# **Woodward 46 Residential**

# **Initial Study**

SP22-0005/SP-22-006/GPA22-0004/MFSD22-0005/TSM22-0004/CUP22-0005



# Prepared for:

City of San Marcos
Planning Division
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069
Contact: Norm Pedersen, Associate Planner

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# Initial Study Checklist

# 1. Project Title:

Woodward 46 Specific Plan

## 2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

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

#### 3. Contact Person and Phone Number:

Norm Pedersen, Association Planner 760-744-1050 ext. 3236 npedersen@san-marcos.net

#### 4. Project Location:

The approximately 8.57-acre project site is located on the east side of Woodward Street, generally between Mission Road to the south and Vineyard Road to the north in the Richland neighborhood in City of San Marcos (City), California. The project site is approximately 0.5 mile north of State Route 78 (SR-78) and 0.1 mile north from the Civic Center SPRINTER rail station. The assessor parcel number (APN) is 220-210-49-00. See **Figure 1** located at the end of this document. The project site is undeveloped and steeply slopped. Elevation ranges from 754 feet above mean sea level (amsl) in the eastern portion of the project site down to 615 feet in the southwestern portion of the project site.

# 5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

Cornerstone Communities 1241 Cave Street, Suite 200 La Jolla, CA 92037

## 6. General Plan Designation:

The project site has a General Plan Designation of SPA (Specific Plan Area) and is associated with the Heart of the City Specific Plan (HOCSP). In the HOCSP, certain properties along the Mission Road corridor, such as the project site, have a sub-plan designation of Richmar Specific Plan. Development criteria for the Richmar Specific Plan has not been adopted by the City; therefore, properties requesting development within this sub-plan area are required to establish individual specific plans based on the underlying land use for the property as designated by the HOCSP. For the subject property, the underlying designation allows for residential development at 2 to 4 dwelling units per acre. The project proposes a General Plan Amendment to remove the Richmar Sub-Plan designation from the project site in order to establish its own development criteria under the proposed Woodward 46 Specific Plan which would allow for 5.7 dwelling units per acre.

## 7. Zoning Designation:

The Zoning on the project site is located within the Heart of the City Specific Plan Area (SPA). No change in zoning is proposed as part of the project.

# 8. Description of Project:

The project applicant is requesting approval of a Specific Plan Amendment to the HOCSP (SP22-0006), adoption of a new Woodward 46 Specific Plan (SP22-0005), General Plan Amendment (GPA22-0004), Multifamily Site Development Plan (MFSD22-0005), Tentative Subdivision Map (TSM22-0004), and Conditional Use Permit (CUP22-0005). If approved, these entitlements would allow for the development of the proposed 46 unit condominium development on the project site. The conceptual site plan is presented in **Figure 2**.

#### Residential Development

The project proposes 46 duplex residential units in 23 buildings. The proposed residential units will all be three bedroom and 3.5 baths and range from 1,585 square feet (s.f.) to 1,900 s.f. The units will be three stories and approximately 35 feet in height. Each unit will have a two-car garage. Proposed materials include stucco walls, stone veneer, wood fascia, metal and stucco railings, and concrete tile roof materials.

# **Open Space**

A total of 6.01 acres s.f. of open space is proposed. The proposed open space includes 5.15 acres of common open space with grades of 10% or greater and 0.86 acres of common open space with grades less than 10%. The project also includes private open space, which totals 38,375 s.f. and includes decks and ground-floor patios for all the units.

The 7,480 s.f. community recreation area is located in the southwest portion of the site and includes a tot lot with fall safe surfacing, turf play areas, shaded picnic table, looped trike track, and a sensory play area. The homeowners association would be responsible for the maintenance of the common open space areas, including the recreation area/park.

#### **Other Project Components**

#### Access and Circulation

Access to the project site will be via one unsignalized driveway on Woodward Street. The entrance driveway will be ungated and will be 24-feet wide. Internal vehicular movement will be via a 24-foot-wide drive aisle. A cul-de-sac and turnout have been included in the project design for emergency vehicle movement.

#### **Parking**

The project proposes a total of 108 on-site parking spaces. Each of the residential units will have a two-car garage. In addition, 16 guest spaces are included. Each garage will be wired to accommodate an electric vehicle charger.

#### Landscape Plan

The proposed landscape plan includes a mix of trees, shrubs, vines, grasses and groundcover and the plant selection emphasizes low and moderate water use species. The project will also comply with the City's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO) and Municipal Code, Title 20.

# **Project Construction**

#### Grading

The project is anticipated to start construction in 2025. Grading will consist of approximately 41,989 cubic yards (CY) of cut material and 50,270 CY of fill material requiring an export of approximately 8,281 CY of material. The project design incorporates retaining walls to manage the topography of the site and create areas for the access driveway and building pads. The proposed retaining walls include geogrid, cinderblock and soil nail styles, depending on the location within the project.

The import and export of earth material is guided by Section 17.32.080 of the City's Municipal Code and prior to any import of soils, a haul route will be submitted for review and approval by the City Engineer. Additionally, grading and other earth moving activities are restricted to the hours of 7:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, per Section 17.32.180 of the City's Municipal Code.

#### Blasting and Rock Crushing

Due to bedrock condition, blasting will be required on the project site. The project would comply with all provisions identified in the City's Municipal Code Section 17.60.06 as it relates to blasting and blasting shall only be permitted between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM during any weekday. Blasting also required issuance of a Blasting Permit from the San Marcos Fire Department.

The project's requested approvals include a Conditional Use Permit (CUP22–0005), which would allow for the use of the temporary rock crusher. The rock crusher, a Thunderbird Hazemag impact crusher, will be located in the central portion of the site to provide the most distance from adjacent residential uses. The crusher will be approximately 329 feet from the residential use to the east, 667 feet from the closest residential use to the north and 531 feet from the closest residential use to the south.

#### **Public Utilities and Services**

#### Water and Sewer Services

The project site lies within the service area of Vallecitos Water District (VWD) for water service and sewer service. The project will connect to the existing 8-inch water main in Woodward Street at the main entry to the project site. Water connections to the dwelling units will be provided via 4-inch lines. An 8-inch fire main will parallel the potable water line for fire service to the site.

