daily On-Site Localized Construction Emissions

	Pollutants (lbs/day) ^{1,2}					
	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀ ³	PM _{2.5} ³		
South Coast AQMD ≤1.00-Acre LST	103	612	4.00	3.00		
Asphalt Demolition and Demolition Debris	5	4	8.83	1.46		
Utility Trenching 2023	6	6	0.24	0.22		
Building Construction 2024 and Finishing/Landscaping 2024	4	3	0.16	0.15		
Building Construction 2025 and Finishing/Landscaping 2025	4	3	0.15	0.14		
Building Construction 2025, Finishing/Landscaping 2025, and Architectural Coating 2025	5	4	0.18	0.17		
Exceeds LST?	No	No	Yes	No		
South Coast AQMD 1.50-Acre LSTs	126	748	5.00	3.50		
Building Construction 2023 and Paving 2023	24	15	0.90	0.82		
Building Construction 2024 and Paving 2024	22	15	0.83	0.77		
Building Construction 2024, Paving 2024, and Finishing/Landscaping 2024	22	15	0.83	0.77		
Exceeds LST?	No	No	No	No		
South Coast AQMD 2.50-Acre LSTs	163	998	7.00	4.50		
Rough Grading and Soil Haul	35	25	4.75	2.65		

Table 5.2-11 Maximum Daily On-Site Localized Construction Emissions

	Pollutants (lbs/day) ^{1,2}			
	NOx	CO	PM ₁₀ ³	PM _{2.5} ³
Rough Grading	35	25	4.74	2.65
Fine Grading	24	13	4.32	2.27
Utility Trenching 2023, Building Construction 2023, and Paving 2023	31	21	1.14	1.04
Exceeds LST?	No	No	No	No
South Coast AQMD 3.00-Acre LSTs	178	1,112	8.00	5.00
Asphalt Demolition and Demolition Debris, Rough Grading and Soil Haul	40	29	13.58	4.11
Exceeds LST?	No	No	Yes	No
South Coast AQMD 3.50-Acre LSTs	192	1,225	9.00	5.50
Fine Grading and Utility Trenching 2023	31	19	4.56	2.49
Exceeds LST?	No	No	No	No
South Coast AQMD ≥5.00-Acre LSTs	236	1,566	11.99	7.00
Rough Grading and Fine Grading	59	38	9.06	4.92
Exceeds LST?	No	No	No	No

Sources: CalEEMod Version 2022.1.0, and South Coast AQMD 2008 and 2011. Highest winter or summer emissions are reported.

Impact 5.2-5: Implementation of the Specific Plan would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations during operation. [Threshold AQ-3]

Impact Analysis: The following impact analysis describes changes in localized impacts from long-term operational activities. Implementation of the Specific Plan could expose sensitive receptors to elevated pollutant concentrations during operation phase if it would cause or contribute significantly to elevated levels. Additionally, development accommodated by the Specific Plan would not result in new changes to the Project Area's current operations.

Operational Phase LSTs

The screening-level LSTs are the amount of project-related stationary and area sources of emissions at which localized concentrations (ppm or µg/m³) would exceed the ambient air quality standards for criteria air pollutants for which the SoCAB is designated a nonattainment area. Implementation of the Specific Plan would involve the development of residential development that would not be associated with generating a high or substantial number of trucks trips. Typical sources of criteria air pollutant emissions from stationary and area sources associated with development accommodated by the Specific Plan include energy use (natural gas used for cooking and water heating) and landscaping fuel and aerosols. Types of land uses that typically generate

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In accordance with South Coast AQMD methodology, only on-site stationary sources and mobile equipment occurring on the Project Area are included in the analysis. LSTs are based on non-sensitive receptors within 82 feet (25 meters) of the Project Area in Source Receptor Area (SRA) 10.

² Based on information provided or verified by the applicant. Where specific information regarding construction activities accommodated by the Specific Plan or processes was not available, construction assumptions were based on CalEEMod defaults, which are based on construction surveys conducted by the South Coast AOMD.

Includes implementation of fugitive dust control measures required by South Coast AQMD under Rule 403, including watering disturbed areas a minimum of two times per day, reducing speed limit to 15 miles per hour on unpaved surfaces, replacing ground cover quickly, and street sweeping with Rule 1186–compliant sweepers.

substantial quantities of criteria air pollutants and TACs include industrial (stationary sources) and warehousing (truck idling) land uses. These types of major air pollutant emissions sources would not be included or expanded under the Specific Plan. Thus, implementation of the Specific Plan would not result in creation of land uses that would generate substantial concentrations of criteria air pollutant emissions. Therefore, localized operation-related air quality impacts are considered less than significant.

