



INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

[Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(c) and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15070- 15071]

LEAD AGENCY: City of Ceres Community Development Department

PROJECT TITLE/FILE NUMBER(S): 23-17 (VTSM)

PROJECT APPLICANT: Ajmer Gingh Randhawa

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map (VTSM) to subdivide an 8.66 acre parcel into five (5) parcels. Parcel 1 to contain 0.81 acres. Parcel 2 to contain 0.95 acres. Parcel 3 to contain 4.79 acres. Parcel 5 to contain 1.16 acres.

PROJECT LOCATION: 1200 E. Whitmore Avenue, Ceres

Located on the south side of East Whitmore Avenue, 546 feet west of Morgan Road, Ceres.

ASSESSOR PARCEL NO.: 086-016-077

PROJECT AREA: 8.66 acres

GENERAL PLAN: CC (Community Commercial)

ZONING: P-C (48) (Planned Community – 48)

SURROUNDING LANE USES:

- **NORTH:** CC (Community Commercial) developed with a gas station and a McDonald's
- **SOUTH:** LDR (Low Density Residential) developed with single-family residences
- **EAST:** LDR (Low Density Residential) developed with single-family residences
- **WEST:** O (Office) and CC (Community Commercial) currently undeveloped

OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED: (e.g. permits, financing approval, or participation agreement).

No.

HAVE CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES TRADITIONALLY AND CULTURALLY AFFILIATED WITH THE PROJECT AREA REQUESTED CONSULTATION TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21080.3.1? 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.

No.

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 Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On behalf of this initial evaluation:

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

Teddie Hernandez

24 October 2023

Teddie Hernandez, Senior Planner

Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the projects outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from “Earlier Analyses,” as described in (5.) below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures on the earlier analysis.
 - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures incorporated”, describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier documents and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

REFERENCES:

- Ceres General Plan – May 2018
- Ceres General Plan DRAFT EIR – February 2018
- Ceres General Plan Final EIR – April 2018
- Ceres Zoning Ordinance, Title 18, Ceres Municipal Code
- Mitchell Road Corridor Specific Plan (MRCSP)
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Regulations VIII
- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), US Fish & Wildlife Service, 2015
- Ceres Sewer Master Plan, 2013
- Ceres Water Master Plan, 2011
- Stanislaus County Important Farmland Map, 2018, California Department of Conservation-Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

I. <u>AESTHETICS</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) 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 point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a,b) The project site has relatively flat topography with no scenic vistas, and Whitmore Avenue is not located within a state scenic highway. There are no trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings on this site. Landscaping will be incorporated into the overall design of the project. Therefore, the impacts are considered to be Less Than Significant.
- c,d) The proposed parcel map coupled with the construction of the project will create new sources of light and glare that could impact day or nighttime views within the area. However, the development of this project will require the developer to install lighting such that it does not direct glare or adversely affect surrounding properties and roadways. It is anticipated the proposed development will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site or its surroundings, as the development will be consistent with the surrounding land uses. Thus, a Less Than Significant Impact is expected for this project.

II. <u>AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are 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 and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the Project:</p>				
<p>a) Convert Prime farmland, Unique farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use, or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a) The project site is surrounded by commercial and residential development. The California Department of Conservation California Important Farmland Finder interactive map designates the subject property as Urban and Built-up Land, and therefore, is not considered to be prime or unique farmland of Statewide Importance. As such, the proposed project will have no impact.
- b-d) The project area is currently an undeveloped site, is not under a Williamson Act contract, and is not currently being cultivated for an agricultural use. Therefore, construction of the project coupled with the parcel split associated with the property will have no impact.
- f) The proposed development and the proposed parcel map will not involve other changes in the existing environment, as the project site does not include any farmland or forest land. Thus, the construction of the project improvements and the proposed subdivision do not result in converting farmland to non-agriculture use or converting forest land to a non-forest use. As such, the proposed project will have no impact.