For sewer service, the project will extend the existing 8-inch gravity sewer main located north of the project site in Woodward Street for approximately 490 feet. The proposed sewer line extension would be within the existing roadway on Woodward Street. Dwelling units would connect to sewer via an 8-inch sewer main that will run the length of the main driveway.

## Site Drainage and Stormwater Management

Storm drain systems and connections would be designed to accommodate the proposed future development. The project will construct two biofiltration basins (BMP-A and BMP-B) for storm water quality, which will be located at the northeast corner and northwest edge of the project

site. These features will collect storm water from the building and street and direct the storm water through storm water drainage pipes to POCs. Hydromodification will be required with final engineering submittals in conformance with the 2023 City of San Marcos BMP Design Manual.

#### Fire Protection

The project is located within the San Marcos Fire Protection District (SMFPD) boundary. The San Marcos Fire Department (SMFD) would provide fire protection for urban and wildland fires and emergency services to the project site. SMFD services San Marcos with four stations, the closest of which is Fire Station No. 1 located at 180 West Mission Road, approximately 0.25 miles west of the project site. There are two easements on the site associated with vegetation management for fire fuel reduction. One is located along a portion of the site's eastern boundary and the other is located along a portion of the site's southern boundary. These are associated with fire buffer maintenance requirements of adjacent development. The project will also implement a zoned brush management plan which will provide a minimum of 150 feet of clearance. The brush management will follow CAL FIRE's guidance for defensible space (CAL FIRE 2023) which includes three zones of defensible space.

#### Police Protection

Police protection for the proposed project would be provided by the County of San Diego Sheriff's Department. The County Sheriff provides contract law enforcement services to the City of San Marcos through the station located at 182 Santar Place, approximately 0.75 mile east of the project site.

#### Schools

The project site is within the San Marcos Unified School District (SMUSD) boundary. SMUSD is 49 square miles in size and encompasses most of the City of San Marcos and portions of the Cities of Vista, Escondido and Carlsbad, as well as unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego between these cities. Students generated by the project would attend Richland Elementary School, Woodland Park Middle School and Mission Hills High School.

#### 9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The project site is in a developed portion of the City. The project vicinity includes single-family residential neighborhoods to the north and east, multi-family residential developments to the south, and undeveloped land to the west across Woodward Street. Directly north of the project site is an area designated as Open Space in the City's General Plan. The City of San Marcos Civic Center is located south of the project site and contains a mix of institutional, office, and medical office uses as well as adjacent commercial land uses which offer a variety of retail space, restaurants, service uses, and shopping. The Civic Center SPRINTER rail station is located approximately 0.1-mile from the project site at the intersection of Mission Road and San Marcos Boulevard.

# 10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:

Vallecitos Water District for water and sewer service

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally or culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

The City has notified the tribes in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21074. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will summarize the City's consultation efforts with local tribes.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Detailed responses to this checklist are provided in Section IV, Environmental Analysis.

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

# **DETERMINATION**

On the	basis of this initial evaluation:	
	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significand a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	ant effect on the environment,
	I find that although the proposed project could have environment, there will not be a significant effect in this project have been made by or agreed to by the project propodecLARATION will be prepared.	case because revisions in the
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effe ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	ct on the environment, and an
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially sig significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, I been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures bas described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPA must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.	but at least one effect: 1) has to applicable legal standards, ted on the earlier analysis as
	I find that although the proposed project could have environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) h in an earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATI applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitig ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLAR mitigation measures that are imposed upon the propos required.	ave been analyzed adequately IVE DECLARATION pursuant to gated pursuant to that earlier ATION, including revisions or
Norm P	edersen, Associate Planner	Date

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I.	AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources	s Code Section	1 21099, would	the project:	
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				Х
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?  In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points). If the project is in an urbanized	Х			Х
	area, would the project conflict with the applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?				
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	Х			

#### I. AESTHETICS

# a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

**No Impact.** The project site is located within the Richland Neighborhood in the City. The City has a Ridgeline Protection and Management Overlay Zone to protect natural viewsheds and unique natural resources, minimize physical impacts to ridgelines, and to establish innovative sensitive architectures standards. The project site is not located in the Ridgeline Protection and Management Overlay Zone. Further, the project site does not include any primary or secondary ridgelines, as identified in Figure 4-5 of the Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan (San Marcos 2012). Therefore, development of the project site would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista and no impact would occur. This topic will not be further analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

# b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State Scenic Highway?

**No Impact.** The project site is located approximately 0.4 miles north of SR-78. A portion of SR-78 is recognized as a Scenic Highway by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); however, that portion is not in the project vicinity. The portion identified as a Scenic Highway is approximately 50 miles east of the project site near Anza Borrego (Caltrans 2020). At a local level, SR-78 is designated by the City of San Marcos as a view corridor. The highway corridor provides views of the Merriam Mountains, Mount Whitney, and Double Peak. There are no scenic resources on the project site. The project site is undeveloped and does not support any historic buildings (ASM 2023). In summary, the project would not damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State Scenic Highway. No impact would occur. This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surrounding? (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 the applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Potentially Significant Impact. The project site is in an urbanized area, per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15387. The EIR will analyze whether the project will conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality, including the applicable goals and policies of the General Plan relating to visual character and visual quality. This will include an analysis of the proposed retaining walls.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** There is currently no lighting on the project site. The project includes lighting for street lighting, wayfinding and entry point locations, common areas, and pedestrian walkways. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

			Less Than Significant		
		Potentially	With	Less Than	A1.
		Significant	Mitigation	Significant	No
		Impact	Incorporated	Impact	Impact
sign Site use incl the the	significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest Legacy Assessment Project and the carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols				
	opted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the	e project:			
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or				X
	Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as				
	shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the				
	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the				
	California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a				Х
D)	Williamson Act contract?				^
c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of,				Х
'	forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code				
	Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in Public				
	Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned				
	Timberland Production (as defined by Government				
	Code Section 51104(g))?				
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of				Х
	forest land to non-forest use?				
e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment				Х
	that, 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?				

