

**INITIAL STUDY AND
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**SMOKE TREE SELF STORAGE
SWC OF SMOKE TREE ST. & “I” AVE.
APNs 1410-135-07, 08, 09, & 10
HESPERIA, CALIFORNIA 92344**



LEAD AGENCY:

**CITY OF HESPERIA
PLANNING DIVISION
9700 SEVENTH AVENUE
HESPERIA, CALIFORNIA 92345**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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JUNE 7, 2023

HESP 007

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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT NAME: Smoke Tree Self Storage

PROJECT APPLICANT: Rene Jacober, Inland Self Storage Management. P.O. Box 8008. Newport Beach, California 92658.

PROJECT LOCATION: The 2.32-acre project site is located on the southwest corner of Smoke Tree Street and “I” Avenue in the east-central portion of the City of Hesperia, California. The project site’s legal address is 9434 “I” Avenue. The proposed project site is located to the south of Smoke Tree Street and west of “I” Avenue. The project site’s latitude and longitude are 34°42'23.25" N; -117°28'31.74" W. The project site is located within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hesperia, California Quadrangle (1956), Township 4 North, Range 4 West, Section 22.

CITY AND COUNTY: City of Hesperia, San Bernardino County.

PROJECT: The proposed project would involve the construction and subsequent operation of a 48,783 square foot self-storage facility. There would be five new proposed new self-storage buildings, referred to as Building A through Building F. Building A’s floor area would be 8,679 square feet, Building B’s floor area would be 11,873 square feet, Building C’s floor area would be 10,893 square feet, Building D’s floor area would be 9,458 square feet, and Building E’s floor area would be 8,890 square feet. A small, 660 square foot office would be located at the west end of Building E. Landscaping would total 10,622 square feet and would be located along the Smoke Tree Street and “I” Avenue frontages. Access to the project site would be provided by a 28-foot-wide driveway connection with the west side of “I” Avenue. A second shared access would be provided by a 40-foot-wide driveway connection with the south side of Smoke Tree Street. A 26-foot-wide internal drive aisle would provide access to the individual storage units. A total of six parking spaces would be provided near the office.

EVALUATION FORMAT: The attached initial study is prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq.). Specifically, the preparation of the attached Initial Study was guided by Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The project was evaluated based on its effect on 21 major categories of environmental factors. Each factor is reviewed by responding to a series of questions regarding the impact of the project on each element of the overall factor. The Initial Study checklist includes a formatted analysis that provides a determination of the effect of the project on the factor and its elements. The effect of the project is categorized into one of the following four categories of possible determinations:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
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Substantiation is then provided to justify each determination. One of the four following conclusions is then provided as a summary of the analysis for each of the major environmental factors.

No Impact: No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

Less than Significant Impact: No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation: Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated and mitigation measures are required as a condition of the project’s approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significance.

Potentially Significant Impact: Significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to evaluate these impacts.

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ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below will be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist in the attached Initial Study.

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

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

Signature _____

Date _____

The project is also described in greater detail in the attached Initial Study.



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1. INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

This Initial Study analyzes the environmental impacts associated with the construction and subsequent operation of a 48,783 square foot self-storage facility within a 2.32-acre project site located south of Smoke Tree Street and west of “I” Avenue. There would be five new proposed new self-storage buildings, referred to as Building A through Building F. Building A’s floor area would be 8,679 square feet, Building B’s floor area would be 11,873 square feet, Building C’s floor area would be 10,893 square feet, Building D’s floor area would be 9,458 square feet, and Building E’s floor area would be 8,890 square feet. A small, 660 square foot office would be located at the west end of Building E. Landscaping would total 10,622 square feet and would be located along the Smoke Tree Street and “I” Street frontages. Access to the project site would be provided by a 28-foot-wide driveway connection with the west side of “I” Avenue. A second shared access driveway would be provided by a 40-foot-wide driveway connection with the south side of Smoke Tree Street. A 26-foot-wide internal drive aisle would provide access to the individual storage units. A total of six parking spaces would be provided near the office.¹

PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

The City of Hesperia is the designated *Lead Agency*, and as such, the City will be responsible for the project’s environmental review. Section 21067 of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) defines a Lead Agency as the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.² As part of the proposed project’s environmental review, the City of Hesperia has authorized the preparation of this Initial Study.³ The primary purpose of CEQA is to ensure that decision-makers and the public understand the environmental implications of a specific action or project. An additional purpose of this Initial Study is to ascertain whether the proposed project will have the potential for significant adverse impacts on the environment once it is implemented. Pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, additional purposes of this Initial Study include the following:

- To provide the City of Hesperia with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR), mitigated negative declaration, or negative declaration for a project;
- To facilitate the project’s environmental assessment early in the design and development of the proposed project;
- To eliminate unnecessary EIRs; and,
- To determine the nature and extent of any impacts associated the proposed project.

Although this Initial Study was prepared with consultant support, the analysis, conclusions, and findings made as part of its preparation fully represent the independent judgment and position of the City of

¹ SoCal Professional Engineers, Inc. *Site Plan. Smoke Tree Self Storage. Smoke Tree Street Hesperia, California. Sheet 1.*

² California, State of. *California Public Resources Code. Division 13, Chapter 2.5. Definitions.* as Amended 2001. §21067.

³ Ibid. (CEQA Guidelines) §15050.

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Hesperia, in its capacity as the Lead Agency. The City determined, as part of this Initial Study’s preparation, that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is the appropriate environmental document for the proposed project’s CEQA review. Certain projects or actions may also require oversight approvals or permits from other public agencies. These other agencies are referred to as *Responsible Agencies* and *Trustee Agencies*, pursuant to Sections 15381 and 15386 of the State CEQA Guidelines.⁴ This Initial Study and the *Notice of Intent to Adopt (NOIA) a Mitigated Negative Declaration* will be forwarded to responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and the public for review and comment. This Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration will be forwarded to the State of California Office of Planning Research (the State Clearinghouse). A 30-day public review period will be provided to allow these entities and other interested parties to comment on the proposed project and the findings of this Initial Study.⁵ Questions and/or comments should be submitted to the following:

Mr. Ryan Leonard, AICP, Senior Planner
City of Hesperia Development Department, Planning Division
9700 Seventh Avenue
Hesperia, California 92345

INITIAL STUDY’S ORGANIZATION

The following annotated outline summarizes the contents of this Initial Study:

- *Section 1 Introduction* provides the procedural context surrounding this Initial Study's preparation and insight into its composition.
- *Section 2 Project Description* provides an overview of the existing environment as it relates to the project area and describes the proposed project’s physical and operational characteristics.
- *Section 3 Environmental Analysis* includes an analysis of potential impacts associated with the construction and the subsequent operation of the proposed project.
- *Section 4 Conclusions* summarizes the findings of the analysis.
- *Section 5 References* identifies the sources used in the preparation of this Initial Study.



⁴ California, State of. Public Resources Code Division 13. *The California Environmental Quality Act. Chapter 2.5, Section 21067 and Section 21069.* 2000.

⁵ California, State of. Public Resources Code Division 13. *The California Environmental Quality Act. Chapter 2.6, Section 2109(b).* 2000.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project site is located in the east-central portion of the City of Hesperia. The City of Hesperia is located in southwestern portion of San Bernardino County in the southwestern Mojave Desert physiographic subregion. This physiographic subregion is more commonly referred to as either the "Victor Valley" or the "High Desert" due to its approximate elevation of 2,900 feet above sea level. The Victor Valley is separated from the more populated areas of coastal Southern California by the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountains.

The City of Hesperia is bounded on the north by Victorville and Apple Valley, unincorporated San Bernardino County (Oro Grande); on the east by Apple Valley and unincorporated San Bernardino County (Bell Mountain); the south by the City of Hesperia and unincorporated San Bernardino County (Oak Hills); and on the west by unincorporated San Bernardino County (Baldy Mesa). Regional access to the City of Hesperia is provided by three area highways: the Mojave Freeway (Interstate 15), extending in a southwest to northeast orientation through the center of the City; U.S. Highway 395, traversing the western portion of the City in a northwest to southeast orientation; and Palmdale Road (State Route 18), which traverses the southern portion of the City in an east to west orientation.⁶ The location of Hesperia, in a regional context, is shown in Exhibit 2-1. A citywide map is provided in Exhibit 2-2.

The 2.32-acre project site is located on the southwest corner of Smoke Tree Street and "I" Avenue in the east-central portion of the City of Hesperia, California. The project site's legal address is 9434 "I" Avenue. The proposed project site is located to the south of Smoke Tree Street and west of "I" Avenue. The project site's latitude and longitude are 34°42'23.25" N; -117°28'31.74" W. The project site is located within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hesperia, California Quadrangle (1956), Township 4 North, Range 4 West, Section 22. A local vicinity map is provided in Exhibit 2-3. An aerial photograph of the site and the surrounding area is provided in Exhibit 2-4.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site is located on a 2.32-acre site that is currently vacant. Current conditions on the property include a disturbed desert scrub community and moderate signs of human disturbances. The biological resources on the site consist of a desert scrub community typical of the area with creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), white-bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*), flatspine bur ragweed (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), kelch grass (*Schismus barbatus*), and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) observed on the site. The project site's General Plan designation is *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)*. The property currently has a Zoning land use designation of *CIBP*. Land uses and development located in the vicinity of the proposed project site are outlined below:

- *North of the project site:* Smoke Tree Street extends along the project site's north side. Vacant undeveloped land is located further north, north of the aforementioned roadway. This area is

⁶ Google Earth. Website accessed April 1, 2023.

designated as *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *CIBP*.⁷

- *West of the project site:* Abutting the project site to the west, is a vacant, undeveloped property. This area is designated as *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *CIBP*.⁸
- *South of the project site:* A self-storage business, Universal Self Storage (9312 “I” Avenue), is located to the south of the project site. This area is designated as *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *CIBP*.⁹
- *East of the project site:* “I” Avenue extends along the project site’s east side. Further east is the Juniper Elementary School campus. This area is designated as *Public Institutional (PIO)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *PIO*.¹⁰

An aerial photograph of the project site and the surrounding area is provided in Exhibit 2-4.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The key physical elements of the proposed project are outlined below. A copy of the site plan is illustrated in Exhibit 2-5.

- *Site Plan.* The proposed project site consists of 2.32 acres. The project would involve the construction and subsequent operation of a 48,783 square feet self-storage facility. There would be five new self-storage buildings, referred to as Building A through Building F.¹¹
- *Building A.* This building is located in the southernmost portion of the property. Building A’s floor area would be 8,679 square feet.¹²
- *Building B.* This building is located in the southern portion of the site. Building B’s floor area would be 11,873 square feet.¹³
- *Building C.* This building is centrally located in the site. Building C’s floor area would be 10,893 square feet.¹⁴
- *Building D.* This building is centrally located in the site. Building D’s floor area would be 9,458 square feet.¹⁵

⁷ Google Maps and City of Hesperia Zoning Map. Website accessed on April 1, 2023.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ SoCal Professional Engineers, Inc. *Site Plan. Smoke Tree Self Storage. Smoke Tree Street Hesperia, California. Sheet 1.*

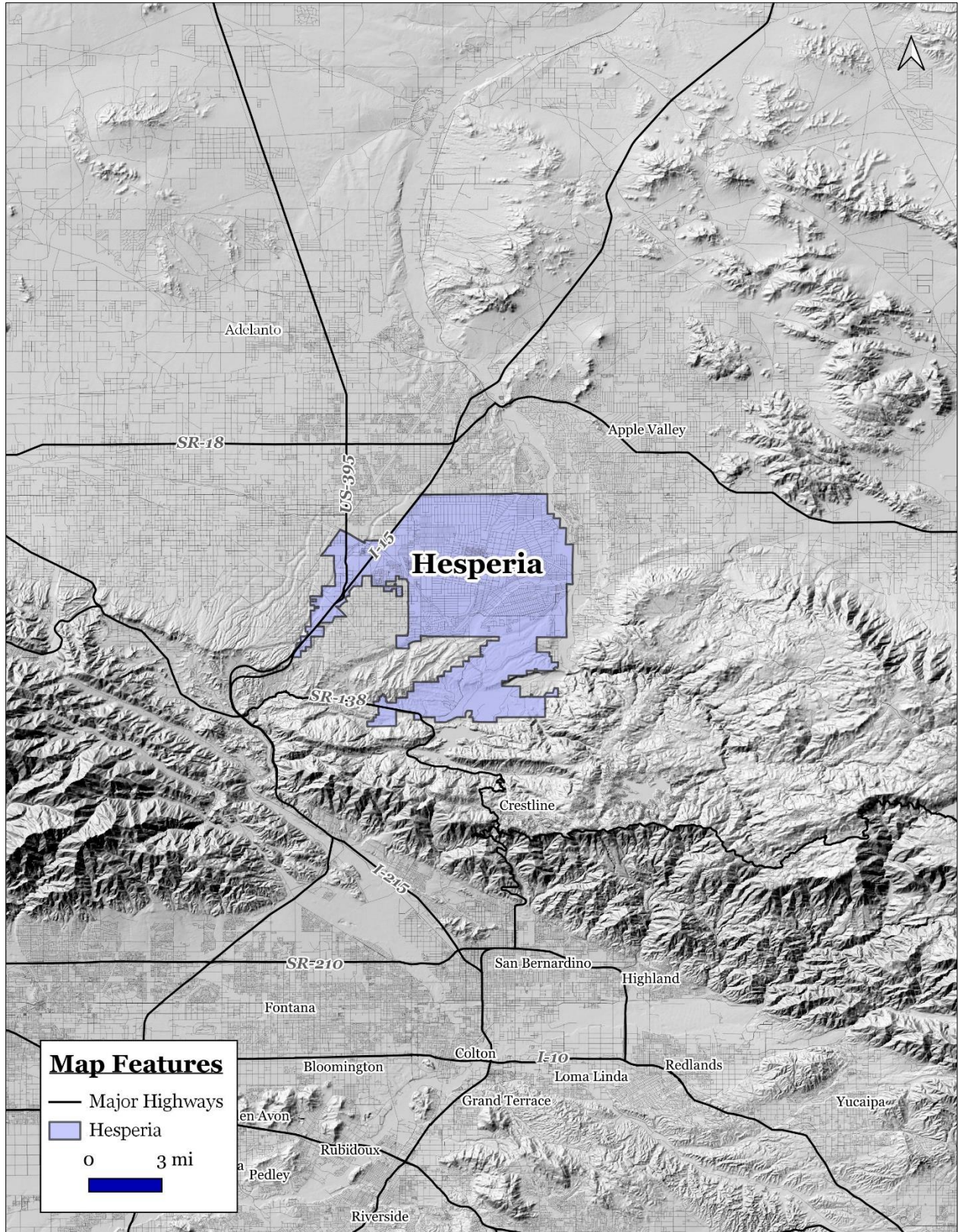
¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