III. AIR QUALITY	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Where applicable, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a) The development of this project will not obstruct implementation of an air quality plan, and it is expected that this project will be subject to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Rule 9510 which is the Indirect Source Review and the project will either have to incorporate approved District measures to reduce expected pollution or pay fees based on the expected pollution that might be generated as a result of the project. Additionally, during the construction phase of this project, the developer will be required to adhere to Rule 8021 which regulates construction activities, including earthmoving. Because this project will be required to comply with the standards of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, this will be a Less than Significant Impact.
- b) The San Joaquin Valley Region is a "non-attainment" area for state particulate matter (PM10) and ozone standards, and the Federal ozone standard. During grading and construction activities, it is anticipated that the project's primary contribution to air quality emissions would be particulate matter, which may result as a potentially significant impact. The applicant will be required to comply with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (PM10) regulations which will reduce air quality impacts to a Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.
- c) The Ceres General Plan, adopted in 2018, identifies air quality impacts to sensitive receptors such as residences. However, the proposed project is consistent with development expected to occur within the area and analyzed as part of the Ceres General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report, certified May, 2018. Construction activities of the project will be temporary and the traffic resulting from the project is not expected to create substantial pollutant concentrations. Therefore, this project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.
- d) It is anticipated the proposed project will not create any odors that would be considered objectionable to a substantial number of people on either a short-term or long-term basis. As a result, the project will have No Impact.

IV. <u>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native residents or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a,b) The subject property does not contain any known species that would be a candidate, sensitive, or special status species, nor does it contain habitat for such species. Additionally, the City of Ceres General Plan EIR indicates that the only riparian areas within the City of Ceres are adjacent to the Tuolumne River. Construction of the project improvements for the site are located approximately 1.72 +/- miles south of the river and is not expected to harbor any special status species, nor have any sensitive natural communities. Therefore, this project will have No Impact.
- c) The subject property is not designated as a federally protected wetland as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The development of this project will have No Impact.
- d) There are no ponds or streams and there is no habitat for migratory fish. Additionally, this project will not impede the movement of wildlife within a migratory corridor, as the site is not a suitable habitat for such movements. As such, this project will have No Impact.
- e) The proposed development will not involve the removal of non-native trees. As such, there will be No Impact.
- f) There is no local adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or state habitat conservation plan that affects this site. The development of this project will have No Impact.

V. <u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

a-c) The proposed construction of the project will not require the demolition of any structures. Archaeological resources are typically found along waterways and since the project site is approximately 1.72 +/- miles south of the Tuolumne River, the project site is not expected to have any human remains and is located in an area that is surrounded by existing residential and commercial development. However, although it is highly unlikely, the potential does exist for subsurface archaeological artifacts or unique paleontological resources to be uncovered during grading operations and construction. As such, this could be a potential significant impact unless mitigation is incorporated in the project.

Mitigation Measure

MM V-1: If any prehistoric, archaeological, paleontological, or historic artifacts, human remains, or other indications of archaeological resources are found once the project's construction is underway, all work in the immediate vicinity must stop and the City shall be immediately notified. The developer shall be required to retain the services of an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology, as appropriate, to evaluate the finds and recommend appropriate mitigation measures.

Timing/Implementation: As a condition of project approval and implemented during construction activities.

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Ceres Planning Division, Public Works Department & Engineering Services Department.

Implementation of the above Mitigation Measure will reduce the impacts associated with the project in relation to archaeological, prehistoric, and paleontological resources to Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated.

VI. ENERGY	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

a,b) The City has specific General Plan policies that encourage projects to be designed to achieve energy efficiency. It is anticipated that the construction of this commercial project will incorporate design features that are energy efficient that can be considered as meeting the intent of these General Plan policies and addressing impacts per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Furthermore, the California Building Code requires energy efficiency measures for all new construction, the current provisions which will apply to the future commercial development at this site. Finally, the project does not propose uses that are known to be energy-intensive such as large-scale industrial operations. As such, the development of this project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.

VII. <u>GEOLOGY AND SOILS</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects including the risk of loss injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects including the risk of loss injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in the California Building Code, creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a) According to the City of Ceres General Plan, some faults do exist in the eastern portion of Stanislaus County and west of Interstate 5 in the Diablo Range, but no faults exist within the City's Planning Area. The City of Ceres is located in the central portion of Stanislaus County and was not identified as a risk to these faults, which are located in the eastern and western portions of the County. Therefore, No Impact is expected.
- b) Although there are no known active earthquake faults on the subject site, the site could be subject to some ground shaking from regional faults which can result in damage to buildings. However, due to the absence of active faults in the City's Planning Area, the risk of the breaking of the ground along a fault during an earthquake is very low. Excavation, earthwork, and activities associated with the installation of physical improvements may have the potential to create unstable geologic conditions. All earthwork will only be allowed consistent with existing City Specifications, and the project will be constructed to meet all requirements of the current California Building Code (including Seismic sections), which have been adopted to protect the general welfare and public safety. As such, it is expected that the future buildings associated

with the project will not be subject to adverse effects involving strong seismic ground shaking. Therefore, this is a Less Than Significant Impact.