#### II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

**No Impact.** The project site is not mapped as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as determined by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, as shown on Figure 4-4 (Agricultural Areas) in the San Marcos General Plan (San Marcos 2012). Therefore, the project would not result in the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. No impact is identified, and this topic will not be discussed further in the EIR.

## b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

**No Impact.** The project site has a General Plan designation of SPA (Specific Plan Area) and a zoning designation of Specific Plan Area (SPA). The project site does not support zoning for agricultural use. The Williamson Act, also known as the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments which are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value. The project site is not located within a Williamson Act contract area. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. No impact is identified and this topic will not be discussed further in the EIR.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?

**No Impact.** The project site has a General Plan designation of SPA (Specific Plan Area) and a zoning designation of Specific Plan Area (SPA). The proposed project is not located in an area that is zoned for forest land, timber land or for timber production nor is it adjacent to lands that are zone forest land, timber land or for timber production. Implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned timberland production. No impact is identified and this topic will not be discussed further in the EIR.

#### d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

**No Impact.** The project site is undeveloped. The project site does not support forests, nor is there any forest land adjacent to the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact is identified and this topic will not be discussed further in the EIR.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, 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?

**No Impact.** The project would not result in any other changes to the existing environment that would, due to their location or nature, result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. There is no agricultural activity on the project site or in the project vicinity. No impact is identified, and this topic will not be discussed further in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
ma	AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance nagement or air pollution control district may be relied project:				
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	Х			
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?	X			
c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	Х			
d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			Х	

#### III. AIR QUALITY

# a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Potentially Significant Impact. San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) are responsible for developing and implementing the clean air plans for attainment and maintenance of the ambient air quality standards in the basin—specifically, the State Implementation Plan (SIP) and Regional Air Quality Standards (RAQS). Air quality emissions generated by the proposed 46 multi-family residential (duplex) development will be calculated along with assessment of the project's consistency with the SIP and RAQS. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

# 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?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction of the proposed project would generate air pollutant emissions from dust, off-road equipment, vehicle emissions, architectural coatings, and asphalt pavement application. Following the completion of construction activities, the project would generate VOC, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM1O, and PM2.5 emissions from mobile sources, including vehicular traffic generated by residents of the project site; area sources, including the use of landscaping equipment and consumer products; and from architectural coatings. As such, air quality emissions associated with both construction and operation of the project could be potentially significant. An air quality report will be prepared for the project and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

#### c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Sensitive receptors include residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, athletic facilities, long-term healthcare facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, and retirement homes. The project site is located adjacent to existing residential uses, including multifamily residential to the south and southeast and single family residences to the north and east. Since the proposed project could expose sensitive receptors to

substantial pollutant concentrations, impacts are considered potentially significant. A project-specific air quality report will be prepared for the project and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

# d) Result in other emissions such as those leading to odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Less Than Significant Impact. Odors would be generated from vehicles and/or equipment exhaust emissions during construction of the proposed project. Odors produced during construction would be attributable to concentrations of unburned hydrocarbons from tailpipes of construction equipment and architectural coatings. Such odors would disperse rapidly from the project site and generally occur at magnitudes that would not affect substantial numbers of people. Therefore, impacts associated with odors during construction would be considered less than significant.

Land uses associated with odor complaints include agricultural uses, wastewater treatment plants, food-processing plants, chemical plants, composting, refineries, landfills, dairies, and fiberglass molding. As a residential project, the project would not engage in any of these activities. Moreover, typical odors generated from operation of the proposed project would primarily include vehicle exhaust generated by residents of the project site, as well as through the periodic use of landscaping or maintenance equipment. An air quality report will be prepared for the project and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	X			
b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	Х			
c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				Х
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			Х	
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	Х			
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community	Х			

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Conservation Plan, or other approved local,				
regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				

#### IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Based upon the Biological Resources Report prepared for the project by Rincon (2023), the project has the potential to impact sensitive species include coastal California Gnatcatchers, species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and rare plants. The EIR will analyze the potential for the project to 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 (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Based upon the Biological Resources Report prepared by Rincon (2023), there is the potential for the project to impact sensitive habitats including Diegan coastal sage scrub, disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub. This topic will be further analyzed in the EIR.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

**No Impact.** Based upon the Biological Resources Report prepared by Rincon (2023), no drainages or wetlands were observed in the project area during the surveys or background research. Concrete v-ditches were identified in the northeast portion of the study area along a chain link fence that runs along the slope and down towards the junction of Woodward and Vineyard Street. Vegetation has overgrown much of the areas along the ditch. An additional concrete v-ditch has been constructed along the southeast area at the top of the retaining wall that was constructed for the development to the south. No waters of the United States of Waters of the States were observed in the project area. No impact will occur, and this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Less than Significant Impact. Wildlife movement corridors are defined as areas that connect suitable wildlife habitat areas in a region otherwise fragmented by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, or human disturbance. Natural features such as canyon drainages, ridgelines, and areas with vegetation cover provide corridors for wildlife travel. The project area is a habitat island, with Woodward Street

along the western boundary of the project area which separates it from Twin Oaks Valley Creek to the west, Mission Road south of the project area, and residential development north, south, and east of the project area blocking any wildlife movement. There is an Open Space lot directly north of the project site, however the project area and vicinity are not identified as being within or adjacent to a wildlife corridor per Figure 4-2 of the City of San Marcos General Plan (San Marcos 2012). The project area is also not within or adjacent to a Biological Core and Linkage Area (BCLA) as illustrated in Figure 2-3 of the Final Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP) Plan. Finally, the project is not within or adjacent to an essential connectivity area or natural landscape block as identified by the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project. Therefore impacts would be less than significant and this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project site occurs within the County of San Diego MHCP. The City of San Marcos has prepared a draft MHCP Subarea Plan but does not yet have an MHCP implementing agreement with the USFWS or CDFW. However, the City of San Marcos uses their Subarea Plan as a guide in project processing and mitigation planning. The proposed project site is not within a City of San Marcos MHCP focused planning area. The EIR will analyze the project's compliance with the City's draft MHCP subarea plan and applicable local policies and ordinances.