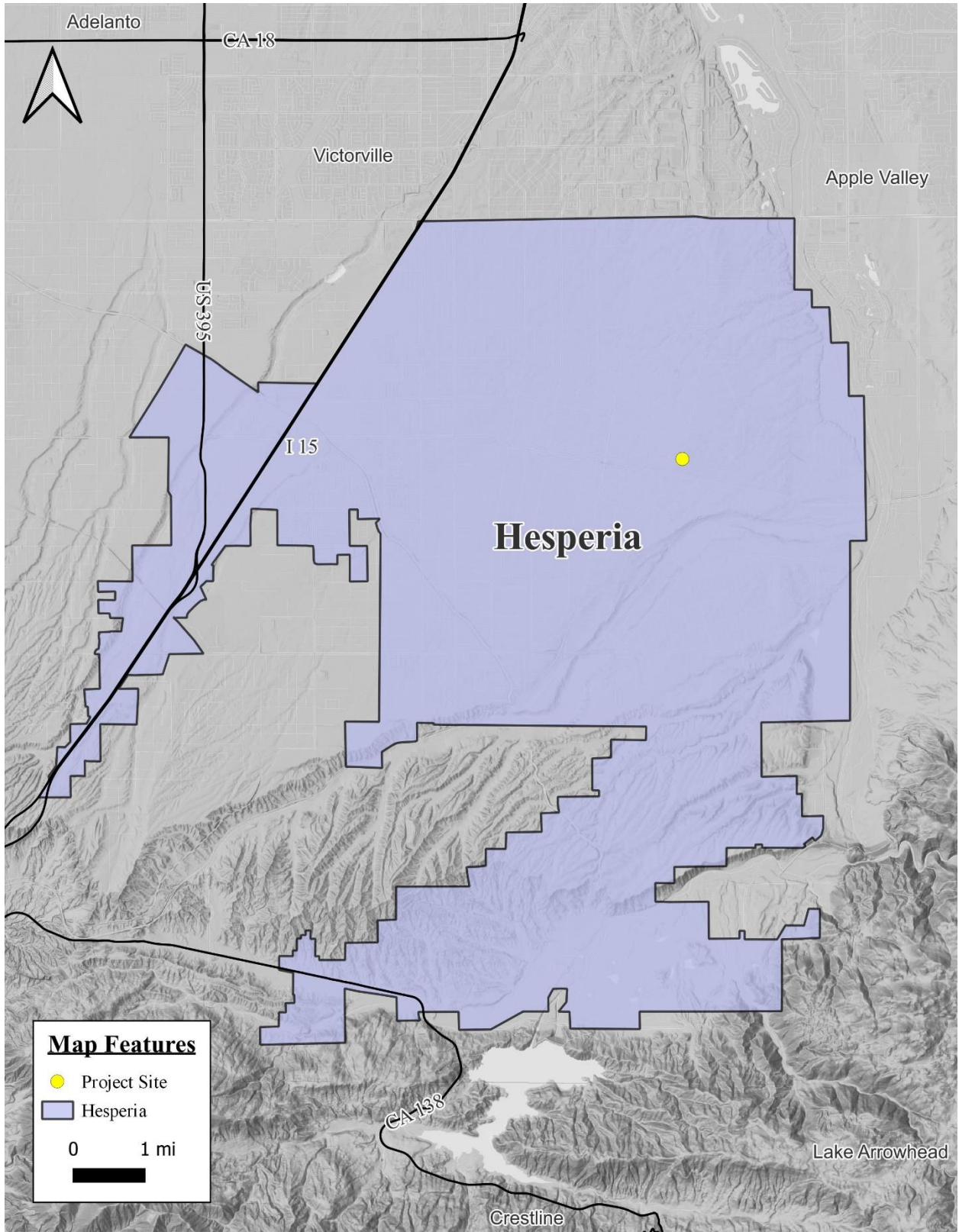
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**EXHIBIT 2-1
REGIONAL MAP**

SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

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**EXHIBIT 2-2
CITYWIDE MAP**

SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING



EXHIBIT 2-3 VICINITY MAP

SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING



EXHIBIT 2-4 AERIAL MAP

SOURCE: BLODGETT BAYLOSIS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

- *Building E.* This building is located in the northernmost portion of the site. Building E’s floor area would be 8,890 square feet. A small, 660 square foot office, would be located at the west end of Building E.¹⁶
- *Landscaping.* Landscaping would total 10,622 square feet and would be located along the Smoke Tree Street and “I” Avenue frontages.
- *Access, Circulation, and Parking.* Access to the project site would be provided by a 28-foot-wide driveway connection with the west side of “I” Avenue. A second shared access would be provided by a 40-foot-wide driveway connection with the south side of Smoke Tree Street. A 26-foot-wide internal drive aisle would provide access to the individual storage units. A total of six parking spaces would be provided near the office.¹⁷

The proposed site plan is illustrated in Exhibit 2-5. The proposed building elevations are included in Exhibit 2-6.

OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project is anticipated to employ 1 to 2 individuals onsite at any given time. The onsite employees’ functions are limited to business transactions, site maintenance, and equipment operations/maintenance. The hours of operation for the proposed project would be seven days a week, 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

CONSTRUCTION CHARACTERISTICS

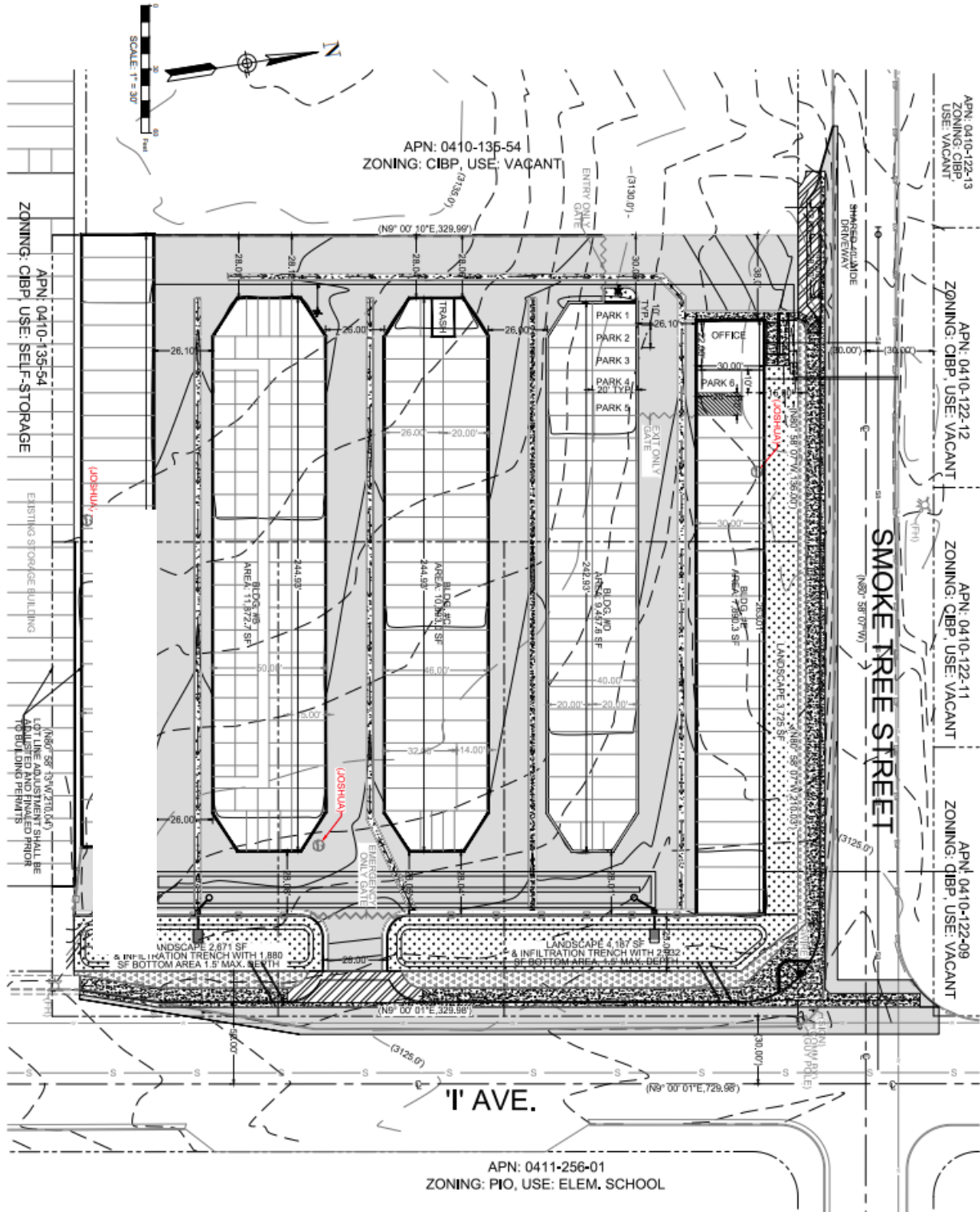
The construction for the current proposed project is assumed to commence in August 2022 and would take approximately five months to complete.¹⁸ The key construction phases are outlined in the paragraphs that follow.

- *Grading and Site Preparation Phase.* The project site would be graded and readied for the construction. This phase would require one month to complete. During this phase, the building footings, utility lines, and other underground infrastructure would be installed. This phase would require one month to complete.
- *Building Construction Phase.* The new building would be erected during this phase. This phase will take approximately three months to complete. The new structures would be transported and assembled on the project site.
- *Paving, Landscaping, and Finishing Phase.* The site will be paved during this phase and the improvements will be painted. This phase will take approximately one month to complete.

¹⁶ Google Maps and City of Hesperia Zoning Map. Website accessed on April 1, 2023.

¹⁷ SoCal Professional Engineers, Inc. *Site Plan. Smoke Tree Self Storage. Smoke Tree Street Hesperia, California. Sheet 1.*

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**EXHIBIT 2-5
SITE PLAN OF PROJECT SITE**
SOURCE: SOCAL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, INC.

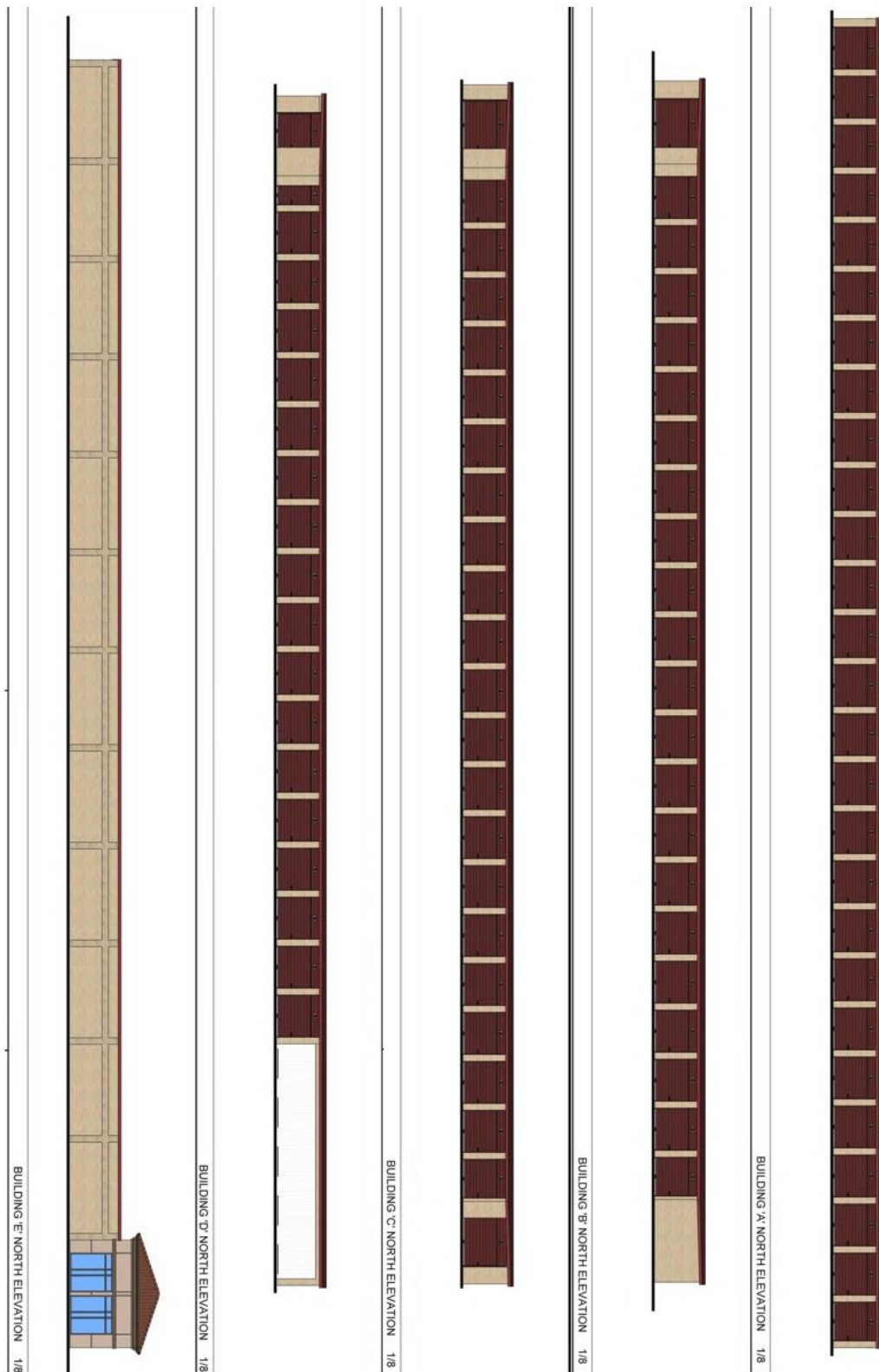


EXHIBIT 2-6
PROPOSED BUILDING ELEVATIONS
SOURCE: SOCAL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS INC.

DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS

A Discretionary Action is an action taken by a government agency (for this project, the government agency is the City of Hesperia) that calls for an exercise of judgment in deciding whether to approve a project. The following discretionary approvals are required:

- Approval of a Conditional Use Permit; and
- Approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).



3. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This section of the Initial Study analyzes the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed project’s implementation. The issue areas evaluated in this Initial Study include the following:

Aesthetics;
Agricultural & Forestry Resources;
Air Quality;
Biological Resources;
Cultural Resources;
Energy;
Geology & Soils;
Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
Hazards & Hazardous Materials;
Hydrology & Water Quality;
Land Use & Planning;

Mineral Resources;
Noise;
Population & Housing;
Public Services;
Recreation;
Transportation;
Tribal Cultural Resources;
Utilities;
Wildfire; and,
Mandatory Findings of Significance.

3.1 AESTHETICS

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			×	
B. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?				×
C. Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?				×
D. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				×

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on aesthetics if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would have an adverse effect on a scenic vista, except as provided in PRC Sec. 21099.
- The proposed project would have an adverse effect on scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.
- The proposed project would substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. or,
- The proposed project would, except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

The evaluation of aesthetics and aesthetic impacts is generally subjective, and it typically requires the identification of key visual features in the area and their importance. The characterization of aesthetic impacts involves establishing the existing visual characteristics including visual resources and scenic vistas that are unique to the area. Visual resources are determined by identifying existing landforms (e.g., topography and grading), views (e.g., scenic resources such as natural features or urban characteristics), and existing light and glare characteristics (e.g., nighttime illumination). Changes to the existing aesthetic environment associated with the proposed project’s implementation are identified and *qualitatively* evaluated based on the proposed modifications to the existing setting and the viewers’ sensitivity. The

project-related impacts are then compared to the context of the existing setting, using the threshold criteria discussed above.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? • Less Than Significant Impact.*

The proposed project site is located on a 2.32-acre site that is currently vacant. Current conditions on the property include a disturbed desert scrub community and moderate signs of human disturbances. The project site’s General Plan designation is *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)*. The property currently has a Zoning land use designation of *CIBP*. Land uses and development located in the vicinity of the proposed project site are outlined below:

- *North of the project site:* Smoke Tree Street extends along the project site’s north side. Vacant undeveloped land is located further north, north of the aforementioned roadway. This area is designated as *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *CIBP*.¹⁹
- *West of the project site:* Abutting the project site to the west, is a vacant, undeveloped property. This area is designated as *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *CIBP*.²⁰
- *South of the project site:* A self-storage business, Universal Self Storage (9312 “I” Avenue), is located to the south of the project site. This area is designated as *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *CIBP*.²¹
- *East of the project site:* “I” Avenue extends along the project site’s east side. Further east is the Juniper Elementary School campus. This area is designated as *Public Institutional (PIO)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *PIO*.²²

The dominant scenic views from the project site includes distant views of the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains, located south, southwest and southeast of the site and the City. In addition, local views are already dominated by neighboring development and the nearby I-15 freeway. The proposed project shall be designed, constructed, and operated in accordance with General Plan Policy LU-8.5 of the Land Use Element, which requires all development within the City to “Adopt design standards which will assure land use compatibility and enhance the visual environment, by providing attractive, aesthetically pleasing development which is sensitive to the unique local characteristics of the Hesperia community.”

In accordance with City policy, the Applicant shall provide replacement landscaping or vegetation to disturbed areas consistent with the natural surroundings, and in accordance with City Municipal Code Section 16.24.150 (Subject Desert Native Plants) and County Codes 88.01.050 (Tree or Plant Removal Permits) and 88.01.060 (Desert Native Plant Protection). Pursuant to these codes, landscaping shall be selected and incorporated to be drought-tolerant and shall complement existing natural and manmade

¹⁹ Google Maps and City of Hesperia Zoning Map. Website accessed on April 1, 2023.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Google Maps and City of Hesperia Zoning Map. Website accessed on April 1, 2023.

features, including the dominant landscaping of surrounding areas. Through compliance with the City General Plan and Municipal Code, the proposed project would minimize the contrast between project features and the surrounding Mojave Desert landscape and ensure adverse effects on scenic vistas remain less than significant. No mitigation is required. In addition, views from the mountains will not be obstructed. Once operational, views of the aforementioned mountains will continue to be visible from the public right-of-way. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

B. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? • No Impact.

