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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: N/A

Project Title: Downtown Taft Specific Plan & Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Lead Agency: City of Taft

Contact Name: Mark Staples, Director of Planning and Development Services

Email: mstaples@cityoftaft.org Phone Number: (661) 763-1222 ext. 124

Project Location: City of Taft (*City*) Kern (*County*)

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Downtown Taft Specific Plan and Zoning Ordinance Amendment Project (Project) consists of two projects with a goal of accelerating housing production through 1) the development of a Specific Plan update that focuses on the downtown area of Taft and 2) a city-wide amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. The Downtown Specific Plan (DTSP) aims to establish downtown as a central zone with street-oriented uses and as a vibrant mixed-use district surrounded by residential uses. The Project provides a vision and planning framework for future growth and development in the approximately 212-acre Specific Plan Area (SPA) while introducing new Land Use Designations not included in the 1999 Downtown Taft Specific Plan. At buildout, the new DTSP could result in up to approximately 3,121 dwelling units, 4,272 employment opportunities, 9.3 acres of recreational open space and 6,180 persons. A majority of the SPA has been previously developed and the Project area is considered an urbanized area according to CEQA Guidelines §15387. A corresponding amendment to the City of Taft Zoning Ordinance is proposed to integrate the changes from the land use and zoning designations within the DTSP but also to add targeted changes citywide got application process improvements, while integrating flexible development standards to streamline and accelerate residential development

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Potentially significant impacts to Biological Resources, specifically to protected or endangered wildlife species, would be reduced to less than significant with Mitigation Measure BIO-1 incorporation. No potentially significant impacts would occur.BIO-1: Prior to groundbreaking activities the City shall review development applications and identify locations where habitat suitable for sensitive species may exist. Prior to the pre-permit site inspection applications will be checked against publicly available aerial imagery and databases such as the California Natural Diversity Database, California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service List of Threatened and Endangered Species to evaluate the potential for sensitive habitat on-site. During the pre-permit site inspection City staff and third-party inspectors will determine if sensitive species are present. If it is determined that sensitive species are present or could be present CDFW will be consulted. CDFW may recommend approval of the proposed development, ask to conduct a site inspection, or request additional studies in order to make the determination that no impacts to sensitive species will occur.

Potentially significant impacts to Cultural Resources, specifically to archaeological resources and buried human remains, would be reduced to less than significant with Mitigation Measures CUL-1, CULT-2, and CUL-3. No potentially significant impacts would occur.CUL-1: Future developers within the Project Area, for projects not considered exempt, shall retain a qualified architectural historian to evaluate all historic-age buildings within the proposed project footprint for California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) eligibility, to determine any potential adverse impacts to historical resources under CEQA. A report of findings shall be prepared and submitted to the City within 30 days of completion of the evaluation, concurrent with the proposed application for development.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

N/A

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

City of Taft Planning and Development Department