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The City of San Marcos has prepared a draft MHCP Subarea Plan but does not yet have an MHCP implementing agreement with the USFWS or CDFW. However, the City uses their Subarea Plan as a guide in project processing and mitigation planning. The proposed project site is not within a City of San Marcos MHCP Focused Planning Area. The EIR will analyze the project's compliance with the City's draft MHCP subarea plan.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V.	CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?				Х
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	Х			
c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	Х			

#### V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

**No Impact.** The project site is undeveloped and no historical resources were identified on the project (ASM 2023). This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

**Potentially Significant Impact** Implementation of the project will result in grading which can impact cultural resources if they are located within the grading footprint. This represents a potentially significant impact. A cultural resources report will be prepared for the project to determine if there are any significant archaeological resources on the project site. The study will include a records search and site walk. Additionally, the City will consult with local tribes pursuant to the requirements of AB 52 and SB 18. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The handling of unanticipated discovery of human remains is guided by Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI.	ENERGY. Would the project:			-	
a)	Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?	Х			
b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	Х			

#### VI. ENERGY

a) Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction, or operation?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** During construction, the proposed project would utilize temporary electric power for lighting and electronic equipment (such as computers inside temporary construction trailers and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), and petroleum for construction equipment. Project operations would include the use of energy for the proposed residential use. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The EIR will analyze if the project would conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	IIIIpact	incorporated	ппрасс	ППрасс
a)	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.			Х	
b)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: Strong seismic ground shaking?			Х	
c)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			Х	
d)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: Landslides?			Х	
e)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			Х	
f)	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?			Х	
g)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?			Х	
h)	Have soils capable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				Х
i)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	Х			

## VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

a) 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.

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The site is located in the tectonically active Southern California area and will likely experience shaking effects from earthquakes. The type and severity of seismic hazards

affecting the site are to a large degree dependent upon the distance to the causative fault, the intensity of the seismic event, and the underlying soil characteristics. Based upon the preliminary geotechnical report prepared for the project, no known active faults have been mapped at or near the project site. Therefore, the potential for surface rupture on the project site is low. This topic will still be analyzed in the EIR as part of the geology and soils analysis.

b) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less Than Significant Impact. Because the proposed project would be located in tectonically- active Southern California, the project would be required to comply with the California Building Code, including recommendations for seismic safety. Impacts would be less than significant. This topic will still be analyzed in the EIR as part of the geology and soils analysis.

c) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less Than Significant Impact. Liquefaction occurs when loose, saturated, generally fine sands and silts are subjected to strong ground shaking. The soils lose shear strength and become liquid; potentially resulting in large total and differential ground surface settlements as well as possible lateral spreading during an earthquake. Seismically induced settlement can occur in response to liquefaction of saturated loose granular soils, as well as the reorientation of soil particles during strong shaking of loose, unsaturated sands.

Based upon the geotechnical investigation for the project (GeoTek 2019), the liquefaction and seismic settlement potential on the project site is considered to be negligible due to shallow bedrock and the absence of a shallow groundwater table. This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR as part of the geology and soils analysis.

d) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: Landslides?

Less than Significant Impact. The project site is steeply sloped. Elevation ranges from 754 feet amsl in the eastern portion of the project site, sloping down to 615 feet in the southwestern portion. There is existing netting along the Woodward Street frontage to minimize the potential for rock and debris fall onto the roadway. As noted on the proposed grading plans for the project, a portion of this netting will be removed to accommodate the project grading. The netting would be re-anchored to the new top of slope or as recommended by the soils engineer during project construction.

The project site is identified as having Zero Susceptibility for soil slippage susceptibility (landslide/liquefaction) per Figure 6-1 of the Safety Element of the City's General Plan (San Marcos 2012). Additionally, the geotechnical investigation for the project did not find evidence of ancient landslides or slope instability on the site, thus the potential for landslides is considered negligible. However, this topic will be further analyzed in the EIR as part of the geology and soils analysis.

e) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than Significant Impact. The project would be under the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) General Construction Permit, which prohibits sediment or pollutant release from the project site and requires preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and implementation of best management practices (BMPs) that would incorporate erosion and sediment control measures during and after grading operations to stabilize these areas. The project would not result in substantial

soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Impacts would be less than significant. This topic will still be analyzed in the EIR as part of the geology and soils analysis.

f) 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. Based upon the geotechnical report prepared for the project (GeoTek 2019), evidence of ancient landslides or slope instabilities at this site was not observed during the geotechnical investigation. Thus, the potential for landslides is considered negligible. Surficial slope stability was further analyzed as part of a subsequent memorandum prepared for the project (GeoTek 2023). Overall, the surficial stability is considered to be stable. The geotechnical report also noted that the potential for secondary seismic hazards such as seiche and tsunami is considered to be remote due to site elevation and distance from an open body of water (GeoTek 2019). This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR. As discussed in VII.d, above, there is existing netting along the Woodward Street frontage to minimize the potential for rock and debris fall onto the roadway. As noted on the proposed grading plans for the project, a portion of this netting will be removed to accommodate the project grading. The netting would be re-anchored to the new top of slope or as recommended by the soils engineer during project construction.

g) 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.** Based upon the geotechnical report prepared for the project site, the surficial soils consist of undocumented artificial fill, colluvium and Cretaceous age crystalline bedrock. Soil near subgrade would be classified as "very low" expansive. Impacts would be less than significant. This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

h) Have soils capable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

**No Impact.** Septic tanks and alternative wastewater disposal systems are not proposed as part of the project. The project will receive wastewater service from VWD and will connect to existing sewer infrastructure in Woodward Street. Therefore, no impact is identified for this issue area and this topic will not be analyzed further in the EIR.

i) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** According to the geotechnical study prepared for the project, the site is geologically mapped as sitting near the boundary of the Santiago Formation and undifferentiated metasedimentary and metavolcanic rock. The potential for the site to support paleontological resources will be analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			Х	
b)	Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			Х	

#### VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) which was developed to help reduce the City's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. As part of the CAP, the City developed a CAP Consistency Review Checklist (Checklist). The purpose of the Checklist is to implement the GHG reduction measures from the CAP that apply to new discretionary development. New development that demonstrate consistency with relevant CAP strategies would not conflict with the City's ability to achieve the identified GHG reduction targets through implementation of applicable measures. Projects that are consistent with the CAP, as determined through the use of the Checklist, may rely on the CAP for the cumulative impact analysis of GHG emissions. The Checklist identifies certain sizes and types of projects that would emit fewer than 500 metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) per year. Projects that emit fewer than 500 MT CO2e per year would be determined to have a less than significant GHG impact and would not be subject to the measures of the CAP. Multifamily residential projects of 55 dwelling units or less are considered to emit fewer than 500 MT CO2e per year. The project proposes 46 multifamily units. Therefore, it would fall under the 55 multifamily unit criteria and GHG impacts would be less than significant. This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Under the City's CEQA thresholds, the method for determining significance for project-level environmental documents is through the CAP Checklist. As discussed in VIII.a, above, the project would be consistent with the City's CAP and no conflict is identified. Therefore, this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX.	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the	project:			
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?			Х	
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				X
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				Х
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				Х
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				Х
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				Х
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?			Х	

#### IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less than Significant Impact. Hazardous materials include solids, liquids, or gaseous materials that, because of their quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics could pose a threat to human health or the environment. Hazards include the risks associated with potential explosions, fires, or release of hazardous substances in the event of an accident or natural disaster, which may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or serious illness or pose substantial harm to human health or the environment. The proposed project would involve the transport of fuels, lubricants, and various other liquids needed for operation of construction equipment at the site on an as-needed basis by equipment service trucks. Materials hazardous to humans, wildlife, and sensitive environments, including diesel fuel, gasoline, equipment fluids, concrete, cleaning solutions and solvents, lubricant oils, adhesives, human waste, and chemical toilets, would be present during project construction. The potential exists for direct impacts to human health from accidental spills of small amounts of hazardous materials from construction equipment; however, the proposed project would be required to comply with Federal, State, and City Municipal Code restrictions which regulate and

control those materials handled onsite. Compliance with these restrictions and laws would ensure that potentially significant impacts would not occur during project construction.

In addition, as a residential project, the only hazardous materials anticipated for transport or disposal associated with the proposed project during operation are routinely used household products such as cleaners, paint, solvents, motor oil/ automotive products, batteries, and garden maintenance products. It is anticipated that the use, handling, and disposal of these products would be addressed by household hazardous waste programs that are part of the Integrated Waste Management Plan of the County of San Diego and other Federal, State, and City Municipal Code regulations.

In summary, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Impacts would be less than significant. This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

**No Impact.** The project site is vacant and undeveloped. There are no existing site conditions which would result in a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions that could involve the release of hazardous materials into the environment. No impact is identified for this issue area and this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

**No Impact.** The project site is not located within 0.25 miles of an existing or proposed school. The closest school is San Marcos Elementary school, which is located approximately 0.5 miles to the southwest. No impact is identified, and this topic will not be analyzed in the EIR.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

**No Impact.** The provisions of Government Code Section 65962.5 are commonly referred to as the Cortese List. The Cortese List is a planning document used by the state and local agencies to provide information about hazardous materials release sites. Government Code Section 65962.5 requires California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to develop an updated Cortese List annually, at minimum. California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for a portion of the information contained in the Cortese List. Other California state and local government agencies are required to provide additional hazardous material release information for the Cortese List.

A search of the DTSC EnviroStor site was conducted on May 16, 2023 to see if there are any current or historical environmental cleanups or permitted facilities on or adjacent to the project site. There are no current or past permitted facilities or cleanup activities on the project site. The closest listed sites per EnviroStor are:

 TRI-M-CO, 528 E Mission Road - A leaking underground storage tank (LUST) cleanup site located approximately 0.4 mile east of the project site. The cleanup was completed in 1993 and the case is closed.  United States Post Office, 420 N. Twin Oaks Valley Road - A LUST cleanup site located approximately 0.2 mile west of the project site. The cleanup was completed in 12006 and the case is closed.

Due to the distance of these listings from the project site as well as the fact they have been cleaned up, there is no impact associated with the project. No impact would occur, and this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

**No Impact.** The nearest airport is the McClellan-Palomar Airport in Carlsbad, which is located approximately 6.5 miles to the southwest of the project site. According to Figure 6-5 of the Safety Element of the City's General Plan, the project site is located within Review Area 2 of the airport influence area. Review Area 2 limits the heights of structures in areas of high terrain. While the project is on an elevated hillside, the site is situated, overall, in the lower elevation portion of the City. According to the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) for the McClellan-Palomar Airport, the project site is not located within the existing or future 60 dB CNEL noise contour of the airport (San Diego County Regional Airport Authority 2011). Therefore, the project would not result in a safety hazard of excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area. No impact is identified, and this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