According to the California Department of Transportation, none of the streets located adjacent to the proposed project site are not designated scenic highways and there are no state or county designated scenic highways in the vicinity of the project site.²³ There are no officially designated highways located near the City. The nearest highways that are eligible for designation as a scenic highway include SR-2 (from SR-210 to SR-138), located 10.74 miles southwest of the City; SR-58 (from SR-14 to I-15), located 35.63 miles north of the City; SR-138 (from SR-2 to SR-18), located 6.23 miles south of the City; SR-173 (from SR-138 to SR-18), located 7.69 miles southeast of the City; and, SR-247 (from SR-62 to I-15), located 25.75 miles east of the project site. The City of Hesperia General Plan identifies prominent view sheds within the City. These view sheds are comprised primarily of undeveloped desert land, the Mojave River, and distant views of the mountains.²⁴ The Oro Grande Wash is the nearest visually sensitive area located nearest to the site though it will not be visually impacted by the proposed project due to the site's distance and separation. The entire wash is located within the Oak Hills community and is used as a buffer between the commercial/industrial uses located adjacent to the freeway and the rural residential uses within the Oak Hills community. Lastly, the project site does not contain any buildings listed in the State or National register. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

C. Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? • No Impact.

There are no protected views in the vicinity of the project site and the City does not contain any scenic vistas in the vicinity of the project site. In addition, the City does not have any zoning regulations or other regulations governing scenic quality other than the development standards for which the new building will conform to. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

D. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? • No Impact.

Project-related sources of nighttime light would include parking area exterior lights, security lighting, and vehicular headlights. In addition, the City of Hesperia Municipal Code Section 16.16.415 includes design standards for outdoor lighting that apply to new development in the City (the site is located in the *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* zone district. The site's development will require the installation of outdoor lighting necessary for safety and security as well as to accommodate night-time business operations. All lighting will comply with the development standards contained in the City's Zoning

²³ California Department of Transportation. *Official Designated Scenic Highways*.

²⁴ City of Hesperia General Plan Website accessed on June 7, 2022.

Code. The Municipal code lighting standards govern the placement and design of outdoor lighting fixtures to ensure adequate lighting for public safety while also minimizing light pollution and glare and precluding nuisance (e.g., blinking/flashing lights, unusually high intensity or needlessly bright lighting). *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of aesthetics indicated that no impact on these resources would occur as part of the proposed project's implementation. As a result, no mitigation is required.

3.2 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural uses?				×
B. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural uses, or a Williamson Act Contract?				×
C. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?				×
D. Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use?				×
E. Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use?				×

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on agriculture and forestry resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use.
- The proposed project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract.
- The proposed project would conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)).
- The proposed project would result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.
- The proposed project would involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) was

established in 1982 to track changes in agricultural land use and to help preserve areas of Important Farmland. It divides the state's land into eight categories of land use designation based on soil quality and existing agriculture uses to produce maps and statistical data. These maps and data are used to help preserve productive farmland and to analyze impacts on farmland. Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance are all Important Farmland and are collectively referred to as Important Farmland in this analysis. The highest rated Important Farmland is Prime Farmland. The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, or the Williamson Act, allows a city or county government to preserve agricultural land or open space through contracts with landowners. The County has areas that are currently agriculture preserves under contract with San Bernardino County through the Williamson Act of 1965. Contracts last 10 years and are automatically renewed unless a notice of nonrenewal is issued.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural uses? • No Impact.

The project site's General Plan designation is *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)*. The property currently has a Zoning land use designation of *CIBP*. Land uses and development located in the vicinity of the proposed project site are outlined below:

- *North of the project site:* Smoke Tree Street extends along the project site's north side. Vacant undeveloped land is located further north, north of the aforementioned roadway. T
- *West of the project site:* Abutting the project site to the west, is a vacant, undeveloped property.
- *South of the project site:* A self-storage business, Universal Self Storage (9312 “I” Avenue), is located to the south of the project site.
- *East of the project site:* “I” Avenue extends along the project site's east side. Further east is the Juniper Elementary School campus.

According to the California Department of Conservation, the project site nor the surrounding properties do not contain any areas of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and no agricultural uses are located onsite or adjacent to the property. The implementation of the proposed project would not involve the conversion of any prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance to urban uses. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*²⁵

B. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural uses, or a Williamson Act Contract? • No Impact.

The proposed project site is located on a 2.32-acre site that is currently vacant. Current conditions on the property include a disturbed desert scrub community and moderate signs of human disturbances. The

²⁵ California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping, and Monitoring Program. *California Important Farmland Finder*.

project site’s General Plan designation is *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)*. The property currently has a Zoning land use designation of *CIBP*. There are no agricultural uses located within the site that would be affected by the project’s implementation. According to the California Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection, the project site is not subject to a Williamson Act Contract.²⁶ *As a result, no impacts on existing Williamson Act Contracts will result from the proposed project’s implementation.*

C. *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?* • *No Impact.*

There are no forest lands or timber lands located within or adjacent to the site. An adjacent property located to the north is disturbed and contains built-up structures. Furthermore, the site’s existing zoning designation does not contemplate forest land or timber land uses. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

D. *Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use?* • *No Impact.*

No forest lands are located within the project site. The proposed use will be restricted to the site and will not affect any forest land or farmland. No loss or conversion of forest lands to urban uses will result from the proposed project’s implementation. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

E. *Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use?* • *No Impact.*

The project would not involve the disruption or damage of the existing environment resulting in a loss of farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The site does not contain any agricultural or forestry vegetation. No farmland conversion impacts will occur with the implementation of the proposed project. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of agricultural and forestry resources indicated that no impact on these resources would occur as part of the proposed project's implementation. As a result, no mitigation is required.

²⁶ California Department of Conservation. *State of California Williamson Act Contract Land*.
<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wa>.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				×
B. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?		×		
C. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			×	
D. Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			×	

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on air quality if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.
- The proposed project would 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.
- The proposed project would expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- The proposed project would result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people).

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) has established quantitative thresholds for short-term (construction) emissions and long-term (operational) emissions for the criteria pollutants listed below. Projects in the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) generating construction and operational-related emissions that exceed any of the following emissions thresholds are considered to be significant under CEQA.

- *Ozone (O₃)* is a nearly colorless gas that irritates the lungs, and damages materials and vegetation. Ozone is formed a by photochemical reaction (when nitrogen dioxide is broken down by sunlight).
- *Carbon Monoxide (CO)* is a colorless, odorless toxic gas that interferes with the transfer of oxygen to the brain and is produced by the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing fuels emitted as vehicle exhaust. The threshold is 548 pounds per day of carbon monoxide (CO).

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- *Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x)* is a yellowish-brown gas, which at high levels can cause breathing difficulties. NO_x is formed when nitric oxide (a pollutant from burning processes) combines with oxygen. The daily threshold is 137 pounds per day of nitrogen oxide (NO_x).
- *Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)* is a colorless, pungent gas formed primarily by the combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels. Health effects include acute respiratory symptoms. The daily threshold is 137 pounds per day of sulfur oxides (SO_x).
- *PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}* refers to particulate matter less than ten microns and two and one-half microns in diameter, respectively. Particulates of this size cause a greater health risk than larger-sized particles since fine particles can more easily cause irritation. The daily threshold is 82 pounds per day of PM₁₀ and 65 pounds per day of PM_{2.5}.
- *Reactive Organic Gasses (ROG)* refers to organic chemicals that, with the interaction of sunlight photochemical reactions may lead to the creation of “smog.” The daily threshold is 137 pounds per day of ROG.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? • No Impact.*

Air quality impacts may occur during the construction or operation of a project, and may come from stationary sources (e.g., industrial processes, generators), mobile sources (e.g., automobiles, trucks), or area (e.g., residential water heaters) sources.

Projects that are consistent with the projections of employment and population forecasts identified in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) prepared by SCAG are considered consistent with the MDAQMP growth projections, since the RTP/SCS forms the basis of the land use and transportation control portions of the MDAQMP. According to the Growth Forecast Appendix prepared by SCAG for the 2020-2045 RTP/SCS, the City of Hesperia is projected to add a total of 74,400 new residents and 23,600 new employees through the year 2045.²⁷ The proposed project will not introduce new residents and is anticipated to employ 1 to 2 individuals onsite at any given time. Therefore, the proposed project is not in conflict with the growth projections established for the City by SCAG. The project’s construction emissions would be below the thresholds of significance established by the MDAQMD (the project’s daily construction emissions are summarized in Table 3-1). In addition, the proposed project’s long-term (operational) airborne emissions will be below levels that the MDAQMD considers to be a significant impact (refer to Table 3-2). *As a result, no conformity impacts will occur.*

B. *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard? • Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

²⁷ Southern California Association of Governments. 2020-2045 *Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. Demographics & Growth Forecast.* November 2021.

According to the MDAQMD, any project is significant if it triggers or exceeds the MDAQMD daily emissions threshold identified previously and noted at the bottom of Tables 3-1 and 3-2. In general, a project will have the potential for a significant air quality impact if any of the following are met:

- Generates total emissions (direct and indirect) that exceeds the MDAQMD thresholds (the proposed project emissions are less than the thresholds as indicated in Tables 3-1 and 3-2);
- Results in a violation of any ambient air quality standard when added to the local background (the proposed project will not result, in any violation of these standards);
- Does not conform with the applicable attainment or maintenance plan(s) (the proposed project is in conformance with the City’s Zoning and General Plan); and,
- Exposes sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, including those resulting in a cancer risk greater than or equal to 10 in a million and/or a Hazard Index (HI) (non-cancerous) greater than or equal to 1 (the proposed project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations nor is the site located near any sensitive receptors).

The proposed project’s construction and operation will not lead to a violation of the above-mentioned criteria. The analysis of daily construction and operational emissions was prepared utilizing the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod V.2020.4.0). As shown in Table 3-1, relevant daily construction emissions will not exceed the MDAQMD significance thresholds.

**Table 3-1
Estimated Daily Construction Emissions**

Construction Phase	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10	PM2.5
Maximum Daily Emissions	113.25	13.91	13.94	0.03	7.74	3.97
Daily Thresholds	137	137	548	137	82	65
Significant Impact?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: CalEEMod V.2020.4.0

While the construction-related emissions will be below thresholds, the following mitigation measures will be required to further reduce potential construction-related emissions.

- The Applicant shall prepare and submit to the MDAQMD, prior to commencing earth-moving activity, a dust control plan that describes all applicable dust control measures that will be implemented at the project;
- The Applicant shall ensure that signage, compliant with Rule 403 Attachment, is erected at each project site entrance not later than the commencement of construction.
- The Applicant shall ensure the use of a water truck to maintain moist disturbed surfaces and actively spread water during visible dusting episodes to minimize visible fugitive dust emissions. For projects with exposed sand or fines deposits (and for projects that expose such soils through earthmoving), chemical stabilization or covering with a stabilizing layer of gravel will be required to eliminate visible dust/sand from sand/fines deposits.
- All perimeter fencing shall be wind fencing or the equivalent, to a minimum of four feet of height or the top of all perimeter fencing. The owner/operator shall maintain the wind fencing as needed

to keep it intact and remove windblown dropout. This wind fencing requirement may be superseded by local ordinance, rule or project-specific biological mitigation prohibiting wind fencing.

- All maintenance and access vehicular roads and parking areas shall be stabilized with chemical, gravel, or asphaltic pavement sufficient to eliminate visible fugitive dust from vehicular travel and wind erosion. Take actions to prevent project-related track out onto paved surfaces and clean any project-related track out within 24 hours. All other earthen surfaces within the project area shall be stabilized by natural or irrigated vegetation, compaction, chemical or other means sufficient to prohibit visible fugitive dust from wind erosion.

Long-term emissions refer to those air quality impacts that will occur once the proposed project has been constructed and is operational. These impacts will continue over the operational life of the project. The two main sources of operational emissions include mobile emissions and area emissions related to off-site electrical generation. The analysis of long-term operational impacts summarized in Table 3-2 also used the CalEEMod V.2020.4.0 computer model. The analysis summarized in Table 3-2 indicates that the operational (long-term) emissions will be below the MDAQMD daily emissions thresholds.

**Table 3-2
Estimated Operational Emissions in lbs./day**

Emission Source	ROG	NOx	CO	SO₂	PM₁₀	PM_{2.5}
Total Maximum Daily (lbs./day)	1.64	0.36	2.36	5.21E-3	0.53	0.15
Daily Thresholds	137	137	548	137	82	65
Significant Impact?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: CalEEMod V.2020.4.0.

The analysis presented in Tables 3-1 and 3-2 reflect projected emissions that are typically higher during the summer months and represent a worse-case scenario. As indicated in Tables 3-1 and 3-2, the impacts are considered to be less than significant. In addition, the MDAQMD Rule Book contains numerous regulations governing various activities undertaken within the district. Among these regulations is Rule 403.2 – Fugitive Dust Control for the South Coast Planning Area, which was adopted in 1996 for the purpose of controlling fugitive dust. Adherence to Rule 403.2 regulations is required for all projects undertaken within the district. Future construction truck drivers must also adhere to Title 13 - §2485 of the California Code of Regulations, which limits the idling of diesel-powered vehicles to less than five minutes.³ Adherence to the aforementioned standard condition will minimize odor impacts from diesel trucks. Adherence to Rule 403 Regulations and Title 13 - §2485 of the California Code of Regulations will reduce potential impacts. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant with mitigation.*

C. *Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? • Less than Significant Impact*

The nearest sensitive receptors to the -project site include Juniper Elementary School located to the east of the project site, east of “I” Street. According to the MDAQMD, residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds, and medical facilities are considered sensitive receptor land uses. The following project types proposed for sites within the specified distance to an existing or planned (zoned) sensitive receptor land use must be evaluated: any industrial project within 1,000 feet; a distribution center (40 or more trucks per day) within 1,000 feet; a major transportation project within 1,000 feet; a dry cleaner using

perchloroethylene within 500 feet; and a gasoline dispensing facility within 300 feet. The proposed storage use will store nonhazardous household items only. As a result, no mitigation will be required. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

D. Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? • Less than Significant Impact.

A portion of the intended use of the project site is expected to emit odors commonly found within gas station use. The future uses will be required to adhere to the rules governing nuisance odors. All truck drivers visiting the site must adhere to Title 13 - §2485 of the California Code of Regulations, which limits the idling of diesel-powered vehicles to less than five minutes. Adherence to the aforementioned standard condition will minimize odor impacts from diesel trucks. Furthermore, adherence to MDAQMD Rule 402 Nuisance Odors will minimize odors generated during daily activities. *Adherence to the existing regulations governing "nuisance odors" will reduce potential impacts to levels that are less than significant.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures have been incorporated herein to further reduce the potential air quality impacts to levels that are less than significant.

AIR-1. The Applicant shall prepare and submit to the MDAQMD, prior to commencing earth-moving activity, a dust control plan that describes all applicable dust control measures that will be implemented at the project;

AIR-2. The Applicant shall ensure that signage, compliant with Rule 403 Attachment, is erected at each project site entrance not later than the commencement of construction.

AIR-3. The Applicant shall ensure the use of a water truck to maintain moist disturbed surfaces and actively spread water during visible dusting episodes to minimize visible fugitive dust emissions. For projects with exposed sand or fines deposits (and for projects that expose such soils through earthmoving), chemical stabilization or covering with a stabilizing layer of gravel will be required to eliminate visible dust/sand from sand/fines deposits.

AIR-4. All perimeter fencing shall be wind fencing or the equivalent, to a minimum of four feet of height or the top of all perimeter fencing. The owner/operator shall maintain the wind fencing as needed to keep it intact and remove windblown dropout. This wind fencing requirement may be superseded by local ordinance, rule or project-specific biological mitigation prohibiting wind fencing.

AIR-5. All maintenance and access vehicular roads and parking areas shall be stabilized with chemical, gravel, or asphaltic pavement sufficient to eliminate visible fugitive dust from vehicular travel and wind erosion. Take actions to prevent project-related track out onto paved surfaces and clean any project-related track out within 24 hours. All other earthen surfaces within the project area shall be stabilized by natural or irrigated vegetation, compaction, chemical or other means sufficient to prohibit visible fugitive dust from wind erosion.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		×		
B. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				×
C. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				×
D. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory life corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				×
E. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?		×		
F. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?				×

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on biological resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The proposed project would have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The proposed project would have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- The proposed project would interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

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- The proposed project would conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- The proposed project would conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Sensitive biological resources include a variety of plant and animal species that are specialized and endemic to a particular habitat type. Due to loss of habitat, some of these species have been designated by either, or both, the federal and state government resource agencies as threatened or endangered. Species listed as threatened include those whose numbers have dropped to such low levels and/or whose populations are so isolated that the continuation of the species could be jeopardized. Endangered species are those with such limited numbers or subject to such extreme circumstances that they are considered in imminent danger of extinction. Other government agencies and resource organizations also identify sensitive species, those that are naturally rare and that have been locally depleted and put at risk by human activities. While not in imminent danger of jeopardy or extinction, sensitive species are considered vulnerable and can become candidates for future listing as threatened or endangered.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? • Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

Current conditions on the property include a disturbed desert scrub community and moderate signs of human disturbances. The biological resources on the site consist of a desert scrub community typical of the area with creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), white-bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*), flatspine bur ragweed (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), kelch grass (*Schismus barbatus*), and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) observed on the site. The property is bordered by vacant land in the north and west and Juniper Elementary school in the east. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the Joshua trees present on the site and determine which trees were suitable for relocation and which trees could be discarded prior to site clearing activities. As part of the environmental process, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) data sources were reviewed. Following the data review, biological surveys were conducted by RCA Associates Inc. for the site on March 1, 2023. As part of the surveys, the property and adjoining areas were evaluated for the presence of native habitats which may support populations of sensitive wildlife species.²⁸

Based on the results of the field investigations there are 3 Joshua trees which occur within the boundaries of the property. Based on the evaluation and analysis of each tree it was determined that 1 of the 3 Joshua trees (33.33%) are suitable for transplanting. The remaining 2 Joshua trees (66%) were determined to be unsuitable for transplanting due to a variety of factors such as size, condition, damage, dying, dead, excessive leaning, possibly disease, clonal, etc.²⁹ Joshua trees occur throughout the Mojave Desert in Southern California and are typically found at an elevation of 400 to 1,800 meters (~1,200 to ~5,400 feet).