- c) As the City's General Plan identifies that the City's Planning Area has well drained relatively stable soils, and with the distance from active faults and depth of the groundwater table, the risk of liquefaction occurring is very low. The City of Ceres and the current California Building Code will require a soils analysis of the project area with the submission of project improvement plans. The project will be constructed per the appropriate sections of the current California Building Code such that it is highly unlikely that it will be subject to seismic-related ground failure or liquefaction. As such, a Less Than Significant Impact is expected for this project.
- d,e) The site is relatively flat with some variable vegetation, and the proposed project will be in a location where the potential for landslides, soil erosion or the loss of topsoil as a result of this project will be a very low to remote possibility due to the flat topography of the site. Therefore, the development of this project will have No Impact.
- f) The project site is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is considered 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. Construction of this project will be required to meet applicable requirements of the current California Building Code based upon the appropriate seismic standards with the conformation based on the required soils analysis. In addition, the standard conditions of project approval will require that a qualified professional geotechnical engineer perform on-site monitoring of all grading and excavation activities on the project site. Based on this information, this project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.
- g) The City of Ceres and the current California Building Code will require a soils analysis of the project area with the submission of project improvement plans. The project will be constructed per the appropriate sections of the current California Building Code such that it is highly unlikely that the project would create substantial risks to life or property. As such, this results in a Less Than Significant Impact.
- h) The proposed project will be required to connect to the City of Ceres sewer system. Therefore, this will result in No Impact.
- i) The project site has no known unique paleontological resource or geologic feature. Therefore, it is anticipated that it is highly unlikely that the project would destroy such resource or feature. This results in No Impact.

VIII. <u>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a) The development of this project has the potential to generate greenhouse gas emissions resulting from transportation sources (i.e. cars) normally accustomed from such development, directly or indirectly. It is unknown as to what the extent of these impacts would be as a result of the project. However, it is expected that the project's contribution of greenhouse gas emissions will most likely be insignificant as the project is a small commercial development and is not expected to significantly increase regional traffic. Sidewalk improvements already exist along the project frontage areas of the site, which encourage the public to use alternative forms of transportation, which in turn help reduce the number of trips made by cars in the Ceres community. As such, since the project meets the spirit of the intent in its design to reduce these impacts, this is considered as a Less Than Significant Impact.

- b) The City has no specific policies that directly relate to reducing greenhouse gas emissions at this time. However, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has guidelines known as Best Performance Standards, which is a list of greenhouse gas emission reduction measures that are the most effective achieved-in-practice means of reducing or limiting greenhouse gas emissions from a greenhouse gas emissions source, and can be utilized to address impacts per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For projects such as the proposed commercial development, Best Performance Standards focus on measures that improve energy efficiency and those that reduce vehicle miles traveled. The developer will be able to incorporate these standards into the proposed project; therefore, this is considered as a Less Than Significant Impact.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handles hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a,b) The proposed project is to subdivide the site area into three parcels and for the construction of five commercial buildings. During the construction phase of the project, the site may have some fuels and materials that could be considered hazardous, but these are temporary and would only be on-site during the construction of the project. However, once constructed, it is anticipated the project will not involve the routine transport of hazardous materials nor is it anticipated to release any hazardous materials under accident conditions as none are expected to be present. Therefore, this project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.
- c) The proposed commercial development will not manufacture or store large quantities or handle any hazardous materials. The nearest schools to the project site include: Sinclear Elementary School (approximately 0.26 miles south of the project site) and Blaker-Kinser Junior High School (approximately 0.27 miles east of the project site) but it is expected that the commercial development would have no impact to these schools. As such, the proposed development will have a Less Than Significant Impact.
- d) The project site is not listed as a hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and therefore, will have No Impact.
- e) The proposed commercial development project is not located within the Modesto City/County Airport boundary and is approximately 2.36 +/- miles south of the airport and will not be affected by the continuing airport operations. There are no private air strips in the vicinity of the project site. The development of this commercial project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.