**No Impact.** According to the General Plan Safety Element, the San Marcos Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) governs the operations of the City during a disaster. This plan addresses response to moderate evacuation scenarios, including the identification of evacuation points and general routes (San Marcos 2012). The project would not result in any changes to the transportation network which could impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan. No impact would occur, and this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Less than Significant Impact. The project site is located in a developed part of the City and is not located where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas, nor does the project propose residences mixed in with wildlands. There are two easements on the site associated with vegetation management for fire fuel reduction. One is located along a portion of the site's eastern boundary and the other is located along a portion of the site's southern boundary. The project site is located in a Local Responsibility Area, not a State Responsibility area (CAL FIRE 2022). The project site is in a Local Responsibility Area with a Non-Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Non-VHFHSZ) designation per California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) San Marcos Fire Hazards Severity Zones Map (2009) and is surrounded by areas identified as Non-VHFHSZ. Further, per Figure 6-4 of the City's General Plan, the project site and surrounding area are not identified as a SMFPD Community Hazard Zone. Impacts would be less than significant and this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X.H	YDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	·			
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	Х			
b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there the project may impede substantial groundwater management of the basin?			X	
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	X			
d)	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: substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	Х			
e)	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: create or contribute to runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	X			
f)	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: impede or redirect flood flows?	Х			
g)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				Х
h)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	Х			
i)	Result in significant alteration of receiving water quality during or following construction?	X			
j) k)	Result in an increase in pollutant discharges to receiving waters? Consider water quality parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and other typical storm water pollutants (e.g., heavy metals, pathogens, petroleum derivatives, synthetic organics, sediment, nutrients, oxygen-demanding substances, and trash).  Be tributary to an already impaired water body as	X			
Λ)	listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list? If	Λ			

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact		
X.H	X.HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:						
	so, can it result in an increase in any pollutant for which the water body is already impaired?						
I)	Be tributary to environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., MSCP, RARE, Areas of Special Biological Significance, etc.)? If so, can it exacerbate already existing sensitive conditions?	X					
m)	Have a potentially significant environmental impact on surface water quality, to either marine, fresh or wetland waters?	Х					

# X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

Potentially Significant Impact. The applicant would be required to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Regionally, this is achieved by preparing and implementing a Stormwater Quality Management Plan (SWQMP) based on the standards set forth in the 2023 City of San Marcos BMP Design Manual. The project will be required to comply with the City of San Marcos BMP Design Manual. The SWQMP will require implementation of water quality BMPs to ensure that water quality standards are met and that stormwater runoff from construction areas do not result in a degradation of water quality in receiving water bodies. Project impacts are potentially significant, and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Less Than Significant Impact. Implementation of the project would not use any groundwater. The project will be served by VWD for water service. Therefore, the project would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies. The project will increase the amount of impervious surfaces on the project site; however, the project would not interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. Impacts are less than significant, and this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project would increase the area of impervious surfaces on the project site through the construction of rooftops, driveways, parking lots, and concrete walkways within the project site, which could increase runoff flow rates or volumes, which could result in erosion or siltation on- or off-site. The project would be required to implement design feature to ensure that changes to drainage patterns do not result in substantial erosion, this could include offsite flow routing and hydromodification to meet City and regional standards. Project impacts are potentially significant and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project would increase the area of impervious surfaces on the project site through the construction of rooftops, driveways, parking lots, and concrete walkways, which could increase runoff flow rates or volumes, potentially resulting in erosion or siltation on- or off-site. The project would be required to implement design features to ensure that changes to drainage patterns do not result in substantial erosion, this could include offsite flow routing and hydromodification to meet City and regional standards. Project impacts are potentially significant, and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

e) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: create or contribute to runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** As discussed above, the proposed project would increase the area of impervious surfaces on the project site, which could increase runoff flow rates or volumes, which could result in flooding on- or off-site. The project would be required to implement design features to ensure that changes to drainage patterns do not result in a substantial increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or off-site. This could include offsite flow routing and hydromodification to meet City and regional standards. Project impacts are potentially significant, and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

f) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: Impede or redirect flood flows?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** As discussed above, the proposed project would increase the area of impervious surfaces on the project site. The project will also implement a grading plan which will modify the topography and could alter drainage patterns on the site. However, there are no onsite streams or rivers which would be impacted. Project impacts are potentially significant, and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

g) In flood hazards, tsunami or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

**No Impact.** Per the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Flood Insurance Rate Map Number 06073C0793G the project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area (FEMA 2012). The project site is approximately 10 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and would not be subject to inundation by tsunami. Given that the project site is not located near a large standing body of water, inundation by seiche (or standing wave) is considered negligible. No impact would occur, and this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

h) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The project site is not located in a sustainable groundwater management plan area. The project site is located within the Carlsbad Management Area Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP). The EIR will address the project's potential to conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan.

i) Result in significant alteration of receiving water quality during or following construction?

Potentially Significant Impact. Potential construction-related impacts associated with receiving water quality would include siltation and erosion, the use of fuels for construction equipment, and the generation of trash and debris from the construction site. During project operation, potential impacts associated with receiving water quality could include runoff associated with landscaping/outside pesticide use, pest control (indoor/structural), fire sprinkler test water, and runoff from parking areas and sidewalks. This represents a potentially significant impact, and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

j) Result in an increase in pollutant discharges to receiving waters? Consider water quality parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and other typical storm water pollutants (e.g., heavy metals, pathogens, petroleum derivatives, synthetic organics, sediment, nutrients, oxygen-demanding substances, and trash).

Potentially Significant Impact. The project site is located in the Carlsbad hydrologic unit (904). Impaired water bodies in this watershed, as listed in the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) 303(d) impaired waters list. San Marcos Creek is listed on the 2020-2022 Integrated Report (CWA Section 303(d)/305(b)) List of Impaired Water Segments as being impaired for Nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), Metals (Selenium), Total Toxics (toxicity), Other Causes (Benthic Community Effects), Pesticides (bifenthrin, dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE) and pyrethroids), Pathogens (indicator bacteria), and total dissolved solids. Further downstream, Batiquitos Lagoon is also listed as being impaired for toxicity. Furthermore, San Marcos Lake was identified under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act as impaired due to nutrients (ammonia as nitrogen and phosphorous, and metals (copper) (SWRCB 2022). The project will generate potential water quality pollutants through construction and operations. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

k) Be tributary to an already impaired water body as listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list? If so, can it result in an increase in any pollutant for which the water body is already impaired?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Impaired water bodies in the Carlsbad watershed include San Marcos Creek and Lake San Marcos. While the project will include a comprehensive water quality approach including a storm drain system, there is a potential for an impact. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

I) Be tributary to environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., MSCP, RARE, Areas of Special Biological Significance, etc.)? If so, can it exacerbate already existing sensitive conditions?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The project site is located outside of the Biological Resource Conservation area for the MHCP. Runoff from the project site eventually flows to San Marcos Creek, Lake San Marcos and ultimately to Batiquitos Lagoon. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

m) Have a potentially significant environmental impact on surface water quality, to either marine, fresh or wetland waters?