²⁸ RCA Associates, Inc. *Protected Plant Preservation Plan. City of Hesperia, San Bernardino County, California, APN: 0410-135-07, 08, 09 & 10.* Report dated March 2, 2023.

²⁹ RCA Associates, Inc. *Protected Plant Preservation Plan. City of Hesperia, San Bernardino County, California, APN: 0410-135-07, 08, 09 & 10.* Report dated March 2, 2023.

Joshua trees, within the western portion of the Mojave Desert, typically receive more annual precipitation during “normal” years; consequently, cloning occurs more often resulting in numerous trunks sprouting from the same root system (Rowland, 1978). Joshua tree habitats provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species including desert woodrats (*Neotoma* sp.) and night lizards (*Xantusia* sp.) both of which utilize the base of the trees. A variety of birds also utilize Joshua trees for nesting such as hawks, common ravens, and cactus wrens. CDFW consider Joshua tree woodlands as areas that support relatively high species diversity and as such are considered to be a sensitive desert community. Joshua trees are also considered a significant resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and are included in the Desert Plant Protection Act, Food and Agricultural Code (80001 – 80006).

The factors utilized to determine which Joshua trees were suitable for transplanting include the following factors: 1. Trees from about one foot in height up to approximately 12 feet, 2. No visible signs of damage to the tree such as absence of bark due to rodent or other animals, 3. Minimal number of branches (No more than 2 or 3 branches), 4. No excessive leaning of the tree, 5. No yellow or brown fronds, 6. Proximity to other Joshua trees (i.e., clonal), and 7. No exposed roots at the base of the tree. 8. Dying or dead. There are three Joshua trees on the property. A total of one Joshua trees (33.33%) are suitable for relocation/transplanting. The Joshua trees suitable for transplanting should be relocated/transplanted on-site, which is the preferable option, or to an off-site area approved by the City of Hesperia. Those Joshua trees that are not suitable for relocation/transplanting due to size, health of the tree, presence of damage, excessive branches, excessive leaning, clonal, and exposed roots should be disposed of as per City requirements. There were 4 Joshua trees outside of the property boundary that fall within the 186 foot buffer of the perimeter site.³⁰

There are three Joshua trees located on the property and one of the trees are suitable for relocation/transplanting. This conclusion was based on: (1) trees which were one foot or greater in height and less than twelve feet tall (approximate); (2) in good health; (3), two branches or less; (4) density of trees (i.e., no clonal trees); (5) no exposed roots; (6) and trees that are not leaning over excessively. The majority of the Joshua trees which were not suitable for relocation are dead and lying on the ground. As of September 22, 2020, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife temporarily listed the western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) as an endangered species until a final decision is made in 2022. Therefore, any attempt to remove the Joshua tree from its current position will require an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The following mitigation will be utilized by the contractor when conducting any future transplanting activities.

- Prior to the issuance of grading permits that project applicant shall have obtained an approved California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to Section 2081 subdivision (b) of the Fish and Game Code. To ensure CESA compliance, the following measures shall be implemented by the project applicant:
 - General provisions involving a designated representative, designated biologist(s), an education program, construction monitoring documentation, trash abatement, and hazardous waste removal.
 - Monitoring, notification, and reporting provisions including notification before commencement, notification of non-compliance, compliance monitoring, quarterly compliance report, annual status report, California Natural Diversity Database observations,

³⁰ Ibid.

final mitigation report, and notification of take or damage.

- Take minimization measures including covered species avoidance, perimeter fencing, dust control, and prevention of the introduction of invasive species in agreement with California Invasive Plant Council’s guidelines.

Obtain mitigation land credits at a ratio approved by CDFW within a CDFW approved conservation bank designated to permanently protect a population of Joshua tree.

- In the case that mitigation land within a CDFW approved conservation bank may not be secured, habitat management lands shall be acquired to establish land for permanent protection and management of Joshua tree habitat at the discretion of CDFW.

The impacts will be less than significant with the above mitigation.

B. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? • No Impact.

According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the results of the site visits, there are no wetland or migratory bird nesting areas located within the project site. The site in its entirety is undisturbed. In addition, there is no riparian habitat located on-site or in the surrounding areas.¹⁸ No offsite wetland or migratory bird nesting areas will be affected by the proposed development since all development will be confined to the project site. *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

C. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? • No Impact.

No wetland areas or riparian habitats (e.g., wetlands, vernal pools, critical habitats for sensitive species, etc.) were observed on the site during the field investigations.³¹ *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

D. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory life corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? • No Impact.

The site’s utility as a habitat and a migration corridor is constrained by the presence of an adjacent roadway and the development that is present in the neighboring areas. *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

E. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? • Less than Significant with Mitigation.

Current conditions on the property include a disturbed desert scrub community and moderate signs of human disturbances. The biological resources on the site consist of a desert scrub community typical of the area with creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), white-bursage

³¹ RCA Associates, Inc. *Protected Plant Preservation Plan. City of Hesperia, San Bernardino County, California, APN: 0410-135-07, 08, 09 & 10.* Report dated March 2, 2023.

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(*Ambrosia dumosa*), flatspine bur ragweed (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), kelch grass (*Schismus barbatus*), and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) observed on the site. The property is bordered by vacant land in the north and west and Juniper Elementary school in the east. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the Joshua trees present on the site and determine which trees were suitable for relocation and which trees could be discarded prior to site clearing activities. As part of the environmental process, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) data sources were reviewed. Following the data review, biological surveys were conducted by RCA Associates Inc. for the site on March 1, 2023. As part of the surveys, the property and adjoining areas were evaluated for the presence of native habitats which may support populations of sensitive wildlife species.³²

There are three Joshua trees located on the property and one of the trees are suitable for relocation/transplanting. This conclusion was based on: (1) trees which were one foot or greater in height and less than twelve feet tall (approximate); (2) in good health; (3), two branches or less; (4) density of trees (i.e., no clonal trees); (5) no exposed roots; (6) and trees that are not leaning over excessively. The majority of the Joshua trees which were not suitable for relocation are dead and lying on the ground. As of September 22, 2020, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife temporarily listed the western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) as an endangered species until a final decision is made in 2022. Therefore, any attempt to remove the Joshua tree from its current position will require an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The following mitigation will be utilized by the contractor when conducting any future transplanting activities.

- Prior to the issuance of grading permits that project applicant shall have obtained an approved California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to Section 2081 subdivision (b) of the Fish and Game Code. To ensure CESA compliance, the following measures shall be implemented by the project applicant:
 - General provisions involving a designated representative, designated biologist(s), an education program, construction monitoring documentation, trash abatement, and hazardous waste removal.
 - Monitoring, notification, and reporting provisions including notification before commencement, notification of non-compliance, compliance monitoring, quarterly compliance report, annual status report, California Natural Diversity Database observations, final mitigation report, and notification of take or damage.
 - Take minimization measures including covered species avoidance, perimeter fencing, dust control, and prevention of the introduction of invasive species in agreement with California Invasive Plant Council’s guidelines.

Obtain mitigation land credits at a ratio approved by CDFW within a CDFW approved conservation bank designated to permanently protect a population of Joshua tree.

- In the case that mitigation land within a CDFW approved conservation bank may not be secured, habitat management lands shall be acquired to establish land for permanent

³² Ibid.

protection and management of Joshua tree habitat at the discretion of CDFW.

The impacts will be less than significant with the above mitigation.

F. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?
• No Impact.

The proposed project’s implementation would not be in conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plans. *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

There are three Joshua trees located on the property and one of the trees are suitable for relocation/transplanting. Any attempt to remove the Joshua tree from its current position will require an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The following mitigation will be utilized by the contractor when conducting any future transplanting activities.

BIO-1. Prior to the issuance of grading permits that project applicant shall have obtained an approved California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to Section 2081 subdivision (b) of the Fish and Game Code. To ensure CESA compliance, the following measures shall be implemented by the project applicant:

- General provisions involving a designated representative, designated biologist(s), an education program, construction monitoring documentation, trash abatement, and hazardous waste removal.
- Monitoring, notification, and reporting provisions including notification before commencement, notification of non-compliance, compliance monitoring, quarterly compliance report, annual status report, California Natural Diversity Database observations, final mitigation report, and notification of take or damage.
- Take minimization measures including covered species avoidance, perimeter fencing, dust control, and prevention of the introduction of invasive species in agreement with California Invasive Plant Council’s guidelines.
- Obtain mitigation land credits at a ratio approved by CDFW within a CDFW approved conservation bank designated to permanently protect a population of Joshua tree.
- In the case that mitigation land within a CDFW approved conservation bank may not be secured, habitat management lands shall be acquired to establish land for permanent protection and management of Joshua tree habitat at the discretion of CDFW.

The impacts will be less than significant with the above mitigation.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5 ?				✘
B. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?		✘		
C. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?			✘	

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on cultural resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5.
- The proposed project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5.
- The proposed project would disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Historic structures and sites are defined by local, State, and Federal criteria. A site or structure may be historically significant if it is locally protected through a General Plan or historic preservation ordinance. In addition, a site or structure may be historically significant according to State or Federal criteria even if the locality does not recognize such significance. To be considered eligible for the National Register, a property’s significance may be determined if the property is associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past, with the lives of people who were important in the past, or represents significant architectural, landscape, or engineering elements. Specific criteria include the following:

- Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past;
- Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or,
- Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

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Ordinarily, properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years are not considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties *will qualify* if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance;
- Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- A building or structure removed from its original location that is significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure is associated with a historic person or event;
- A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building associated with his or her productive life;
- A cemetery that derives its primary importance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events;
- A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived;
- A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or,
- A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.³³

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5? • No Impact.*

A cultural resources records search was conducted on January 9, 2023 using SCCIC records of California State University, Fullerton for the current project. This archival research reviewed the status of all recorded historic and prehistoric cultural resources, and survey and excavation reports completed within the project site boundaries and within a one-half mile radius of it. Additional resources reviewed included the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), the California Register, the Built Environmental Resource Directory (BERD), and documents and inventories published by the California Office of Historic Preservation. These include the lists of California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Listing of National Register Properties, and the Inventory of Historic Structures. Field Survey. An intensive-level cultural resources field survey of the project site was also conducted on December 23, 2022. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 15 meters apart across the project site. Digital photographs were taken at various points within the project site.³⁴

³³ U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. National Register of Historic Places. <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov>. 2010.

³⁴ BCR Consulting, LLC. *Cultural Resources Assessment. Smoke Tree Project, Hesperia, California*. February 28, 2023.

Data from the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) revealed that nine previous cultural resource studies have taken place, and no cultural resources have been identified within the one-half mile research radius of the project site. None of the previous studies have assessed the project site and no cultural resources have been identified within its boundaries. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

B. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? • Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

An archaeological records search on January 9, 2023 using SCCIC records of California State University, Fullerton for the current project. This archival research reviewed the status of all recorded historic and prehistoric cultural resources, and survey and excavation reports completed within the project site boundaries and within a one-half mile radius of it. Additional resources reviewed included the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), the California Register, the Built Environmental Resource Directory (BERD), and documents and inventories published by the California Office of Historic Preservation. These include the lists of California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Listing of National Register Properties, and the Inventory of Historic Structures. Field Survey. An intensive-level cultural resources field survey of the project site was conducted on December 23, 2022. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 15 meters apart across the project site. Digital photographs were taken at various points within the project site. Data from the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) revealed that nine previous cultural resource studies have taken place, and no cultural resources have been identified within the one-half mile research radius of the project site. None of the previous studies have assessed the project site and no cultural resources have been identified within its boundaries.³⁵

During the field survey, BCR Consulting archaeologists identified no cultural resources (including historic-period or prehistoric archaeological sites, or historic-period architectural resources) of any kind within the project site boundaries. The project has been subject to severe artificial disturbances associated with mechanical grading, modern refuse dumping, and off-road vehicle traffic. Vegetation consisted of sparse Joshua trees, native and nonnative scrub and seasonal grasses which afforded approximately 95 percent surface visibility. Surficial sediments observed were chiefly composed of dry, yellowish-brown silty sand, with moderate levels of subangular gravel.³⁶

BCR Consulting conducted a cultural resources assessment of the project site. The records search and field survey identified no cultural resources of any kind (including historic-period or prehistoric archaeological resources, or historic-period architectural resources) within the project site boundaries. Therefore, no significant impact related to historical resources is anticipated and no further investigations are recommended unless the proposed project is changed to include areas that have not been subject to this cultural resource assessment or cultural materials are encountered during project activities.

The project site has not been graded or disturbed. Although, the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of known archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5 or an identified tribal cultural resource pursuant to PRC § 21082.3, there is a potential for project-related construction to impact unknown or previously unrecorded archaeological resources. For this reason, Mitigation Measures are proposed in the event that cultural resources are inadvertently encountered during excavation activities. No signs of human habitation nor any cemeteries are apparent within or near the project, and no signs of development on the parcel appear on any historic aerial map

³⁵ BCR Consulting, LLC. *Cultural Resources Assessment. Smoke Tree Project, Hesperia, California.* February 28, 2023.

³⁶ Ibid.

reviewed, nor on later USGS maps. Since it is possible that previously unrecognized resources could exist at the site, the proposed project would be required to adhere to the following mitigation measures:

- In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN) shall be contacted, as detailed within TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact and/or historic-era finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.
- If significant pre-contact and/or historic-era cultural resources, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, the drafts of which shall be provided to YSMN for review and comment, as detailed within TCR-1. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.
- If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and that code enforced for the duration of the project.

The aforementioned mitigation will reduce the impacts to levels that are less than significant.

C. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries? • Less than Significant Impact.

There are no dedicated cemeteries located in the vicinity of the project site. The proposed project will be restricted to the project site and therefore will not affect any dedicated cemeteries in the vicinity. Notwithstanding, the following mitigation is mandated by the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15064.5(b)(4):

“A lead agency shall identify potentially feasible measures to mitigate significant adverse changes in the significance of an historical resource. The lead agency shall ensure that any adopted measures to mitigate or avoid significant adverse changes are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures.”

Additionally, Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code states:

“In the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county in which the human remains are discovered has determined, in accordance with Chapter 10 (commencing with (b) Section 27460) of Part 3 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code, that the remains are not subject to the provisions of Section 27491 of the Government Code or any other related provisions of law concerning investigation of the circumstances, manner and cause of any death, and the recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains have

been made to the person responsible for the excavation, or to his or her authorized representative. The coroner shall make his or her determination within two working days from the time the person responsible for the excavation, or his or her authorized representative, notifies the coroner of the discovery or recognition of the human remains. If the coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his or her authority and if the coroner recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American or has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, he or she shall contact, by telephone within 24 hours, the Native American Heritage Commission.”

Adherence to the aforementioned standard condition will ensure potential impacts remain at levels that are less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

Since it is possible that previously unrecognized resources could exist at the site, the proposed project would be required to adhere to the following mitigation measures:

CUL-1. In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN) shall be contacted, as detailed within TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact and/or historic-era finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.

CUL-2. If significant pre-contact and/or historic-era cultural resources, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, the drafts of which shall be provided to YSMN for review and comment, as detailed within TCR-1. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.

CUL-3. If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and that code enforced for the duration of the project.

