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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

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

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Former High Desert Hospital Site Demolition Project

Lead Agency: Los Angeles County Public Works

Contact Name: Tesera Chan

Email: tchan@dpw.lacounty.gov Phone Number: (626) 632-2773

Project Location: Lancaster, Los Angeles County
City *County*

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

The County of Los Angeles, acting through Public Works proposes to demolish the former High Desert Hospital and surrounding ancillary structures and construct two stormwater retention basins at the former High Desert Hospital site, located at 44900 60th Street West, in the City of Lancaster, California. All the facilities and structures, totaling 22 structures of more than 300,000 square feet of hospital, ancillary services, and miscellaneous ancillary structures (such as trailers, sheds, modular buildings, containers, etc.), would be demolished. No buildings or structures would remain following the Project. The Project would occur on 14.2 acres and is located within an approximately 361-acre Los Angeles County (County) owned site. The Project site is not listed on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code for hazardous waste sites.

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

The proposed Project has the potential to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. The Project involves limited ground disturbance and digging for two basins that would be located at the Project site. The Project site has been previously graded and disturbed, and no activities associated with Project operation would have direct or indirect impacts on archaeological resources. However, there is still the potential for the inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources during excavation and project construction for the basins. Incorporation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, archaeological resource discovery protocol, would mitigate any potential impacts to archaeological resources to less than significant. The proposed Project has the potential to directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource. The surface deposits in the Project area do not contain significant vertebrate fossils, however older sediments that are present in the Project area have yielded fossils in the past. Excavation for the new basins at the Project site has the potential to extend into older sediments underlying the surface soils, and disturb or destroy paleontological resources. Incorporation of MM GEO-1 calls for a qualified Paleontologist to monitor excavations into undisturbed deposits, and would mitigate these potential effects.
The proposed Project site contains 124 non-native trees. The single western Joshua tree within the landscape area is currently designated as a candidate species under the California's Endangered Species Act and is state-protected under the Joshua Tree Conservation Act. The Joshua tree is currently anticipated to be preserved. In the unlikely event removal of the Joshua Tree is necessary, incorporation of MM BIO-1, coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, will ensure that the impact associated with the removal of the Joshua tree is less than significant.

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

N/A

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

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) - #4, Los Angeles Region
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Los Angeles County Fire Department
California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP)
California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
California Air Resources Board (CARB)
Southern California Edison (SCE)
Air Resources Board