**Potentially Significant Impact**. The project will generate pollutants both during construction and operation that could impact water quality. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI.	LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a)	Physically divide an established community?				Х
b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating and environmental effect?	Х			

#### XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

a) Physically divide an established community?

**No Impact.** The project site is currently undeveloped. The project proposes residential uses in an area that is already developed with similar uses. The project would not physically divide an established community. No impact is identified for this issue area and this topic will not be analyzed in the EIR.

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Potentially Significant Impact. The project applicant is requesting approval of a Specific Plan Amendment to the HOCSP, adoption of a new Specific Plan, General Plan Amendment, Multifamily Site Development Plan, Tentative Subdivision Map, and Conditional Use Permit. If approved, these entitlements would allow for the development of a 46 unit condominium development on the project site. The EIR will analyze if there is a potential for the project to cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with applicable land use plans, policies and regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The land use and planning section of the EIR will also include a level of service traffic analysis to address the project's consistency with the Mobility Element of the General Plan.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII.	MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?				Х
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				Х

#### XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?

**No Impact.** According to the City of San Marcos General Plan Conservation & Open Space Element, the City has land classified in all four Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ) (San Marcos 2012). California does not require that local governments protect land designated as MRZ-1, MRZ-3, or MRZ-4. However, the City is responsible for recognizing lands designated as MRZ-2 and protecting these areas from premature development incompatible with mining. The lands designated as MRZ-2 include small portions between Double Peak, Mt. Whitney, and Franks Peak; and small portions in the northern Sphere of Influence within Twin Oaks Valley Neighborhood. These locations do not overlap with the proposed project site; therefore, no loss of known mineral resources would occur. No impact would occur. This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

**No Impact.** The proposed project site is not designated as a locally important mineral resource recovery site on any local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan (San Marcos 2012). Due to the location and the nature of the proposed project, there would be no impact on mineral resources. This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII	NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local genera plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	Х			
b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	Х			
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?				Х

#### XIII. NOISE

a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction of the proposed project would result in temporary increases in noise due to the use of construction equipment for blasting, rock crushing, grading, site preparation, paving, and building construction. During operations, the proposed project would

generate noise through the introduction of traffic on site and in the project vicinity, and an increase on stationary source noise, such as increased human presence on-site. As such, impacts are considered potentially significant. A project-specific noise report will be prepared for the project and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR. The noise report will address construction and operational noise for the project as well as exterior and interior noise levels in relation to area roadways and the SPRINTER rail line.

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Due to bedrock conditions, blasting and rock crushing is proposed as part of the project. The temporary rock crushing will be subject to a Conditional Use Permit. Blasting and crushing activities could result in the generation of groundborne vibration or noise levels. Impacts are considered potentially significant. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

c) For a project located within an airport land use plan 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 proposed project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The public airport closest to the project site is the McClellan-Palomar Airport, located approximately 6.5 miles to the southwest. According to the ALUCP for the McClellan-Palomar Airport, the project site is not located within the existing or future 60 dB CNEL noise contour of the airport (San Diego County Regional Airport Authority 2011). Therefore, people residing or working in the project area would not be exposed to substantial airport noise. This topic will not be analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a)	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				Х
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				Х

#### XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

**No Impact.** The project site is currently zoned SPA as part of the HOCSP with residential uses (2 to 4 dwelling units per acre) contemplated for the site. As part of the requested approvals, the project would modify the HOCSP via a Specific Plan Amendment; remove the current Richmar Sub-Plan designation for the site; and establish a new Specific Plan (Woodward 46 Specific Plan) which would allow for the development of 46 residential condominiums on the project site. Under the proposed Specific Plan, a slight increase in density would occur (5.7 du/acre). However, this is generally a similar level of

development intensity as what was contemplated in the HOCSP. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial unplanned population growth in an area, directly or indirectly and no impact is identified. This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

# b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

**No Impact.** There is no existing housing on the project site. Therefore, the project will not remove existing housing. The project proposes 46 multifamily units which would add to the housing stock in the City. No impact is identified for this issue area and this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact			
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:							
a) Fire protection?	X						
b) Police protection?	Х						
c) Schools?	Х						
d) Parks?			Х				
e) Other public facilities?	Х						

# XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

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

## a) Fire protection?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The project site would be served by the SMFD. Implementation of the proposed project would increase demand for fire protection and emergency response services due to the construction of 46 residential units on the project site. This could result in a significant increase in demand for fire protection services and result in a potentially significant impact. The project will be required to annex into a Community Facilities District for fire and paramedic service. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

# b) Police protection?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The project site would be served by the San Marcos Sheriff's Department for police protection services. Implementation of the proposed project would increase demand for police protection services due to the construction of 46 residential units. This could result

in a significant increase in demand for police protection services and result in a potentially significant impact. The project will be required to annex into a Community Facilities District for Police service. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

### c) Schools?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The project site is located within the service boundary of SMUSD and is within the current attendance boundaries of Richland Elementary School, Woodland Park Middle School and Mission Hills High School. As part of the EIR preparation, SMUSD will be contacted to confirm the schools that would serve the project and the ability of SMUSD to house the students at these schools. The project will also be required to pay applicable school fees to SMUSD prior to the issuance of building permits. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

# d) Parks?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project proposes residential uses which can result in an increase in demand on neighborhood and regional parks. The project proposes common open space area, including a tot lot, turf play areas and a sensory garden. These features would be included within the development footprint of the project. Additionally, the project will pay Public Facility Fees (PFF), a portion of which goes toward funding a city-wide park and recreation facilities. Since the project provides on-site recreational amenities and will pay PFF, impacts would be less than significant. This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

# e) Other public facilities?

**Potentially Significant Impact**. The EIR will analyze if the project has the potential to impact any other public facilities.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact		
XVI	XVI. RECREATION.						
a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			Х			
b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			Х			