- f) The City has an Emergency Operations Plan which addresses earthquake, fire, technological disaster, toxic spills, flooding and dam failure related emergencies and included response from fire and rescue personnel, law enforcement, utility plans, evacuation plans and evacuation center. The Plan does not identify specific evacuation routes, emergency shelter locations or other critical emergency facilities and the project site is not located near any hospitals, dispatch center, emergency service facilities or major utilities. The development of this commercial project will have a Less Than Significant Impact on implementation of the City's Emergency Operations Plan.

- g) The project site is located near the southwest corner of E. Whitmore Avenue and Morgan Road and within developed portions of the City of Ceres. There are no wildlands nearby that would subject this property to wildland fires. As such, the proposed development of a commercial project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.

X. <u>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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:				
(i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

a-c,i-iv) The construction of the site improvements (i.e. construction of parking area and the buildings) will reduce absorption rates and increase surface water runoff. Final drainage designs will be required to comply with City Standards and will be reviewed and approved by the City Engineer. Any increased runoff shall be mitigated as required by the Engineering Services Department. The perimeter of the development will also be required to be protected against surface runoff from adjacent properties in a manner acceptable to the Engineering Services Department. The development of the commercial project is not expected to decrease water supplies or degrade water quality as no hazardous materials will be manufactured or stored on-site, and water run-off will be directed to an on-site storage system.

Additionally, Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Community-Panel Number 06099C0560E which was revised on September 26, 2008, indicates that only a minor portion of the City of Ceres is within the 100-year flood-plain, which is adjacent to the Tuolumne River. The vast majority of the City is classified Zone X, which are areas determined to be outside 100-year flood-plain. The project site is located approximately 1.83 +/- miles south of the Tuolumne River and is completely within Zone X. It is expected that the proposed buildings for the project will not impede or redirect flood flows as they will be positioned outside of the designated 100-year flood-plain hazard area.

Furthermore, the project requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and compliance with Best Management

Practices (BMPs) during the construction and operation of the project. The project shall be designed to incorporate Low Impact Development (LID) design parameters, as well as include a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent feasible.

Mitigation Measure

MM X-1 As a required condition of project approval, the applicant shall be required to submit a Best Management Practices (BMP) program for review and approval by the City Engineer. The BMP program shall consist of, but not be limited to, the following measures during all phases of project construction:

- Gathering of all construction and other debris on a daily basis and placing it in a dumpster or other container which is emptied or removed on a weekly or as needed basis. When appropriate, use of tarps on the ground to collect fallen debris or splatters that could contribute to storm water pollution runoff.
- Removal of all dirt, gravel, rubbish, refuse, and green waste from the street pavement and storm drains adjoining the site. Limitation of construction access routes onto the site and placement of gravel on them, and if necessary, washing the wheels of vehicles prior to leaving the project site. Not driving vehicles and equipment off paved or graveled roads during wet weather. "Broom sweep" of the street pavement adjoining the project site on a daily basis. Scraping of caked-on mud and dirt from these areas before sweeping.
- Installation of filter materials (such as sandbags, filter fabric, etc.) at the storm drain inlet nearest the downstream side of the project site in order to retain any debris or dirt flowing in the storm drain system. Filter materials will also be placed around each jobsite. Maintaining and/or replacing filter materials to ensure effectiveness and to prevent street flooding.
- Creating a contained and covered area on the site for the storage of bags, cement, paints, oils, fertilizers, pesticides, or other materials used on the site that have the potential of being discharged into the storm drain system through being windblown or in the event of a material spill.
- Never cleaning machinery, equipment, tools, brushes, or rinsing containers into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Ensuring that concrete/gunite supply trucks of concrete/plaster operations do not discharge wash water into street, gutters, or storm drains.

Timing/Implementation: Prior to issuance of any grading permit or building permit.

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Ceres Public Works Department & Engineering Services Department

Implementation of the above Mitigation Measure will reduce potential pollution impacts to the City's storm drainage system to a Less Than Significant level.