Carbon Monoxide Hotspots

Areas of vehicle congestion have the potential to create pockets of CO called hotspots. These pockets have the potential to exceed the state one-hour standard of 20 ppm or the eight-hour standard of 9.0 ppm. Because CO is produced in greatest quantities from vehicle combustion and does not readily disperse into the atmosphere, adherence to AAQS is typically demonstrated through an analysis of localized CO concentrations. Hot spots are typically produced at intersections, where traffic congestion is highest because vehicles queue for longer periods and are subject to reduced speeds. The SoCAB has been designated in attainment of both the National and California AAQS for CO. Under existing and future vehicle emission rates, a project would have to increase traffic volumes at a single intersection by more than 44,000 vehicles per hour—or 24,000 vehicles per hour where vertical and/or horizontal mixing is substantially limited—to generate a significant CO impact (BAAQMD 2017). Development accommodated by the Specific Plan would generate 60 PM peak-hour trips (EPD 2022). This increase in peak trips is substantially below the incremental increase in peak-hour vehicle trips needed to generate a significant CO impact. Implementation of the Specific Plan would not have the potential to substantially increase CO hotspots at intersections in the vicinity of the Project Area. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Impact 5.2-6: Implementation of the Specific Plan would not result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) that would adversely affect a substantial number of people. [Threshold AQ-4]

Impact Analysis: The threshold for odor is if a project creates an odor nuisance pursuant to South Coast AQMD Rule 402, Nuisance, which states:

A person shall not discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of any such persons or the public, or which cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property. The provisions of this rule shall not apply to odors emanating from agricultural operations necessary for the growing of crops or the raising of fowl or animals.

The type of facilities that are considered to have objectionable odors include wastewater treatment plants, compost facilities, landfills, solid waste transfer stations, fiberglass manufacturing facilities, paint/coating operations (e.g., auto body shops), dairy farms, petroleum refineries, asphalt batch plants, chemical manufacturing, and food manufacturing facilities.

Residential land uses that would be accommodated by the Specific Plan do not fall within the aforementioned land uses typically associated with objectionable odors. In addition, construction activities could also generate

odors from construction equipment, such as diesel exhaust, and from VOCs from architectural coatings and paving activities. However, these odors would be temporary and confined to the immediate vicinity of the construction equipment. Furthermore, South Coast AQMD Rule 402 would minimize and provide a control for odors. Therefore, impacts related to objectionable operational and construction-related odors would be less than significant.

5.2.4 Cumulative Impacts

In accordance with South Coast AQMD's methodology, any project that produces a significant project-level regional air quality impact in an area that is in nonattainment contributes to the cumulative impact. The greatest source of emissions in the SoCAB is mobile sources. Due to the extent of the area potentially impacted from cumulative project emissions (i.e., the SoCAB), South Coast AQMD considers a project cumulatively significant when project-related emissions exceed the South Coast AQMD regional emissions thresholds shown in Table 5.2-6. No significant cumulative impacts were identified with regard to CO hotspots.

Construction

The SoCAB is designated nonattainment for O₃ and PM_{2.5} under the California and National AAQS and nonattainment for PM₁₀ under the California AAQS, and nonattainment for lead (Los Angeles County only) under the National AAQS. Construction of cumulative projects will further degrade the regional and local air quality. Air quality will be temporarily impacted during construction activities. As shown in Table 5.2-10, short-term emissions from development accommodated by the Specific Plan would not exceed the South Coast AQMD regional emissions thresholds. However, as shown in Table 5.2-12, the asphalt demolition and debris haul as well as the overlapping asphalt demolition, debris haul, rough grading, and soil haul construction activities would exceed their respective screening-level LSTs for PM₁₀. However, with incorporation of mitigation measures AQ-1 and AQ-2, project-related construction emissions would be reduced to below the cancer risk threshold and construction-related emissions would be reduced to less than significant. Thus, the contribution to cumulative air quality impacts associated with implementation of the Specific Plan would not be cumulatively considerable with implementation of mitigation.