#### XVI. RECREATION

- a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
- b) Does the project include any recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreation facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project proposes residential uses which can result in an increase in demand on neighborhood and regional parks. The project proposes common open space area, including a tot lot, turf play areas and a sensory garden. These features would be included within the development footprint of the project. Additionally, the project will pay Public Facility Fees (PFF), a portion of which goes toward funding a city-wide park and recreation facilities. Since the project provides on-site recreational amenities and will pay PFF, impacts would be less than significant. This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI	I. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a)	Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	Х			
b)	Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	Х			
c)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			Х	
d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?			Х	

#### XVII. TRANSPORTATION

a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

Potentially Significant Impact. Construction of the proposed project would result in trips associated with construction workers and supply and materials deliveries to the site. During operations, the proposed project would generate traffic potentially impacting the existing roadway network through the development of 46 multifamily (duplex) units. Project-generated traffic would also result in an increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and will therefore need to be analyzed for consistency with State and local guidance. Impacts are considered potentially significant. A project-specific VMT analysis and a local transportation analysis (LTA) will be prepared for the project and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 establishes VMT as the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts, shifting away from the level of service analysis that evaluated a project's impacts on traffic conditions on nearby roadways and intersections. Implementation of the proposed project would contribute traffic to the existing roadway network and increase VMT. As such, impacts are considered potentially significant. A project-specific VMT analysis will be prepared and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** All roadways, including off-site improvements, constructed in association with the proposed project, would be subject to existing City design standards and safety specifications for roadways. This topic will still be analyzed in the EIR.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The California Fire Code, along with SMFD, administers the rules and regulations on fire access design. The proposed project must present a design which affords fire and emergency responders suitable fire access roads in terms of dimensions and surfaces (Chapter 5, § 503.1 through 503.4 of the California Fire Code). The project proposes one entrance from Woodward Street. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

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

## XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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: 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)?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The City has notified local Tribes in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21074. Tribal consultation input will be considered throughout the environmental document preparation process. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

b) 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 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.

**Potentially Significant Impact.** As discussed above, the City has notified local Tribes in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21074. Tribal consultation input will be considered throughout the environmental document preparation process. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX	. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project	t:			
a)	Require or result in relocation or the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment facilities, or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Х			
b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	X			
c)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	X			
d)	Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	Х			

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	Х			

#### XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

a) Require or result in the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project will result in an increase in demand for water, wastewater, energy and telecommunication services. The project site is within the service area of VWD for water and wastewater service, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) for natural gas and electricity service and Cox Communications for telephone and cable service. Stormwater drainage and detention onsite would be the responsibility of the project applicant and stormwater flows would eventually enter City of San Marcos stormwater infrastructure. The project will result in an increase in demand of utility resources an infrastructure. This represents a potentially significant impact and this topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Water service for potable residential use and fire service would be provided by VWD. Development of the project site with 46 multifamily (duplex) units results in an increase in demand of water supply. This represents a potentially significant impact. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The project site is within the service area of VWD for wastewater service. Development of the project site with 46 multifamily (duplex) units will result in an increase in demand for wastewater treatment to serve the future residences. This could result in a potentially significant impact. A sewer study will be prepared by VWD for the project, which will include an analysis of wastewater treatment capacity. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction of the proposed project would result in the generation of solid waste such as scrap lumber, concrete, residual wastes, packing materials, and plastics. Operation of the proposed project would result generate solid waste from future residences. As such, impacts are considered potentially significant. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** As discussed above, the proposed project would result in the generation of solid waste during construction and operations. As such, impacts are considered potentially significant. This topic will be analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact		
	XX. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity						
zon	e, would the project:			1			
a)	Substantially impair an adopted emergency				X		
	response plan or emergency evacuation plan?						
b)	Due to slope, prevailing wind, and other factors,				X		
	exacerbate wildlife risk, and thereby expose project						
	occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a						
	wildlife or the uncontrolled spread of wildlife?						
c)	Require the installation or maintenance of				Х		
	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 the temporary or ongoing impacts to						
	the environment?						
d)	Expose people or structures to significant risk,				Х		
	including downslope or downstream flooding or						
	landslide, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope						
	instability, or drainage changes?						

#### XX. WILDFIRE

- a) If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zone, would the project:
  - Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
  - Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildlife risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?
  - Require the installation of 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?
  - Expose people or structure to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

**No Impact** The project site is located in a Local Responsibility Area, not a State Responsibility area (CAL FIRE 2022). The project site is in a Local Responsibility Area with a Non-Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Non-VHFHSZ) designation per California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) San Marcos Fire Hazards Severity Zones Map (2009) and is surrounded by areas identified

as Non-VHFHSZ. Further, per Figure 6-4 of the City's General Plan, the project site and surrounding area are not identified as a SMFPD Community Hazard Zone. It should be noted there are two easements on the site associated with vegetation management for fire fuel reduction. One is located along a portion of the site's eastern boundary and the other is located along a portion of the site's southern boundary. These are associated with fire buffer maintenance requirements of adjacent development. The project will also implement a zoned brush management plan which will provide a minimum of 150 feet of clearance. The brush management will follow CAL FIRE's guidance for defensible space (CAL FIRE 2023) which includes three zones of defensible space. No impact is identified for this issue area and it will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XXI	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
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?	Х			
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.)	Х			
c)	Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	Х			

#### XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) Does the project have the potential to 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, 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?

**Potentially Significant Impact**. The project has the potential to sensitive species including coastal California gnatcatcher, bird species protected under the MBTA and rare plants. The project also has the potential to impact unidentified archaeological resources during project grading. These topics will be analyzed in the EIR.

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.)

**Potentially Significant Impact**. Cumulative Impacts are considered potentially significant and will be analyzed in the EIR.

c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

**Potentially Significant Impact.** As evaluated throughout this document, the proposed project could result in impacts related to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Utilities and Service Systems. Impacts are considered potentially significant. These topics will be analyzed in the EIR.

# **PREPARERS**

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

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Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity

Figure 2. Conceptual Site Plan