- d) The site is approximately 1.72+/- miles south of the Tuolumne River and is not likely to experience a seiche, tsunami or mudflow. As such, this project will have No Impact.
- e) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the City's water quality control plan. As such, this project will have No Impact.

XI. <u>LAND USE AND PLANNING</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a) Although the developer proposes to subdivide the site area into five (5) parcels, the site will maintain its current CC (Community Commercial) general plan designation and current P-C 48 zoning designation. As such, the subdividing of the property that is associated with the proposed vesting tentative parcel map will not physically divide an established community. Therefore, the project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.

- b) The project site is currently undeveloped and is designated CC (Community Commercial) under the City's General Plan. The current proposal for this site requires the approval of a vesting tentative parcel map to subdivide the project site area into three parcels and approval of a conditional use permit. The proposed parcel split and the future construction of the commercial developments would be authorized under the City of Ceres MuniCode Title 18 - Zoning and can be approved with the entitlements. As such, approval of the proposed vesting tentative parcel map, the proposed conditional use permit, and the future conditional use permit entitlements for the remaining commercial developments will have a Less Than Significant Impact.

XII. <u>MINERAL RESOURCES</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

a,b) The development of this project would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resources or resource recovery site as none are identified in the General Plan or the General Plan EIR. Therefore, this project will have No Impact.

XIII. NOISE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

a) Currently, the project area is currently undeveloped, which has low ambient noise levels. After construction of the proposed project, there will be an increase in the ambient noise levels from vehicles entering and exiting the project site; however, this increase is insignificant, as the permanent source of noise from this development is not expected to exceed the standards established in the Ceres General Plan. Therefore, the development of the project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.

b) Noise from construction activity has the potential to impact neighboring properties during the construction phase. There are existing residences, school facilities, and commercial developments to the north, south, east, and west of the project area. These developments may be subject to temporary ground-borne vibration noise (i.e. from truck deliveries) during the construction phase of the project. However, all construction activities will be temporary and limited to the hours permitted by the Ceres Municipal Code.

Mitigation Measure

MM XIII-1 As required in the Ceres Standard Conditions of Project Approval, the project's contractor shall be required to limit construction hours from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Timing/Implementation: Prior to construction activities.

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Ceres Planning and Building Division, Public Works & Engineering Services Department.

Implementation of the above Mitigation Measure would reduce the impact of temporary noise to Less Than Significant.

c) The development of this commercial project will not be subject to operational noise from the Modesto City/County Airport as it is 2.36+/- miles south of the airport. Existing residential and commercial developments within the surrounding area are already subjected to operations at the Modesto City/County Airport, and this project will not alter this existing consequence. Interior noise levels for this project will meet the currently adopted California Building Code standards, and there are no private air strips within the area. As such, the development of this commercial project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.

XIV. <u>POPULATION</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through the extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a) The development of this commercial project will increase the number of jobs within the City, and it is anticipated that it would create some increase in residents for the City. However, any increase in residents generated as a result of this project would be considered as less than significant as such increase is anticipated in the 2035 General Plan Update. Additionally, there won't be any extension of roads to this area, but dedication and improvements to right-of-way on E. Whitmore Avenue and Morgan Road might be required at the project site. As such, this project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.

- b) The development of this commercial project will not displace any housing units nor will it displace any people as there are no structures on any of these properties. The development of this commercial project will have No Impact.

XV. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service rations, response time or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a,b) The development of this project will not have a significant impact to the City of Ceres Emergency Services Department, Police and Fire Divisions as these properties are within the City's service area. The City of Ceres Police Division is dispatched from its station location at 2727 Third Street, while the City is served by four fire stations. The project site is approximately 1.15 mile+/- east of the Police Station and Fire Station 1, which would both serve the project site. The future project will be required to pay Public Facility Fees and with the payment of those fees, the project would have a Less Than Significant Impact.
- c) The project site is located within the Ceres Unified School District (CUSD) and the proposed development of a commercial project will not have an impact to the CUSD. Prior to the construction of this commercial project, the developer will be required to pay school impact fees, which is typical for commercial development. The development of this commercial project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.
- d) The development of this commercial project will place no demand on the City's park system. Prior to any permit issuance, the developer would be required to pay the necessary City Public Facility Fees, which includes a component for parks. The development of this commercial project will have a Less Than Significant Impact.
- e) The development of this commercial project will not place a significant demand on other public facilities and therefore, will have a Less Than Significant Impact.