3.6 ENERGY

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?		✘		
B. Would the project conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			✘	

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on energy resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during the proposed project’s construction or operation.
- The proposed project would conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Energy and natural gas consumption were estimated using default energy intensities by building type in CalEEMod. In addition, it was assumed the new buildings would be constructed pursuant to the 2022 CALGreen standards, which was considered in the CalEEMod inputs.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation? • Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

The proposed project would include the construction of an office building, consisting of five buildings totaling 48,783 square feet and a small manager’s office. The proposed project would consume approximately 642 kWh of electricity on a daily basis assuming 4.8 KWH per square foot on an annual basis.³⁷ The project Applicant will be required to closely work with the local electrical utility company to identify existing and future strategies that will be effective in reducing energy consumption. The project Applicant will be required to implement the following mitigation measures as a means to reduce electrical consumption:

³⁷ Blodgett Baylosis Environmental Planning. Common Forecasting Methodology VII Demand Forms, 1989. Updated 2021.

- The project must employ, as much as possible, the use of glass or translucent plastic materials on building roof and gables to allow natural daylight in work areas.
- The project must use motion activated lighting in the storage units to reduce energy use at night.

Adherence to the above-mentioned mitigation will reduce potential impacts to levels that are less than significant.

B. Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? • Less Than Significant Impact.

On January 12, 2010, the State Building Standards Commission adopted updates to the California Green Building Standards Code (Code) which became effective on January 1, 2011. The California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24, Part 11: California Green Building Standards (Title 24) became effective to aid efforts to reduce GHG emissions associated with energy consumption. Title 24 now requires that new buildings reduce water consumption, employ building commissioning to increase building system efficiencies, divert construction waste from landfills, and install low pollutant-emitting finish materials. The proposed project will be required to comply with all pertinent Title 24 requirements along with other Low Impact Development (LID) requirements. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis determined that the following mitigation measures will be required to reduce potential energy consumption:

ENY-1. The project must employ, as much as possible, the use of glass or translucent plastic materials on building roof and gables to allow natural daylight in work areas.

Since some operations and security functions may be carried out during non-daylight hours, an additional mitigation measure is suggested to reduce energy consumption during those times.

ENY-2. The project must use motion activated lighting in the storage units to reduce energy use at night.

3.7 GEOLOGY & SOILS

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving.			✘	
i). Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault; Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			✘	
ii). Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause Strong seismic ground shaking?			✘	
iii). Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction;				✘
iv). Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause landslides?				✘
B. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			✘	
C. Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			✘	
D. Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?			✘	
E. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				✘
F. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				✘

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on geology and soils if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would, directly or indirectly, cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault (refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42); strong seismic ground shaking; seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; and, landslides?

- The proposed project would result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.
- The proposed project would be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.
- The proposed project would be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property.
- The proposed project would have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater.
- The proposed project would directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

The proposed project's potential seismic and soils risk was evaluated in terms of the site's proximity to earthquake faults and unstable soils.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death? • Less than Significant Impact.*

Surface ruptures are visible instances of horizontal or vertical displacement, or a combination of the two. The amount of ground shaking depends on the intensity of the earthquake, the duration of shaking, soil conditions, type of building, and distance from epicenter or fault. The potential impacts from fault rupture and ground shaking are considered no greater for the project site than for the surrounding areas given the distance between the site and the fault trace. Other potential seismic issues include ground failure and liquefaction. Ground failure is the loss in stability of the ground and includes landslides, liquefaction, and lateral spreading. The project site is not located within a liquefaction zone.³⁸ According to the United States Geological Survey, liquefaction is the process by which water-saturated sediment temporarily loses strength and acts as a fluid. *As a result, the potential impacts are less than significant.*

i). *Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault; Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. • Less than Significant Impact.*

The City of Hesperia is located in a seismically active region. Earthquakes from several active and potentially active faults in the Southern California region could affect the proposed project site. In 1972, the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Zoning Act was passed in response to the damage sustained in the 1971 San Fernando Earthquake. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act's main purpose is to prevent the construction of buildings used for human occupancy on the surface trace of active faults. A list of cities and counties subject to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones is available on the State's Department of

³⁸ San Bernardino County. *Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan* - July 13, 2017.

Conservation website. The City of Hesperia is not on the list.³⁹ The nearest significant active fault zones are Cleghorn fault zone and the West Silverwood Lake Fault, which are approximately 7 miles southeast of the project site.⁴⁰ *As a result, the potential impacts are less than significant.*

ii). *Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause strong seismic ground shaking. • Less than Significant Impact.*

Surface ruptures are visible instances of horizontal or vertical displacement, or a combination of the two. The amount of ground shaking depends on the intensity of the earthquake, the duration of shaking, soil conditions, type of building, and distance from the epicenter or fault. The potential impacts from fault rupture and ground shaking are considered no greater for the project site than for the surrounding areas given the distance between the site and the fault trace. *As a result, the potential impacts are less than significant.*

iii). *Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. • No Impact.*

According to the United States Geological Survey, liquefaction is the process by which water-saturated sediment temporarily loses strength and acts as a fluid. The risk for liquefaction is no greater on-site than it is for the region. The project site or the city of Hesperia is located outside of a liquefaction zone. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*⁴¹

iv). *Would the project, directly or indirectly, cause landslides? • No Impact.*

According to the United States Geological Survey, a landslide is defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope. The project site is level with little to no slopes in the surrounding area. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

B. *Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The University of California, Davis SoilWeb database was consulted to determine the nature of the soils that underlie the project site. According to the University of California, Davis SoilWeb database, the property is underlain by soils of various associations including Cajon, Manet, Kimberlina, and Helendale associations consist of moderate to fine and well drained soils. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent.⁴² The proposed project’s contractors will be required to adhere to specific requirements that govern wind and water erosion during site preparation and construction activities. Following development, a large portion of the project site would be paved over or landscaped. The project’s construction will not result in soil erosion with adherence to those development requirements that restrict storm water runoff (and the resulting erosion) and require soil stabilization. In addition, stormwater discharges from construction activities that disturb one or more

³⁹ California Department of Conservation. *Table 4, Cities and Counties Affected by Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones as of January 2010.*

⁴⁰ Southern California Earthquake Data Center. *Cleghorn Fault.* <https://scedc.caltech.edu/earthquake/cleghorn.html>

⁴¹ San Bernardino County. *Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan* - July 13, 2017.

⁴² UC Davis. *SoilWeb.* Website accessed October 17, 2022.

acres, or smaller sites disturbing less than one acre that are part of a common plan of development or sale, are regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permitting program. Prior to initiating construction, contractors must obtain coverage under a NPDES permit, which is administered by the State. In order to obtain an NPDES permit, the project Applicant must prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The County has identified sample construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) that may be included in the mandatory SWPPP. The use of these construction BMPs identified in the mandatory SWPPP will prevent soil erosion and the discharge of sediment into the local storm drains during the project’s construction phase. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

C. Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? • Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed project’s construction will not result in soil erosion since the project’s contractors must implement the construction BMPs identified in the mandatory SWPPP. The BMPs will minimize soil erosion and the discharge of sediment off-site. Additionally, the project site is not located within an area that could be subject to landslides or liquefaction.⁴³ The soils that underlie the project site possess a low potential for shrinking and swelling. Soils that exhibit certain shrink swell characteristics become sticky when wet and expand according to the moisture content present at the time. Since the soils have a low shrink-swell potential, lateral spreading resulting from an influx of groundwater is slim. The likelihood of lateral spreading will be further reduced since the project’s implementation will not require grading and excavation that would extend to depths required to encounter groundwater. Moreover, the project will not result in the direct extraction of groundwater. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

D. Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property? • Less than Significant Impact.

The new structures would be transported and assembled on the project site. This would minimize grading. The University of California, Davis SoilWeb database was consulted to determine the nature of the soils that underlie the project site. According to the University of California, Davis SoilWeb database, the property is underlain by soils of various associations including Cajon, Manet, Kimberlina, and Helendale.⁴⁴ According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, these soils are acceptable for the development of commercial buildings.⁴⁵ *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

⁴³ United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. *Soil Survey of Riverside California – Palm Spring Area*. Report dated 1978.

⁴⁴ UC Davis. *SoilWeb*. Website accessed October 17, 2022.

⁴⁵ United States Department of Agriculture. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Website accessed October 17, 2022.

E. *Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? • No Impact.*

No septic tanks will be used as part of the proposed project's implementation. *As a result, no impacts would occur.*

F. *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? • No Impact*

The surface deposits in the proposed project area are composed entirely of younger Quaternary Alluvium. This younger Quaternary Alluvium is unlikely to contain significant vertebrate fossils, at least in the uppermost layers. The closest fossil vertebrate locality is LACM 7786, between Hesperia and the former George Air Force Base. This locality produced a fossil specimen of meadow vole, *Microtus*. The next closest vertebrate fossil locality from these deposits is LACM 1224, west of Spring Valley Lake, which produced a specimen of fossil camel, *Camelops*. Additionally, on the western side of the Mojave River below the bluffs, an otherwise unrecorded specimen of mammoth was collected in 1961 from older Quaternary Alluvium deposits. *Since no significant new excavation or grading will occur, no impacts are anticipated.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis determined that the proposed project will not result in significant impacts related to geological or paleontological resources and no mitigation measures are required.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✘	
B. Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			✘	

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on greenhouse gas emissions if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.
- The proposed project would conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Examples of GHG that are produced both by natural and industrial processes include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). The accumulation of GHG in the atmosphere regulates the earth's temperature. Without these natural GHG, the Earth's surface would be about 61°F cooler. However, emissions from fossil fuel combustion have elevated the concentrations of GHG in the atmosphere to above natural levels. These man-made GHG will have the effect of warming atmospheric temperatures with the attendant impacts of changes in the global climate, increased sea levels, and changes to the worldwide biome. The major GHG that influence global warming are described below.

- *Water Vapor.* Water vapor is the most abundant GHG present in the atmosphere. While water vapor is not considered a pollutant, while it remains in the atmosphere it maintains a climate necessary for life. Changes in the atmospheric concentration of water vapor is directly related to the warming of the atmosphere rather than a direct result of industrialization. As the temperature of the atmosphere rises, more water is evaporated from ground storage (rivers, oceans, reservoirs, soil). Because the air is warmer, the relative humidity can be higher (in essence, the air is able to “hold” more water when it is warmer), leading to more water vapor in the atmosphere. As a GHG, the higher concentration of water vapor is then able to absorb more thermal indirect energy radiated from the Earth, thus further warming the atmosphere. When water vapor increases in the atmosphere, more of it will eventually also condense into clouds, which are more able to reflect incoming solar radiation. This will allow less energy to reach the Earth’s surface thereby affecting surface temperatures.
- *Carbon Dioxide (CO₂).* The natural production and absorption of CO₂ is achieved through the terrestrial biosphere and the ocean. Manmade sources of CO₂ include the burning coal, oil, natural gas, and wood. Since the industrial revolution began in the mid-1700’s, these activities have

increased the atmospheric concentrations of CO₂. Prior to the industrial revolution, concentrations were fairly stable at 280 parts per million (ppm). The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, 2014) Emissions of CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes contributed about 78% of the total GHG emissions increase from 1970 to 2010, with a similar percentage contribution for the increase during the period 2000 to 2010.

- *Methane (CH₄)*. CH₄ is an extremely effective absorber of radiation, although its atmospheric concentration is less than that of CO₂. Methane's lifetime in the atmosphere is brief (10 to 12 years), compared to some other GHGs (such as CO₂, N₂O, and Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)). CH₄ has both natural and anthropogenic sources. It is released as part of the biological processes in low oxygen environments, such as in swamplands or in rice production (at the roots of the plants). Over the last 50 years, human activities such as growing rice, raising cattle, using natural gas, and mining coal have added to the atmospheric concentration of methane. Other human-related sources of methane production include fossil-fuel combustion and biomass burning.
- *Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)*. Concentrations of N₂O also began to increase at the beginning of the industrial revolution. In 1998, the global concentration of this GHG was documented at 314 parts per billion (ppb). N₂O is produced by microbial processes in soil and water, including those reactions which occur in fertilizer containing nitrogen. In addition to agricultural sources, some industrial processes (fossil fuel-fired power plants, nylon production, nitric acid production, and vehicle emissions) also contribute to its atmospheric load. It is also commonly used as an aerosol spray propellant.
- *Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC)*. CFCs are gases formed synthetically by replacing all hydrogen atoms in methane or ethane (C₂H₆) with chlorine and/or fluorine atoms. CFCs are nontoxic, nonflammable, insoluble, and chemically unreactive in the troposphere (the level of air at the Earth's surface). CFCs have no natural source but were first synthesized in 1928. It was used for refrigerants, aerosol propellants, and cleaning solvents. Due to the discovery that they are able to destroy stratospheric ozone, a global effort to halt their production was undertaken and in 1989 the European Community agreed to ban CFCs by 2000 and subsequent treaties banned CFCs worldwide by 2010. This effort was extremely successful, and the levels of the major CFCs are now remaining level or declining. However, their long atmospheric lifetimes mean that some of the CFCs will remain in the atmosphere for over 100 years.
- *Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC)*. HFCs are synthetic man-made chemicals that are used as a substitute for CFCs. Out of all the GHGs, they are one of three groups with the highest global warming potential. The HFCs with the largest measured atmospheric abundances are (in order), HFC-23 (CHF₃), HFC-134a (CF₃CH₂F), and HFC-152a (CH₃CHF₂). Prior to 1990, the only significant emissions were HFC-23. HFC-134a use is increasing due to its use as a refrigerant. Concentrations of HFC-23 and HFC-134a in the atmosphere are now about 10 parts per trillion (ppt) each. Concentrations of HFC-152a are about 1 ppt. HFCs are manmade and used for applications such as automobile air conditioners and refrigerants.
- *Perfluorocarbons (PFC)*. PFCs have stable molecular structures and do not break down through the chemical processes in the lower atmosphere. High-energy ultraviolet rays about 60 kilometers above Earth's surface are able to destroy the compounds. Because of this, PFCs have very long lifetimes, between 10,000 and 50,000 years. Two common PFCs are tetrafluoromethane (CF₄) and

hexafluoroethane (C₂F₆). Concentrations of CF₄ in the atmosphere are over 70 ppt. The two main sources of PFCs are primary aluminum production and semiconductor manufacturing.

- *Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF₆)*. SF₆ is an inorganic, odorless, colorless, nontoxic, nonflammable gas. SF₆ has the highest global warming potential of any gas evaluated; 23,900 times that of CO₂. Concentrations in the 1990s were about 4 ppt. Sulfur hexafluoride is used for insulation in electric power transmission and distribution equipment, in the magnesium industry, in semiconductor manufacturing, and as a tracer gas for leak detection.

The MDAQMD mass emissions threshold is 100,000 tons (90,720 metric tons (MT)) CO₂E per year.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?* • *Less than Significant Impact.*

The State of California requires CEQA documents to include an evaluation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. GHG emissions are emitted by both natural processes and human activities. Examples of GHG that are produced both by natural and industrial processes include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Carbon dioxide equivalent, or CO₂E, is a term that is used for describing different greenhouse gases in a common and collective unit. The MDAQMD established the 100,000 MTCO₂ threshold for commercial land uses. As indicated in Table 3-3, the operational CO₂E is 554.23 pounds per day or 202,293.95 pounds per year. This translates into 101.05 metric tons per year which is well below the threshold.

**Table 3-3
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory**

Source	GHG Emissions (lbs. /day)			
	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	CO ₂ E
Total Operational Emissions	545.83	0.03	0.03	554.23
Total Construction Emissions	2,420.20	0.65	0.03	2,435.77
Significance Threshold				100,000 MTCO₂E

Furthermore, as mentioned in Section 3.17 Transportation, the projected vehicle trips to and from the site will not be significant given the proposed use. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

B. *Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases?* • *Less than Significant Impact.*

The San Bernardino County Transit Authority (SBCTA) authorized the preparation of a county-wide Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. This plan was adopted in March 2021. The plan contains multiple reduction measures that would be effective in reducing GHG emissions throughout the SBCTA region. The lack of development in the immediate area may preclude residents from obtaining employment or commercial services within City boundaries, thus compelling residents to travel outside of City boundaries for employment and commercial services. It is important to note that the California Department of Transportation as well as the Counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino are engaged in an effort to construct a multi-modal transportation corridor consisting of public transit, a new freeway, and bicycle lanes known as the High Desert Corridor (HDC). The aforementioned regional program will reduce

potential GHG emissions related to excessive VMTs to levels that are less than significant.

Those Partnership jurisdictions, including Hesperia, choosing to complete and adopt local Climate Action Plans (CAPs) that are consistent with the County’s GHG Reduction Plan and with the prior Regional Plan Program EIR and the addendum or supplemental CEQA document prepared by SBCOG will be able to tier their future project-level CEQA analyses of GHG emissions from their CAP. In 2010, the City of Hesperia completed a CAP. The City participated in this regional effort as a study to inform their decision to update or revise their existing CAP. As part of this effort, the City of Hesperia has selected a goal to reduce its community GHG emissions to a level that is 40% below its 2020 level of GHG emissions by 2030. The City will meet and exceed this goal subject to reduction measures that are technologically feasible and cost-effective through a combination of state (~70%) and local (~30%) efforts. The Pavley vehicle standards, the State’s low carbon fuel standard, the RPS, and other state measures will reduce GHG emissions in Hesperia’s on-road, off-road, and building energy sectors in 2030.