Operation

For operational air quality emissions, any project that does not exceed or can be mitigated to less than the daily regional threshold values is not considered by South Coast AQMD to be a substantial source of air pollution and does not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to a cumulative air quality impact. Operation of development accommodated by the Specific Plan would not result in emissions in excess of the South Coast AQMD regional emissions thresholds (see Table 5.2-11), and thus implementation of the Specific Plan would not cumulatively contribute to significant health impacts in the SoCAB. Therefore, the air pollutant emissions associated with development accommodated by the Specific Plan would not be cumulatively considerable and impacts would be less than significant.

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Portions of the SoCAB along SR-60 in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties are proposed nonattainment for NO₂ under the California AAQS.

5.2.5 Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Upon implementation of regulatory requirements, the following impacts would be less than significant: Impacts 5.2-1, 5.2-2, 5.2-3, 5.2-5 and 5.2-6.

Without mitigation, the following impact would be potentially significant:

■ Impact 5.2-4 Construction activities associated with development accommodated by the La Puerta School Site Specific Plan could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in PM₁0 that would exceed localized significance thresholds. In addition, because construction phases that overlap with asphalt demolition debris haul exceeded their respective PM₁0 LSTs, project-related construction health impacts would also be cumulatively considerable.

5.2.6 Mitigation Measures

Impact 5.2-4

AQ-1 The construction contractor(s) shall, at minimum, use equipment that meets the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) Tier 4 (Interim) emissions standards for off-road diesel-powered construction equipment with 50 or more horsepower used for the asphalt demolition and rough grading construction activities, unless it can be demonstrated to the City of Claremont Building Division that such equipment is not available. Where equipment is not available, the next available engine Tier (e.g., US EPA Tier 4 Final equipment) shall be used. Any emissions control device used by the contractor shall achieve emissions reductions that are no less than what could be achieved by Tier 4 emissions standards for a similarly sized engine, as defined by the California Air Resources Board's regulations.

Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the project construction contractor shall demonstrate to the City that all grading and construction plans clearly show the requirement for EPA Tier 4 emissions standards for construction equipment of 50 horsepower and over for the demolition and rough grading activities stated above. During grading and construction, the construction contractor shall maintain a list of all operating equipment associated with grading in use on the site for verification by the City. The construction equipment list shall state the makes, models, Engine Family Number, Equipment Identification Numbers, and the number of construction equipment on-site. Equipment shall be properly serviced and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

- AQ-2 The construction contractor(s) shall implement the following measures to reduce construction exhaust emissions during demolition and soil hauling activities associated with demolition and rough grading:
 - Hauling of soil generated from demolition activities shall be limited to a maximum of 1,819 miles per day. Air quality modeling conducted for the La Puerta School Site Specific

Plan was based on the assumption that the 1,819 miles per day would consist of 107 one-way haul trips per day (or 53 truckloads per day) with 16 cubic-yard trucks and a one-way haul distance of approximately 17 miles. All grading and construction plans shall identify the disposal site for exported material, the distance to the disposal site, and the number of permitted truck trips to the disposal site to remain under the miles per day limit.

 During demolition and demolition haul activities, the construction contractor shall water all active demolition sites and disturbed areas a minimum of two times per day.

These requirements shall be noted on all grading and construction plans prior to issuance of any grading or construction permits and verified by the City of Claremont Building Division during the demolition and soil-disturbing phases.

5.2.7 Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impact 5.2-4

The asphalt demolition and debris haul as well as the overlapping demolition and rough grading and soil haul phases would exceed their respective screening-level LST for PM₁₀. Mitigation Measures AQ-1 and AQ-2 would require the use of Tier 4 Interim or newer construction equipment for engines over 50 horsepower and limit the amount of daily demolition debris hauling trips. As shown in Table 5.2-12, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-1 and AQ-2, construction-related PM₁₀ emissions would be reduced to below the South Coast AQMD screening-level LST. Thus, development accommodated by the Specific Plan would not generate emissions that exceed any screening-level LST or cause any construction health impacts with mitigation incorporated. Impact 5.2-4 would be reduced to less than significant.