XVI. RECREATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have been an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a) The proposed subdividing of the property is not expected, but could indirectly lead to an increase in the use of existing neighborhood or recreational facilities. However, the potential increase to City population due to the proposed subdividing of the property and the construction of the commercial development is expected to be minor; therefore, this is anticipated to be a Less Than Significant Impact.
- b) The subdividing of the property and the construction of the new commercial development will not require the construction of new recreational facilities and will not require the expansion of such facilities. Therefore, the proposed subdivision will have No Impact.

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

Comments:

- a,b) Vehicular access to the project site will be provided by access points from E. Whitmore Avenue and Morgan Road. The project will be required to repair/replace the existing sidewalk improvements along the E. Whitmore Avenue and Morgan Road frontages (as determined by the Engineering Services Department) to allow pedestrians easier access to the existing and future development of the surrounding area. Additional design features such as: restriping of portions of the adjacent roadway areas, may be incorporated into the proposed project to improve traffic flow into the site and minimize vehicle conflicts so as not to be in conflict with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 (subdivision (b) and with any program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system. Therefore, this is considered as a Less Than Significant Impact.
- c,d) As emergency access for this proposed development will be reviewed by the Ceres Fire Department, it is anticipated that the Fire Department will require design features to be incorporated into the project to ensure adequate emergency access is achieved for this project. This will be addressed through the conditions of approval associated with the project, which results with a Less Than Significant Impact.

XVIII. <u>TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
(i) 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

a-i & ii) It is highly unlikely that the proposed project would have a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as there are no known tribal cultural resources located on the site and there are no specific sites identified in the Ceres General Plan 2035 document as having tribal cultural resources. As such, this is expected to be a Less Than Significant Impact.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a) *Less Than Significant Impact.* Although this project will require the installation of new utility services such as: water, sewer, gas, electrical, and storm drainage, it is not expected that the construction of these improvements would cause significant environmental effects for the site or surrounding area. As such, this is expected to be a Less Than Significant Impact.
- b) The City currently does have sufficient water supplies to serve the project and it is anticipated that the City will continue to maintain sufficient water supplies in the future for this project and future development during multiple dry years. As a result, this is considered as a Less Than Significant Impact.
- c) The proposed project is not expected to generate sizeable amounts of wastewater beyond what is normally associated with commercial development. Services (e.g. water and sewer) will need to be extended from the street to the site. The project will be subject to payment of the City's Public Facility Fees which fund the project's pro-rata share of water and sewer capital facilities. This is expected to be a Less Than Significant Impact.
- d,e) The proposed project will result in additional solid waste generation, but it is not expected to generate sizeable amounts of solid waste beyond what is normally associated with commercial development or in excess of state or local standards. It is expected that the existing landfill serving the City has adequate capacity to serve this project, and therefore, this is considered as a Less Than Significant Impact.

XX. <u>WILDFIRE</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as: roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a-d) As the proposed project is not located in or near lands that are classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, this proposal will have No Impact with respect to addressing issues associated with wildfires.

XXI. <u>MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 probably future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

- a) The proposed project would allow a commercial development for retail uses on the project site and involve earthmoving during the grading and construction of the site. This project site is not expected to have any subterranean archaeological resources or human remains. With the implementation of mitigation measures, the proposed project will not degrade the quality of the environment, result in an adverse impact on fish, wildlife, or plant species including special status species, or prehistoric or historic cultural resources. Therefore, this will be Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. See MM III-1 (Air Quality), MM V-1 (Cultural Resources).
- b) During the construction phase of this project, the site will be graded, which could create particulate matter, in the form of dust that enters the atmosphere. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure MM III-1, the construction phase of the project would be required to meet the policies of San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. As such, this impact will be Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. See MM III-1 (Air Quality).
- c) Development of the project has the potential to adversely impact human beings, either directly or indirectly. However, with the implementation of mitigation measures included, these impacts will be effectively mitigated to a less than significant level. As such, this impact will be Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. See MM III-1 (Air Quality), MMV-1 (Cultural Resources), MM X-1 (Hydrology and Water Quality), MM XIII-1 (Noise).