An additional reduction of 110,304 MTCO₂E will be achieved primarily through the following local measures, in order of reductions achieved: GHG Performance Standard for Existing Development (PS-1); Water Efficiency Renovations for Existing Buildings (Water-2); and Waste Diversion and Reduction (Waste-2). Hesperia’s Plan has the greatest impacts on GHG emissions in the building energy, on-road transportation, and waste sectors. The proposed project will not involve or require any variance from an adopted plan, policy, or regulation governing GHG emissions. As a result, no potential conflict with an applicable greenhouse gas policy plan, policy, or regulation will occur and the potential impacts are considered to be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of potential impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed project’s approval and subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation measures are required.

3.9 HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			✘	
B. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			✘	
C. Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			✘	
D. Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				✘
E. Would the project for a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				✘
F. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✘
G. Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?				✘

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on hazards and hazardous materials if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- The proposed project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.
- The proposed project would emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.
- The proposed project would be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

- The proposed project would result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.
- The proposed project would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- The proposed project would expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

Hazardous materials refer generally to hazardous substances that exhibit corrosive, poisonous, flammable, and/or reactive properties and have the potential to harm human health and/or the environment. Hazardous materials are used in a wide variety of products (household cleaners, industrial solvents, paint, pesticides, etc.) and in the manufacturing of products (e.g., electronics, newspapers, plastic products). Hazardous materials can include petroleum, natural gas, synthetic gas, acutely toxic chemicals, and other toxic chemicals that are used in agriculture, commercial, and industrial uses; businesses; hospitals; and households. Accidental releases of hazardous materials can occur from a variety of causes, including highway incidents, warehouse fires, train derailments, shipping accidents, and industrial incidents.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The project’s construction would require the use of diesel fuel to power the construction equipment. The diesel fuel would be properly sealed in tanks and would be transported to the site by truck. Other hazardous materials that would be used on-site during the project’s construction phase include, but are not limited to, gasoline, solvents, architectural coatings, and equipment lubricants. These products are strictly controlled and regulated and in the event of any spill, cleanup activities would be required to adhere to all pertinent protocols. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

B. *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The project’s construction would require the use of diesel fuel to power the construction equipment. The diesel fuel would be properly sealed in tanks and would be transported to the site by truck. Other hazardous materials that would be used on-site during the project’s construction phase include, but are not limited to, gasoline, solvents, architectural coatings, and equipment lubricants. As a result, the likelihood of encountering contamination or other environmental concerns is remote. *The impacts will be less than significant.*

C. *Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The nearest school is the Jurupa Elementary School located on the east side of “I” Avenue. The project’s construction would require the use of diesel fuel to power the construction equipment. The diesel fuel would be properly sealed in tanks and would be transported to the site by truck. Other hazardous materials that would be used on-site during the project’s construction phase include, but are not limited to, gasoline, solvents, architectural coatings, and equipment lubricants. These products are strictly controlled and regulated and in the event of any spill, cleanup activities would be required to adhere to all pertinent protocols. The Applicant will be required to prepare a safety and hazard mitigation plan that indicates those protocols that must be adhered to in the event of an accident. This plan will be reviewed and approved by the City prior to the issuance of the Occupancy Permit. As indicated in Subsection D, the project site is not listed in either the CalEPA’s Cortese List or the Envirostor database. Underground storage tanks (USTs) will be provided. The chemicals that will be transported and stored on-site are regulated by the US EPA and the CalEPA. *The impacts will be less than significant.*

D. *Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? • No Impact.*

Government Code Section 65962.5 refers to the Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List, commonly known as the Cortese List. The Cortese List is a planning document used by the State and other local agencies to comply with CEQA requirements that require the provision of information regarding the location of hazardous materials release sites. A search was conducted through the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor website to identify whether the project site is listed in the database as a Cortese site. The project site is not identified as a Cortese site.⁴⁶ *Therefore, no impacts will occur.*

D. *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area? • No Impact.*

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan and is not located within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.⁴⁷ The nearest airport to the site is the Hesperia Airport that is located approximately 3.0 miles to the southwest. The Southern California Logistics Airport is located approximately 12 miles to the northwest of the project site.⁴⁸ The project will not introduce any structures that will interfere with the approach and take off of airplanes utilizing any regional airports as the maximum height of any of the buildings is expected to be just over 10-feet.⁴⁹ *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

E. *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? • No Impact.*

At no time will any adjacent street be completely closed to traffic during the proposed project’s

⁴⁶ CalEPA. *DTSC’s Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List - Site Cleanup (Cortese List).*

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm.

⁴⁷ Toll-Free Airline. *San Bernardino County Public and Private Airports, California.*

<http://www.tollfreeairline.com/california/sanbernardino.htm>.

⁴⁸ Google Maps. Website accessed October 17, 2022.

⁴⁹ SoCal Professional Engineers, Inc. *Site Plan. Smoke Tree Self Storage. Smoke Tree Street Hesperia, California. Sheet 1.*

construction. In addition, all construction staging must occur on-site. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

F. *Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires? • No Impact.*

The project site, along with the entire City is located within a “moderate fire hazard severity zone” and Local Responsibility Area (LRA).⁵⁰ The vegetation currently on the project site will be removed and replaced with drought tolerant landscaping. The minimal amount of vegetation on the project site will not expose people or structures to a risk of loss involving wildfires. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of potential impacts related to Hazards and Hazardous Materials indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed project’s approval and subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation measures are required.

⁵⁰ CalFire. *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map for SW San Bernardino County.*
http://frap.fire.ca.gov/webdata/maps/san_bernardino_sw/

3.10 HYDROLOGY & WATER QUALITY

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?			✘	
B. Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			✘	
C. Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:			✘	
i). Would the project result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;			✘	
ii). Would the project result substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner in which would result in flooding on- or off-site.			✘	
iii). Would the project create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or			✘	
iv). Would the project impede or redirect flood flows?			✘	
E. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?				✘

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on hydrology and water quality if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality.
- The proposed project would substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.
- The proposed project would substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or, impede or redirect flood flows.

- The proposed project would risk release of pollutants due to project inundation in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones.
- The proposed project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality? • Less than Significant Impact.*

In its existing condition, the proposed project site is undeveloped, disturbed land. The project Applicant will be required to adhere to Section 8.30 Surface and Groundwater Protection of the Municipal Code which regulates erosion and sediment control. In addition, stormwater discharges from construction activities that disturb one or more acres, or smaller sites disturbing less than one acre that are part of a common plan of development or sale, are regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permitting program. According to the Grading Plan and the WQMP, Water Quality Management Plan, the proposed development is providing adequate size of the infiltration trench (6,065 cf) to accommodate the 10 year storm. An additional 1,872 cf of volume would be needed if Municipality requires the site to retain the 100 year storm. *As a result, the construction impacts will be less than significant.*

B. *Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? • Less than Significant Impact.*

No new direct construction related impacts to groundwater supplies, or groundwater recharge activities would occur as part of the proposed project's implementation. Water used to control fugitive dust will be transported to the site via truck. No direct ground water extraction will occur. Furthermore, the construction and post-construction BMPs will address contaminants of concern from excess runoff, thereby preventing the contamination of local groundwater. As a result, there would be no direct groundwater withdrawals associated with the proposed project's implementation. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

C. *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The proposed project's location will be restricted to the proposed project site and will not alter the course of any stream or river that would lead to on- or off-site siltation or erosion. The site is presently undeveloped though there are no stream channels or natural drainages that occupy the property. The site would be designed so the proposed hardscape surfaces (the building and paved areas) will percolate into the landscaped and other impervious areas. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

i). *Would the project result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; • Less than Significant Impact.*

The project applicant will be required to abide by Hesperia's city ordinance Chapter 8.30.210 that requires all applicants for projects involving construction activities, regardless of size, to submit an erosion and sediment control plan ("ESCP") to the City for review and approval as mentioned in subsection A. *With conformance to the ordinance, the impacts will be less than significant.*

ii). *Would the project result substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; • Less than Significant Impact.*

The project's construction will be restricted to the designated project site and the project will not alter the course of any stream or river that would lead to flooding. Impervious surface will be added to the currently undisturbed project site. Per the Grading Plan and the WQMP, Water Quality Management Plan, the proposed development is providing adequate size of the infiltration trench (6,065 cf) to accommodate the 10 year storm. An additional 1,872 cf of volume would be needed if Municipality requires the site to retain the 100 year storm. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

iii). *Would the project create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; • Less than Significant Impact.*

As mentioned previously, impervious surface will be added to the currently largely undisturbed project site. Through a Grading Plan and Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), prepared by SoCal Professional Engineers, Inc. the proposed project will have two Infiltration Trenches along 'I' Ave. to retain the necessary DCV, Design Capture Volume, per the WQMP requirements. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

iv). *Would the project impede or redirect flood flows? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The proposed project's location will be restricted to the proposed project site and will not alter the course of any stream or river that would lead to on- or off-site siltation or erosion. The site is presently undeveloped though there are no stream channels or natural drainages that occupy the property. Through a Grading Plan and WQMP prepared by SoCal Professional Engineers, Inc. the proposed project will have two Infiltration Trenches along 'I' Ave. to retain the necessary DCV, Design Capture Volume, per the WQMP requirements. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

D. *In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? • No Impact.*

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance maps obtained for the City of Hesperia, the proposed project site is not located in a Flood Hazard zone.⁵¹ The proposed project site is also not located in an area that is subject to inundation by seiche or tsunami. In addition, the project site is located inland approximately 65 miles from the Pacific Ocean and the project site would not be exposed to the effects of a tsunami.⁵² *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

⁵¹ Federal Emergency Management Agency. *Flood Insurance Rate Mapping Program*. 2021.

⁵² Google Earth. Website accessed October 17, 2022.

E. *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? • No Impact.*

The project Applicant will be required to adhere to Section 8.30 Surface and Groundwater Protection of the Municipal Code which regulates erosion and sediment control. This Section of the City of Hesperia Municipal Code is responsible for implementing the NPDES and MS4 stormwater runoff requirements. In addition, the project's operation will not interfere with any groundwater management or recharge plan because there are no active groundwater management recharge activities on-site or in the vicinity. *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

As indicated previously, hydrological characteristics will not substantially change as a result of the proposed project. As a result, no mitigation is required.

3.11 LAND USE & PLANNING

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project physically divide an established community?				✘
B. Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				✘

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, acting as Lead Agency, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on mineral resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would physically divide an established community.
- The proposed project would cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project physically divide an established community?* • No Impact.

The proposed project site is located on a 2.32-acre site that is currently vacant. Current conditions on the property include a disturbed desert scrub community and moderate signs of human disturbances. The project site’s General Plan designation is *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)*. The property currently has a Zoning land use designation of *CIBP*. Land uses and development located in the vicinity of the proposed project site are outlined below:

- *North of the project site:* Smoke Tree Street extends along the project site’s north side. Vacant undeveloped land is located further north, north of the aforementioned roadway. This area is designated as *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *CIBP*.⁵³
- *West of the project site:* Abutting the project site to the west, is a vacant, undeveloped property. This area is designated as *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *CIBP*.⁵⁴

⁵³ Google Maps and City of Hesperia Zoning Map. Website accessed on April 1, 2023.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

CITY OF HESPERIA • INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
SMOKE TREE SELF STORAGE • SWC OF SMOKE TREE ST. & “I” AVE. (APNs 0410-135-07, 08, 09, & 10)

- *South of the project site:* A self-storage business, Universal Self Storage (9312 “I” Avenue), is located to the south of the project site. This area is designated as *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *CIBP*.⁵⁵
- *East of the project site:* “I” Avenue extends along the project site’s east side. Further east is the Juniper Elementary School campus. This area is designated as *Public Institutional (PIO)* in the Hesperia General Plan and is area is zoned as *PIO*.⁵⁶

The granting of the requested entitlements and subsequent construction of the proposed project will not result in any expansion of the use beyond the current boundaries. As a result, the project will not lead to any division of an existing established neighborhood. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

B. *Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? • No Impact.*

The project site’s General Plan designation is *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)*. The property currently has a Zoning land use designation of *CIBP*. The commercial designations are designed to permit a wide variety of neighborhood, general office, and retail uses. Commercial designations are intended to serve local neighborhood needs as well as regional and highway commercial needs, including opportunities for a wide range of services, retail, and wholesale functions. Development within the Neighborhood Commercial designation should occur at a Floor Area Ratio not to exceed 0.5. Businesses within the C1 designation should be smaller in floor area than the other commercial designations and should be less intense in impacts such as traffic and noise due to the proximity of residentially designated properties. The following policies are applicable to commercial development:

- *Implementation Policy LU-3.1* Encourage a diverse mix of commercial and service businesses that support the local tax base, are beneficial to residents, and support the economic need of the community.
- *Implementation Policy LU-3.2* Sufficient lands should be designated to provide a full range of commercial services to the community and surrounding areas to serve the residential properties at build-out.
- *Implementation Policy LU-3.3* Ensure that the sign ordinance provides for commercial signage that is attractive, non-intrusive, safe, and consistent with overall City aesthetic goals.
- *Implementation Policy LU-3.4* Encourage the beautification of pedestrian areas, particularly through the use of landscaping.
- *Implementation Policy LU-3.5* Require the separation or buffering of residential areas from businesses which produce noise, odors, high traffic volumes, light or glare, and parking through the use of landscaping, setbacks, and other techniques.
- *Implementation Policy LU-3.6* Discourage the outdoor commercial use of property immediately adjacent to a residential neighborhood, except as part of an approved temporary special event for a limited time.

⁵⁵ Google Maps and City of Hesperia Zoning Map. Website accessed on April 1, 2023.

⁵⁶Ibid.

**CITY OF HESPERIA • INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
SMOKE TREE SELF STORAGE • SWC OF SMOKE TREE ST. & “I” AVE. (APNs 0410-135-07, 08, 09, & 10)**

- *Implementation Policy LU-3.7* Incorporate varied planes and textures and variety in materials to provide superior architectural design on commercial buildings.
- *Implementation Policy LU-3.8* Incorporate landscape plantings into commercial developments to define and emphasize entrances, inclusive of those areas along the front of a building facing a parking lot.
- *Implementation Policy LU-3.9* Incorporate on all major commercial developments theme elements intended to distinguish them from other development, foster individuality, and promote gathering opportunities.
- *Implementation Policy LU-3.10* Where possible, connect rear parking lots of commercial development to the fronts of buildings with sidewalks or other features.
- *Implementation Policy LU-3.11* Where possible, reduce conflicts between delivery areas and pedestrian areas.
- *Implementation Policy LU-3.12* Require outdoor or seasonal storage areas, where permitted, to be screened from public view.
- *Implementation Policy LU-3.13* Include full architectural treatment on all sides of development projects unless immediately adjacent to another building.

The proposed project is consistent with the above General Plan guidelines and policies. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis determined that no impacts on land use and planning would result upon the implementation of the proposed project. As a result, no mitigation measures are required.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				✘
B. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				✘

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, acting as Lead Agency, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on mineral resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would physically divide an established community.
- The proposed project would cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? • No Impact.*

A review of California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources well finder indicates that there are no wells located in the vicinity of the project site.⁵⁷ The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) has developed mineral land classification maps and reports to assist in the protection and development of mineral resources. According to the SMARA, the following four mineral land use classifications are identified:

- *Mineral Resource Zone 1 (MRZ-1):* This land use classification refers to areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence.
- *Mineral Resource Zone 2 (MRZ-2):* This land use classification refers to areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists.
- *Mineral Resource Zone 3 (MRZ-3):* This land use classification refers to areas where the significance of mineral deposits cannot be evaluated from the available data. Hilly or mountainous areas underlain by sedimentary, metamorphic, or igneous rock types and lowland areas underlain

⁵⁷ California, State of. Department of Conservation. *California Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources Well Finder.* <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/#openModal/-117.41448/34.56284/14>.

by alluvial wash or fan material are often included in this category. Additional information about the quality of material in these areas could either upgrade the classification to MRZ-2 or downgraded it to MRZ-1.

- *Mineral Resource Zone 4 (MRZ-4)*: This land use classification refers to areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other mineral resource zone.