Table 5.2-12 Maximum Daily On-Site Localized Construction Emissions with Mitigation Incorporated

	Pollutants (lbs/day) ^{1,2}			
	NOx	CO	PM ₁₀ ³	PM _{2.5} ³
South Coast AQMD ≤1.00-Acre LST	103	612	4.00	3.00
Asphalt Demolition and Demolition Debris ⁴	4	9	3.36	0.53
Utility Trenching 2023	6	6	0.24	0.22
Building Construction 2024 and Finishing/Landscaping 2024	4	3	0.16	0.15
Building Construction 2025 and Finishing/Landscaping 2025	4	3	0.15	0.14
Building Construction 2025, Finishing/Landscaping 2025, and Architectural Coating 2025	5	4	0.18	0.17
Exceeds LST?	No	No	No	No
South Coast AQMD 1.50-Acre LSTs	126	748	5.00	3.50
Building Construction 2023 and Paving 2023	24	15	0.90	0.82
Building Construction 2024 and Paving 2024	22	15	0.83	0.77
Building Construction 2024, Paving 2024, and Finishing/Landscaping 2024	22	15	0.83	0.77
Exceeds LST?	No	No	No	No

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Table 5.2-12 Maximum Daily On-Site Localized Construction Emissions with Mitigation Incorporated

	Pollutants (lbs/day) ^{1,2}			
	NOx	CO	PM ₁₀ ³	PM _{2.5} ³
South Coast AQMD 2.50-Acre LSTs	163	998	7.00	4.50
Rough Grading and Soil Haul	18	37	3.53	1.54
Rough Grading	18	37	3.52	1.54
Fine Grading	24	13	4.32	2.27
Utility Trenching 2023, Building Construction 2023, and Paving 2023	31	21	1.14	1.04
Exceeds LST?	No	No	No	No
South Coast AQMD 3.00-Acre LSTs	178	1,112	8.00	5.00
Asphalt Demolition and Demolition Debris, Rough Grading and Soil Haul ⁴	23	45	6.89	2.07
Exceeds LST?	No	No	No	No
South Coast AQMD 3.50-Acre LSTs	192	1,225	9.00	5.50
Fine Grading and Utility Trenching 2023	31	19	4.56	2.49
Exceeds LST?	No	No	No	No
South Coast AQMD ≥5.00-Acre LSTs	236	1,566	11.99	7.00
Rough Grading and Fine Grading	43	50	7.84	3.81
Exceeds LST?	No	No	No	No

Sources: CalEEMod Version 2022.1.0, and South Coast AQMD 2008 and 2011. Highest winter or summer emissions are reported.

5.2.8 References

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In accordance with South Coast AQMD methodology, only on-site stationary sources and mobile equipment occurring on the Project Area are included in the analysis. LSTs are based on non-sensitive receptors within 82 feet (25 meters) of the Project Area in Source Receptor Area (SRA) 10.

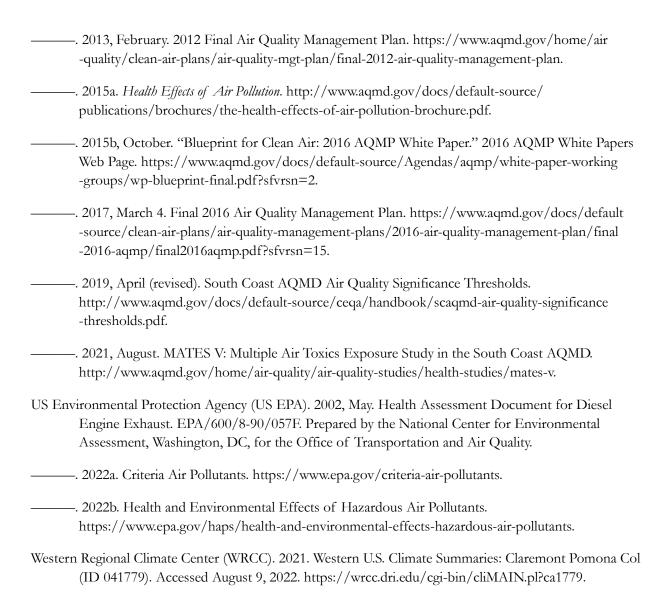
² Based on information provided or verified by the applicant. Where specific information regarding project-related construction activities or processes was not available, construction assumptions were based on CalEEMod defaults, which are based on construction surveys conducted by the South Coast AQMD.

Includes implementation of fugitive dust control measures required by South Coast AQMD under Rule 403, including watering disturbed areas a minimum of two times per day, reducing speed limit to 15 miles per hour on unpaved surfaces, replacing ground cover quickly, and street sweeping with Rule 1186–compliant sweepings.

⁴ Implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-1 and AQ-2 would reduce PM₁₀ emissions below South Coast AQMD thresholds by requiring equipment for the demolition and rough grading construction phases to meet the EPA's Tier 4 (Interim) emissions standards and by limiting daily demolition debris haul trips per day, respectively.

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