The project site is not located in a Significant Mineral Aggregate Resource Area (SMARA) nor is it located in an area with active mineral extraction activities.⁵⁸ As indicated previously, the site is developed and there are no active mineral extraction activities occurring on-site or in the adjacent properties. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

B. *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?* • *No Impact.*

As previously mentioned, no mineral, oil, or energy extraction and/or generation activities are located within the project site. Moreover, the proposed project will not interfere with any resource extraction activity. *Therefore, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of potential impacts related to mineral resources indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result from the approval of the proposed project and its subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation measures are required.

⁵⁸ California Department of Conservation. *Mineral Land Classification Map for the Hesperia Quadrangle*. Map accessed June 8, 2022.

3.13 NOISE

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?		✘		
B. Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			✘	
C. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✘

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on noise if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.
- The proposed project would result in the generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels.
- For a proposed project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Noise levels may be described using a number of methods designed to evaluate the “loudness” of a particular noise. The most commonly used unit for measuring the level of sound is the decibel (dB). Zero on the decibel scale represents the lowest limit of sound that can be heard by humans. The eardrum may rupture at 140 dB In general, an increase of between 3.0 dB and 5.0 dB in the ambient noise level is considered to represent the threshold for human sensitivity. Noise level increases of 3.0 dB or less are not generally perceptible to persons with average hearing abilities. The most commonly used unit for measuring the level of sound is the decibel (dB). Zero on the decibel scale represents the lowest limit of sound that can be heard by humans.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? • Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

The maximum noise level allowed by Hesperia’s code of ordinances is 65 dB during any time period. The major source of noise in the City of Hesperia and the project area is vehicular traffic. The level of vehicular traffic noise varies with many factors, including traffic volume, vehicle mix (truck percentage), traffic speed, and distance from the roadway. Other sources of noise include railroad, aircraft, industrial and commercial activity, and construction. The following noise standards are located within the City of Hesperia Municipal Code, Section 16.20.125: A. Noise Measurement. For the *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* zone, the 65 dB represents the noise standard for the zone. In addition, as stated within the City of Hesperia Municipal Code Section 16.20.125, no person shall operate or cause to be operated any source of sound at any location or allow the creation of any noise on property owned, leased, occupied or otherwise controlled by such person, which causes the noise level, when measured on any other property, either incorporated or unincorporated, to exceed:

- The noise standard for that receiving land use (as specified in subsection (B)(1) of this section) for a cumulative period of more than thirty (30) minutes in any hour; or
- The noise standard plus five dB(A) for a cumulative period of more than fifteen (15) minutes in any hour; or
- The noise standard plus ten dB(A) for a cumulative period of more than five minutes in any hour; or
- The noise standard plus fifteen (15) dB(A) for a cumulative period of more than one minute in any hour; or
- The noise standard plus twenty (20) dB(A) for any period of time.

To ensure the project’s potential noise impacts are mitigated, the following mitigation measures must be implemented:

- The Applicant must ensure that the contractors use construction equipment that includes working mufflers and other sound suppression equipment as a means to reduce machinery noise during construction.

Adherence to the aforementioned mitigation measures will reduce the potential noise impacts to levels that are less than significant.

B. *Would the project result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The nearest noise sensitive uses are located adjacent to the project site to the east of “I” Street. The construction of the proposed project will result in the generation of vibration and noise, though the vibrations and noise generated during the project’s construction will not adversely impact the nearby sensitive receptors. The background vibration velocity level in residential areas is usually around 50

vibration velocity level (VdB). The vibration velocity level threshold of perception for humans is approximately 65 VdB. A vibration velocity of 75 VdB is the approximately dividing line between barely perceptible and distinctly perceptible levels for many people. Sources within buildings such as operation of mechanical equipment, movement of people, or the slamming of doors causes most perceptible indoor vibration. Construction activities may result in varying degrees of ground vibration, depending on the types of equipment, the characteristics of the soil, and the age and construction of nearby buildings.

The operation of construction equipment causes ground vibrations that spread through the ground and diminish in strength with distance. Ground vibrations associated with construction activities using modern construction methods and equipment rarely reach the levels that result in damage to nearby buildings though vibration related to construction activities may be discernible in areas located near the construction site. A possible exception is in older buildings where special care must be taken to avoid damage. The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) has guidelines for vibration levels from construction related to their activities and recommends that the maximum peak-particle-velocity (PPV) levels remain below 0.05 inches per second at the nearest structures. PPV refers to the movement within the ground of molecular particles and not surface movement. Vibration levels above 0.5 inches per second have the potential to cause architectural damage to normal dwellings. The U.S. DOT also states that vibration levels above 0.015 inches per second (in/sec) are sometimes perceptible to people, and the level at which vibration becomes an irritation to people is 0.64 inches per second.

Typical levels from vibration generally do not have the potential for any structural damage. Some construction activities, such as pile driving and blasting, can produce vibration levels that may have the potential to damage some vibration sensitive structures if performed within 50 to 100 feet of the structure. The reason that normal construction vibration does not result in structural damage has to do with several issues, including the frequency vibration and magnitude of construction related vibration. Unlike earthquakes, which produce vibration at very low frequencies and have a high potential for structural damage, most construction vibration is in the mid- to upper- frequency range, and therefore has a lower potential for structural damage.

The project's implementation will not require deep foundations since the underlying fill soils will be removed and the height of the proposed buildings will be limited. The commercial buildings would be constructed over a shallow foundation that will extend no more than three to four feet bgs. The use of shallow foundations precludes the use of pile drivers or any auger type equipment. However, other vibration generating equipment may be used on-site during construction. As stated above, the project will require the use of excavators, loaders, bulldozers, and haul trucks.

Once operational, the proposed project will not generate excessive ground-borne noise because the project will not require the use of equipment capable of creating ground-borne noise. The project will be required to adhere to all pertinent City noise control regulations. In addition, the cumulative traffic associated with the proposed project will not be great enough to result in a measurable or perceptible increase in traffic noise (it typically requires a doubling of traffic volumes to increase the ambient noise levels to 3.0 dBA or greater). *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

C. *For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? • No Impact.*

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan and the nearest airport to the site is the Hesperia Airport that is located approximately 3.0 miles to the southwest. The proposed use is not considered to be a sensitive receptor. As a result, the proposed project will not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels related to airport uses. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation will be required in order to further reduce construction noise:

NOI-1. The Applicant must ensure that the contractors use construction equipment that includes working mufflers and other sound suppression equipment as a means to reduce machinery noise.

3.14 POPULATION & HOUSING

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				✘
B. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✘

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on population and housing if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure).
- The proposed project would displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?* • **No Impact.**

Growth-inducing impacts are generally associated with the provision of urban services to an undeveloped or rural area. Growth-inducing impacts include the following:

- *New development in an area presently undeveloped and economic factors which may influence development.* The site is currently undeveloped though it has been disturbed. The proposed use is consistent with the *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* zone.
- *Extension of roadways and other transportation facilities.* Future roadway and infrastructure connections will serve the proposed project site only.
- *Extension of infrastructure and other improvements.* The installation of any new utility lines will not lead to subsequent offsite development since these utility connections will serve the site only.
- *Major off-site public projects (treatment plants, etc.).* The project's increase in demand for utility services can be accommodated without the construction or expansion of landfills, water treatment plants, or wastewater treatment plants.
- *The removal of housing requiring replacement housing elsewhere.* The site does not contain any housing units. As a result, no replacement housing will be required.

- *Additional population growth leading to increased demand for goods and services.* The project will result in an increase in employment. The proposed project is anticipated to employ 1 to 2 individuals onsite at any given time. The onsite employees' functions are limited to business transactions, site maintenance, and equipment operations/maintenance. This number of new employees can be accommodated by the local labor market.
- *Short-term growth-inducing impacts related to the project's construction.* The project will result in temporary employment during the construction phase.

The proposed project will utilize existing roadways and infrastructure. The proposed project will not result in any unplanned growth. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

B. *Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? • No Impact.*

The project site is vacant and ungraded. The proposed use is consistent with the *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)* zoning designation. No housing units will be permitted, and none will be displaced as a result of the proposed project's implementation. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of potential population and housing impacts indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed project's approval and subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation measures are required.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i). Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with Fire protection?			✘	
ii). Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with Police protection?			✘	
iii). Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with Schools?			✘	
iv). Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with Parks?			✘	
v). Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with Other public facilities?			✘	

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on public services if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks or other public facilities.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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

The proposed project would involve the construction and subsequent operation of a 48,783 square feet self-storage facility. There would be five new proposed new self-storage buildings, referred to as Building A through Building F. Building A’s floor area would be 8,679 square feet, Building B’s floor area would be 11,873 square feet, Building C’s floor area would be 10,893 square feet, Building D’s floor area would be 9,458 square feet, and Building E’s floor area would be 8,890 square feet. A small, 660 square foot office would be located at the west end of Building E. Landscaping would total would total 10,622 square feet and would be located along the Smoke Tree Street and “I” Avenue frontages. Access to the project site would be provided by a 28-foot-wide driveway connection with the west side of “I” Avenue. A second shared access would be provided by a 40-foot-wide driveway connection with the south side of Smoke Tree Street. A 26-foot-wide internal drive aisle would provide access to the individual storage units. A total of six parking spaces would be provided near the office.

i). *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with fire protection? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The City of Hesperia and the sphere of influence are served by the San Bernardino County Fire Department. Currently there are five (5) fire stations within the City of Hesperia, Stations 301, 302, 303, 304, and 305. In addition, there are two (2) stations outside of the City, which include Stations 22 and 23. The proposed project would only place an incremental demand on fire services since the project will be constructed with strict adherence to all pertinent building and fire codes. In addition, the proposed project would be required to implement all pertinent Fire Code Standards. Furthermore, the project will be reviewed by City and County building and fire officials to ensure adequate fire service and safety. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

ii). *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with police protection? • Less than Significant Impact.*

Law enforcement services within the City are provided by the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department which serves the community from one police station. The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department provides police protection and crime prevention services for the City of Hesperia and its sphere of influence on a contractual basis. The Hesperia Police Department is located at 15840 Smoke Tree approximately 3.5 miles to the northeast of the project site. This station is adjacent to the City Hall and Library, surrounding the Hesperia Civic Plaza. The primary potential security issues will be related to vandalism and potential burglaries during off-business hours. The project Applicant must install security cameras throughout the project site. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

iii). *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with schools? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The Hesperia Unified School District (HUSD) is the largest school district in the high desert, covering nearly 160 square miles, serving approximately 21,000 students (K–12) on 26 separate campuses. The nearest school to the project site is Jurupa Elementary School located on the east side of “I” Street. Due to the nature of the proposed project (a storage use), no direct enrollment impacts regarding school services will occur. The proposed project will not directly increase demand for school services. *As a result, the impacts on school-related services will be less than significant.*

iv). *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with parks? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The Hesperia Recreation and Park District (HRPD) is an independent special district within the County of San Bernardino. HRPD was created in 1957 to meet the recreational needs of the community and encompasses approximately 100 square miles, including the 75 square miles within the City of Hesperia and much of the Sphere of Influence. HRPD constructs and maintains parks, recreation facilities, retention basins, Landscape Maintenance Districts, streetlights, and other recreational services and programs to the community. The nearest park to the project site is Timberland Park located 3,300 feet to the northeast of the project site. The proposed project will not result in any local increase in residential development (directly or indirectly) which could potentially impact the local recreational facilities. *As a result, less than significant impacts on parks will result from the proposed project's implementation.*

v). *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with other public facilities? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The proposed project will not create direct local population growth which could potentially create demand for other governmental services. *As a result, less than significant impacts will result from the proposed project's implementation.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of public service impacts indicated that no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required with the implementation of the proposed project.

3.16 RECREATION

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				✘
B. Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				✘

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on recreation if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.
- The proposed project would include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?* • *No Impact.*

The Hesperia Recreation and Park District (HRPD) is an independent special district within the County of San Bernardino. HRPD was created in 1957 to meet the recreational needs of the community and encompasses approximately 100 square miles, including the 75 square miles within the City of Hesperia and much of the Sphere of Influence. HRPD constructs and maintains parks, recreation facilities, retention basins, Landscape Maintenance Districts, streetlights, and other recreational services and programs to the community. No parks are located adjacent to the site. The nearest park to the project site is Timberland Park located 3,300 feet to the northeast of the project site. The proposed project would not result in any improvements that would potentially significantly physically alter any public park facilities and services. *As a result, no impacts are anticipated.*

B. *Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? • No Impact.*

As previously indicated, the implementation of the proposed project would not affect any existing parks and recreational facilities in the City. No such facilities are located adjacent to the project site. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of potential impacts related to parks and recreation indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed project's approval and subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation measures are required.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project conflict with a plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?			✘	
B. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3 subdivision (b)?			✘	
C. Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			✘	
D. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?				✘

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on transportation and circulation if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.
- The proposed project would conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b).
- The proposed project would substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment).
- The proposed project would result in inadequate emergency access.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? • Less than Significant Impact.*

Trip generation estimates for the project were developed using the trip rates contained in the Institute of Transportation Engineers' (ITE) Trip Generation, 11th Edition based on the mini warehousing/self-storage land use category (ITE Code 151). This ITE information was used to estimate existing and future traffic generated and this information is summarized in Table 3-4.

The proposed project would involve the construction and subsequent operation of a 48,783 square feet self-storage facility. There would be five new proposed new self-storage buildings, referred to as Building A through Building F. Building A’s floor area would be 8,679 square feet, Building B’s floor area would be 11,873 square feet, Building C’s floor area would be 10,893 square feet, Building D’s floor area would be 9,458 square feet, and Building E’s floor area would be 8,890 square feet. A small, 660 square foot office would be located at the west end of Building E. Landscaping would total 10,622 square feet and would be located along the Smoke Tree Street and “I” Avenue frontages.

Access to the project site would be provided by a 28-foot-wide driveway connection with the west side of “I” Avenue. A second shared access would be provided by a 40-foot-wide driveway connection with the south side of Smoke Tree Street. A 26-foot-wide internal drive aisle would provide access to the individual storage units. A total of six parking spaces would be provided near the office. As indicated in Table 3-4, the future project is anticipated to generate approximately 122 daily trips, with approximately 7 trips occurring during the AM peak hour, and 13 trips occurring during the PM peak hour.

**Table 3-4
Project Trip Generation**

ITE Land Use/Project Scenario	ITE Code & Unit	Unit	Daily	AM Peak Hour Total	PM Peak Hour Total
Self-Storage (Trip Rates)	151	KSF	2.5	0.15	0.26
Trip Generation for New Development	48,783	KSF	122	7	13

KSF = 1,000 sq. ft.

Source: Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) 11th Edition

A majority of the project’s trips will occur during the first six months of the project’s opening, when the initial tenants take advantage of the available spaces. Once this period ends, the daily trips generated by the project will be substantially less. As indicated in Table 3-4, the future project is anticipated to generate approximately 122 daily trips, with approximately 7 trips occurring during the AM peak hour, and 13 trips occurring during the PM peak hour. The addition of 10 AM peak hour trips and 11 PM peak hour trips will not alter this LOS. In reality, as much as 50% of the peak hour trips could be “pass-by” once the storage units have been rented. Pass-by trips are trips generated to the project site by vehicles that are traveling to a different end destination. An example of a pass-by trip to a storage facility would be a resident leaving their house and stopping at their storage unit on their way to work without originally intending to visit the storage facility. Since pass-by trips are trips made enroute to an end destination, they are not considered a full trip. *Therefore, the potential impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.*

B. *Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)? • Less than Significant Impact.*

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)(2) focuses on impacts that result from certain transportation projects. The proposed project is not a transportation project. As a result, no impacts on this issue will result. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)(3) and (b)(4) focuses on the evaluation of a project’s VMT. The City of Hesperia has developed guidelines for analyzing a development project’s VMT in conformance with SB 743. According to the guidelines a VMT analysis would apply to projects that have the potential to increase the average VMT per service population (e.g., population plus employment) compared to the County of San Bernardino VMT average of 32.7 VMT per service population. As indicated in Table 3-4, the future project is anticipated to generate approximately 122 daily trips, with approximately

7 trips occurring during the AM peak hour, and 13 trips occurring during the PM peak hour. The proposed project is not located in a low-VMT generating Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) and a VMT analysis is required but an analysis is not required for the individual buildings as they are all under 50,000 square feet and are within the threshold of the project type screening criterion. As a result, the project will not result in a conflict or be inconsistent with Section 15064.3 subdivision (b) of the CEQA Guidelines. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

C. Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? • Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed project would involve the construction and subsequent operation of a 48,783 square feet self-storage facility. There would be five new proposed new self-storage buildings, referred to as Building A through Building F. Building A’s floor area would be 8,679 square feet, Building B’s floor area would be 11,873 square feet, Building C’s floor area would be 10,893 square feet, Building D’s floor area would be 9,458 square feet, and Building E’s floor area would be 8,890 square feet. A small, 660 square foot office would be located at the west end of Building E. Landscaping would total 10,622 square feet and would be located along the Smoke Tree Street and “I” Avenue frontages.

Access to the project site would be provided by a 28-foot-wide driveway connection with the west side of “I” Avenue. A second shared access would be provided by a 40-foot-wide driveway connection with the south side of Smoke Tree Street. A 26-foot-wide internal drive aisle would provide access to the individual storage units. A total of six parking spaces would be provided near the office. As indicated in Table 3-4, the future project is anticipated to generate approximately 122 daily trips, with approximately 7 trips occurring during the AM peak hour, and 13 trips occurring during the PM peak hour. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

D. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access? • Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed project would not affect emergency access to any adjacent parcels. At no time during construction will the adjacent public street be completely closed to traffic. All construction staging must occur on-site. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis determined that the traffic impacts would be less than significant. As a result, no mitigation was required.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on tribal cultural resources if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k).
- The proposed project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, and that is:*

A Tribal Resource is defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 and includes the following:

- Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following: included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.
- A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.
- A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of subdivision (a) is a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape.
- A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a "non-unique archaeological resource" as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms to the criteria of subdivision (a).

Adherence to the standard condition presented in Subsection B under Cultural Resources will minimize potential impacts to levels that are less than significant.

The proposed project site is located on recognized Yuhaaviatam/Maarenga'yam land. The word Maara'yam, the People of Maara', is used to describe all peoples known today as Serrano. The name Yuhaaviatam, or People of the Pines, refers to the Serrano clan of our progenitor, Santos Manuel. The Serrano ancestral territory covers present-day Antelope Valley on the west, southwest Mojave Desert to the north, the Inland Empire north of the city of Riverside to the south, and the city of Twentynine Palms to the east.⁵⁹

The site is also within an area of the City that has been disturbed due to adjacent development and there is a limited likelihood that artifacts would be encountered. The proposed project's construction would involve shallow excavation for the installation of building footings, utility lines, and other underground infrastructure. Ground disturbance would involve grading and earth-clearing activities for the installation of the grass and landscaping and other on-site improvements. In addition, the proposed project area is not located within an area that is typically associated with habitation sites, foraging areas, ceremonial sites, or burials. Nevertheless, mitigation was provided in the previous subsection.

⁵⁹ San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. History. <https://sanmanuel-nsn.gov/culture/history>. Website Accessed October 13, 2022.

i). *Would the listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k). • No Impact*

Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following: included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1. The project site is not listed in the Register. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

ii). *Would the project have a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1 In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe? • Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.*

A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a "non-unique archaeological resource" as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms to the criteria of subdivision (a). The following mitigation measures are required as a means to reduce potential tribal cultural resources impacts to levels that are less than significant:

- The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN) shall be contacted, as detailed in CR-1, of any pre-contact and/or historic-era cultural resources discovered during project implementation, and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a cultural resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with YSMN, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents YSMN for the remainder of the project, should YSMN elect to place a monitor on-site.
- Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the applicant and Lead Agency for dissemination to YSMN. The Lead Agency and/or applicant shall, in good faith, consult with YSMN throughout the life of the project.

As a result, there will be a less than significant impact with mitigation.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures are required as a means to reduce potential tribal cultural resources impacts to levels that are less than significant:

TCR-1. The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN) shall be contacted, as detailed in CR-1, of any pre-contact and/or historic-era cultural resources discovered during project implementation, and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a cultural resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with YSMN, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents YSMN for the remainder of the project, should YSMN elect to place a monitor on-site.

TCR-2. Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the applicant and Lead Agency for dissemination to YSMN. The Lead Agency and/or applicant shall, in good faith, consult with YSMN throughout the life of the project.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?			✘	
B. Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?			✘	
C. Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?			✘	
D. Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?			✘	
E. Would the project comply with Federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				✘

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on utilities if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects.
- The proposed project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years.
- The proposed project would result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the proposed project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments.
- The proposed project would generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals.
- The proposed project would negatively impact the provision of solid waste services or impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals.

- The proposed project would comply with Federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? • Less than Significant Impact.*

There are no existing water or wastewater treatment plants, electric power plants, telecommunications facilities, natural gas facilities, or stormwater drainage infrastructure located on-site. Therefore, the project’s implementation will not require the relocation of any of the aforementioned facilities. The project site is currently undeveloped though the site has existing electrical, sewer and water connections adjacent to the project site. The proposed project’s connection can be adequately handled by the existing infrastructure. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

B. *Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years? • Less than Significant Impact.*

The Hesperia Water District (HWD) currently maintains 18 storage reservoirs within the distribution system with a total capacity of 49.5 million gallons. The City sits above the Upper Mojave River Basin within the jurisdiction of the Mojave Water Agency, and draws its water from the Alto sub-basin, which has a capacity of 2,086,000 acre-feet. Approximately 960,000 acre-feet of stored groundwater is estimated within the basin with an additional 1,126,000 acre-feet of storage capacity available through recharge efforts, as indicated in Table 3-5. The proposed project is estimated to consume 5,854 gallons of water on a daily basis. There are existing water and sewer lines located on “I” Street. *As a result, the impacts will be less than significant.*

**Table 3-5
Projected Water Consumption**

Project Element	Consumption Rate	Project Consumption
Mini-Warehouse (48,783 sq. ft.)	0.12 gals. /day/sq. ft.	5,854 gals. /day
Total		5,854 gals. /day

Source: Blodgett Baylosis Environmental Planning

C. *Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments? • Less than Significant Impact.*

Wastewater services are provided by the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VWVRA). Currently the City is served by an interceptor system that extends approximately 15 miles from the regional treatment facility (Victorville) south to I Avenue and Hercules in the City of Hesperia. The interceptor system consists of both gravity and force main pipelines, ranging in size from 6-inch to 42-inch diameters. The City’s sewer system collects to the VWVRA’s 3-mile interceptor that runs along the northeast boundary

of the City. Sewer lines range from 3 inches up to 21-inch lines within the City. From table 3-6, the proposed project is estimated to generate 4,878 gallons of wastewater on a daily basis. The project's implementation will not create a substantial demand on existing infrastructure. *As a result, the impacts are expected to be less than significant.*

**Table 3-6
Projected Effluent Generation**

Project Element	Generation Rate	Project Generation
Mini-Warehouse (48,783 sq. ft.)	0.10 gals./day/sq. ft.	4,878 gals. /day
Total		4,878 gals. /day

Source: Blodgett Baylosis Environmental Planning

D. Would the project generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals? • Less than Significant Impact.

Approximately 63 percent of the solid waste generated in Hesperia is being recycled, exceeding the 50 percent requirement pursuant to the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB939). Currently, about 150 tons of the solid waste generated by the City per day is sent to the landfill. This remaining solid waste is placed in transfer trucks and disposed of at the Victorville Sanitary Landfill at 18600 Stoddard Wells Road in Victorville, owned and operated by the County of San Bernardino. From table 3-7, the proposed project is estimated to generate 2,045 pounds of solid waste on a daily basis. *As a result, the potential impacts will be less than significant.*

**Table 3-7
Projected Solid Waste Generation**

Project Element	Generation Rate	Project Generation
Mini-Warehouse (48,783 sq. ft.)	42 lbs./day/1,000 sq. ft.	2,045 lbs./day
Total		2,045 lbs./day

Source: Blodgett Baylosis Environmental Planning

E. Would the project comply with Federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? • No Impact.

The proposed project, like all other development in Hesperia and San Bernardino County, will be required to adhere to City and County ordinances with respect to waste reduction and recycling. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of utilities impacts indicated that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed project's approval and subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation is required.

3.20 WILDFIRE

Environmental Issue Areas Examined	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A. Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				×
B. Would the project due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				×
C. Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				×
D. Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				×

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND METHODOLOGY

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project may be deemed to have a significant adverse impact on wildfire risk and hazards if it results in any of the following:

- The proposed project would, if located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- The proposed project would, if located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.
- The proposed project would, if located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.
- The proposed project would, if located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. *Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? • No Impact.*

The site's zoning designation is *Commercial Industrial Business Park (CIBP)*. Surface streets that will be improved at construction will serve the project site and adjacent area. The proposed project would not involve the closure or alteration of any existing evacuation routes that would be important in the event of a wildfire. At no time during construction will adjacent streets be completely closed to traffic. All construction staging must occur on-site. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

B. *Would the project due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? • No Impact.*

The project site is located in the midst of an urbanized zoned area. The proposed project may be exposed to particulate emissions generated by wildland fires in the mountains (the site is located approximately 12 miles northeast and northwest of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains). However, the potential impacts would not be exclusive to the project site since criteria pollutant emissions from wildland fires may affect the entire City as well as the surrounding cities and unincorporated county areas. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

C. *Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? • No Impact.*

The project site is located in an area that is classified as a Moderate fire risk severity within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) and will not require the installation of specialized infrastructure such as fire roads, fuel breaks, or emergency water sources. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

D. *Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? • No Impact.*

While the site is located within a moderate fire risk and local responsibility area, the proposed project site is located within an area classified as urban with relatively flat land. Therefore, the project will not expose future employees to flooding or landslides facilitated by runoff flowing down barren and charred slopes. *As a result, no impacts will occur.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

The analysis of wildfires impacts indicated that less than significant impacts would result from the proposed project's approval and subsequent implementation. As a result, no mitigation is required.

3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

The following findings can be made regarding the Mandatory Findings of Significance set forth in Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines based on the results of this environmental assessment:

- A. The proposed project *will not* have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. As indicated in Section 3.1 through 3.20, the proposed project will not result in any significant unmitigable environmental impacts.
- B. The proposed project *will not* have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The environmental impacts will not lead to a cumulatively significant impact on any of the issues analyzed herein.
- C. The proposed project *will not* have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. As indicated in Section 3.1 through 3.20, the proposed project will not result in any significant unmitigable environmental impacts.

4. Conclusions

FINDINGS

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project is not expected to have significant adverse environmental impacts. The following findings can be made regarding the Mandatory Findings of Significance set forth in Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines based on the results of this Initial Study:

- The proposed project *will not* have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- The proposed project *will not* have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
- The proposed project *will not* have environmental effects which will cause substantially adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures have been incorporated herein to further reduce the potential air quality impacts to levels that are less than significant.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 1. The Applicant shall prepare and submit to the MDAQMD, prior to commencing earth-moving activity, a dust control plan that describes all applicable dust control measures that will be implemented at the project;

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 2. The Applicant shall ensure that signage, compliant with Rule 403 Attachment, is erected at each project site entrance not later than the commencement of construction.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 3. The Applicant shall ensure the use of a water truck to maintain moist disturbed surfaces and actively spread water during visible dusting episodes to minimize visible fugitive dust emissions. For projects with exposed sand or fines deposits (and for projects that expose such soils through earthmoving), chemical stabilization or covering with a stabilizing layer of gravel will be required to eliminate visible dust/sand from sand/fines deposits.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 4. All perimeter fencing shall be wind fencing or the equivalent, to a minimum of four feet of height or the top of all perimeter fencing. The owner/operator shall maintain the wind fencing as needed to keep it intact and remove windblown dropout. This wind fencing requirement may be superseded by local ordinance, rule or project-specific biological mitigation prohibiting wind fencing.

Air Quality Mitigation Measure No. 5. All maintenance and access vehicular roads and parking areas

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shall be stabilized with chemical, gravel, or asphaltic pavement sufficient to eliminate visible fugitive dust from vehicular travel and wind erosion. Take actions to prevent project-related track out onto paved surfaces and clean any project-related track out within 24 hours. All other earthen surfaces within the project area shall be stabilized by natural or irrigated vegetation, compaction, chemical or other means sufficient to prohibit visible fugitive dust from wind erosion.

The following mitigation measure has been incorporated herein to further reduce the potential biological resources impacts to levels that are less than significant.

Biology Mitigation Measure No. 6. Future development activities are expected to result in the removal of vegetation from the project site; however, cumulative impacts to the general biological resources (plants and animals) in the surrounding area are expected to be minimal; however, impacts to the Joshua trees on the site will be considered significant given the recently listing of the species by the State of California as a “threatened species.” A qualified City-approved biologist or arborist should be retained to conduct any future relocation/transplanting activities and should follow the protocol of the County’s Municipal Code.

- The Joshua trees will be retained in place or replanted somewhere on the site where they can remain in perpetuity or will be transplanted to an off-site area approved by the city where they can remain in perpetuity. Joshua trees which are deemed not suitable for transplanting will be cut-up and discarded as per City requirements.
- Earthen berms will be created around each tree by the biologist prior to excavation and the trees will be watered approximately one week before transplanting. Watering the trees prior to excavation will help make excavation easier, ensure the root ball will hold together, and minimize stress to the tree.
- Each tree will be moved to a pre-selected location which has already been excavated and will be placed and oriented in the same direction as their original direction. The hole will be backfilled with native soil, and the transplanted tree will be immediately watered. As noted in Section 3.0, a numbered metal tag was placed on the north side of the trees and the trees were also flagged with surveyor’s flagging. The biologist will develop a watering regimen to ensure the survival of the transplanted trees. The watering regimen will be based upon the needs of the trees and the local precipitation.

Since it is possible that previously unrecognized cultural resources could exist at the site, the proposed project would be required to adhere to the following mitigation measures:

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 7. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall provide evidence to the City of Hesperia that a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist has been retained by the Project Applicant to conduct monitoring of excavation activities and has the authority to halt and redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected paleontological resources are unearthed.

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 8. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall conduct full-time monitoring during grading and excavation operations in undisturbed, very old alluvial fan sediments at or below four (4) feet below ground surface and shall be equipped to salvage fossils if they are unearthed to avoid construction delays and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to

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contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow of removal of abundant and large specimens in a timely manner. Monitoring may be reduced if the potentially fossiliferous units are not present in the subsurface, or if present, are determined upon exposure and examination by qualified archaeologist/paleontologist personnel to have a low potential to contain or yield fossil resources.

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 8. Recovered specimens shall be properly prepared to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including screen washing sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates, if necessary. Identification and curation of specimens into a professional, accredited public museum repository with a commitment to archival conservation and permanent retrievable storage, such as the San Bernardino County Museum in San Bernardino, California, is required for significant discoveries. The archaeologist/paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to initiation of mitigation activities.

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 9. A final monitoring and mitigation report of findings and significance shall be prepared, including lists of all fossils recovered, if any, and necessary maps and graphics to accurately record the original location of the specimens. The report shall be submitted to the City of Hesperia prior to building final.

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 10. If previously unidentified archaeological and/or paleontological materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist can assess the significance of the find. If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has determined the origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or their authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall conduct the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

The analysis determined that the following mitigation measures will be required to reduce potential energy consumption:

Energy Mitigation Measure No. 11. The project must employ, as much as possible, the use of glass or translucent plastic materials on building roof and gables to allow natural daylight in work areas.

Since some operations and security functions may be carried out during non-daylight hours, an additional mitigation measure is suggested to reduce energy consumption during those times.

Energy Mitigation Measure No. 12. The project must use motion activated lighting in the storage units to reduce energy use at night.

The following mitigation will be required in order to further reduce construction noise:

Noise Mitigation Measure No. 13. The Applicant must ensure that the contractors use construction equipment that includes working mufflers and other sound suppression equipment as a means to reduce machinery noise.

The following mitigation measures are required as a means to reduce potential tribal cultural resources impacts to levels that are less than significant:

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 14. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall provide evidence to the City of Hesperia that a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist has been retained by the Project Applicant to conduct monitoring of excavation activities and has the authority to halt and redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected paleontological resources are unearthed.

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 15. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall conduct full-time monitoring during grading and excavation operations in undisturbed, very old alluvial fan sediments at or below four (4) feet below ground surface and shall be equipped to salvage fossils if they are unearthed to avoid construction delays and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. The archaeologist/paleontologist monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow of removal of abundant and large specimens in a timely manner. Monitoring may be reduced if the potentially fossiliferous units are not present in the subsurface, or if present, are determined upon exposure and examination by qualified archaeologist/paleontologist personnel to have a low potential to contain or yield fossil resources.

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 15. Recovered specimens shall be properly prepared to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including screen washing sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates, if necessary. Identification and curation of specimens into a professional, accredited public museum repository with a commitment to archival conservation and permanent retrievable storage, such as the San Bernardino County Museum in San Bernardino, California, is required for significant discoveries. The archaeologist/paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to initiation of mitigation activities.

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure No. 16. A final monitoring and mitigation report of findings and significance shall be prepared, including lists of all fossils recovered, if any, and necessary maps and graphics to accurately record the original location of the specimens. The report shall be submitted to the City of Hesperia prior to building final.

5. References

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REFERENCES

The references that were consulted have been identified using footnotes.

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